

PRELIMINARY
UNEDITED
TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
FOR THE PERIOD:
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 1978

The House met at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

Mr. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

I have an important matter on which to inform hon. members. Last night I received a call from the R.C.M.P. asking to see me in an official capacity. Later last night at my office two R.C.M.P. officers came, properly indented themselves and informed me that earlier yesterday there had been issued to them two search warrants; one for the office of the hon. member for Humber East (Dr. Farrell) and one for the office of the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary).

They requested my permission to execute the warrants. I asked to see them and examined them. I felt it was then my duty to undergo a process of verification before deciding on the granting of permission. Verification not of the merits or lack of merits but on the authenticity of the warrants and the fact that they were issued properly.

I personally got in touch with the judicial officer who authorized and signed the warrants and verified that he had indeed issued the warrants and that it was indeed his signature, and that the warrants had been issued pursuant to the Criminal Code and pursuant to the exercise of his judgement that there were reasonable and probable grounds for so doing.

Having undertaken this process of verification, and having come to the conclusion that it would be improper for me as Speaker to impede a legitimately constituted police enquiry, I gave that permission.

Earlier this morning, very recently before the House opened, I phoned the hon. the Premier and the hon. the Leader of the Opposition and asked if they would both drop into my office at five minutes to ten and I informed them, together, of what had transpired

MR. SPEAKER: and told them that I would, and now do, inform the House as soon as the House opened.

There is no direct precedent in the House of Assembly for the set of circumstances which I have just referred to. There is no direct precedent, to my knowledge. After personal consultation with responsible officials in Ottawa, there was no direct parallel in the practice of the House of Commons.

As hon. members know where our Standing Orders and precedents are silent, then it is the practice of the House of Commons which prevails.

After discussion with the officials at Ottawa it appeared to me and to them that if there were such a set of circumstances in Ottawa, the procedure which would be taken is the procedure which I, in fact, took.

I point out to hon. members section 19 of the House of Assembly Act: "The House of Assembly and the members thereof shall hold, enjoy, exercise such and the like privileges, immunities, and powers as are now held, enjoyed, and exercised by the House of Commons of the Parliament of Canada and by the members thereof." That makes the privileges of this House analogous to the privileges of the House of Commons.

My consultation with the House of Commons officials informs me that in a similar set of circumstances the action and the verification undertaken by me would have been the action and verification undertaken there.

I would also refer members to the House of Commons Hansard of November 29, page 1347 and following, where a situation occurred not completely analogous but which also is instructive in this matter.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Mr. Speaker, this, as you discussed just prior to our coming in, is a precedent that is being established here now. I am not disputing the fact, Sir, I am saying that I think in this particular case, and on the facts as they surface, this is obviously the correct thing to do, and I certainly respect your ruling.

I would, however, Sir, suggest that research be done in other areas about the precedent setting nature of this sort of thing. I think the sanctity of Parliament, and the sanctity of members of Parliament or members of Houses of Assembly is something that has got to be very carefully preserved, although there are days I know when all of us in here do not do much to preserve the dignity of it. But the fact is, Sir, that I feel very strongly that this sort of thing, as a precedent move, is something that we have to look at in the freedom of parliaments, in rights of members of parliaments and I would only respectfully suggest, Sir, that Your Honour carry on with obviously what you have done, but with more research before any firm precedent is set.

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

MR. W. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, as Your Honour has indicated, the Premier and I were given the privilege of being called to your office and informed that this had taken place. And at that time, Sir, both the Premier and I expressed to you, in your office, what the Premier has expressed now, and what I intend to express now, namely, that in this particular case, which is a special case, we believe the right thing has been done.

But, Sir, it seems to me that if there are going to be privileged communications as, for example, between a lawyer and his client, a patient and his doctor, a person and his clergyman, if there are going to be privileged communications which cannot be used in any court of law and which should be immune from investigation, then those principles should extend at least as strongly to members of this

Mr. W. Rowe: House of Assembly, and particularly to Ministers of the Crown. Now I can say this because I am not a minister of the Crown here and now. There are ministers opposite who have undoubtedly confidential information, received from people in this Province and outside of the Province, which should not become public knowledge, which should not be for anyone else's eyes, which would not have been communicated to the ministers if it had been thought for one moment that there was a possibility of it becoming public or if it was going to be for other people's eyes.

So I agree with the Premier entirely, Sir, the right thing has been done here, But we should go on record as saying that this does not establish a precedent in this hon. House, that the matter should be researched and looked into, and that this House should jealously guard its rights and privileges against executive action by the police or judicial action by courts or by magistrates and so on, which may conflict with the great principles of Parliament, one of the great principles being that when people communicate with members of this House, and particularly ministers, that should be immune from scrutiny by any other person or source, whether it is police or otherwise.

I am not clear on it, Sir, and nobody has given any thought to it - it dropped like a bombshell here this morning - but we should, as the Premier has indicated, do considerable research and establish guidelines as to exactly what privileges members of this House have, particularly the government. When I was a minister of the government, Sir, naturally you had things in your office - perhaps political things or things which somebody had written you in a confidential way, or notes of telephone conversations and so on, confidential things like that - that if I thought for a minute that a police officer could go downtown and see some magistrate and get a warrant and come into my office on whatever grounds necessary - and remember, it is the magistrate who decides what is reasonable and probable grounds, and we have great respect for magistrates, but there may be the odd aberration, Sir, I must say that this should not be

Mr. W. Rowe: established as a precedent in this hon. House, that we need to research it. And we need to have guidelines so that every member here, every minister, and every member of the public who is interested, knows exactly what communications are subject to protection and immunity from scrutiny by other people, police force or otherwise.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: I have heard the hon. the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition. I do not think it would be appropriate to hear a series of comments.

MR. NOLAN: On a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: I will hear a point of order.

MR. NOLAN: This is one of the most serious matters ever to come before this House concerning every single member of this House of Assembly and all members to come after us. And surely, Mr. Speaker, if there is ever a time when members have an opportunity

MR. NOLAN: to speak on something like this, now is the time. It is not any case that is currently before the courts or anything else; it is the rights of every member of this House of Assembly. I say now that there is no one in this House has the authority to speak for me, and I am sure my hon. friend would certainly say so, or for that matter for the hon. members opposite. It has nothing to do with the case that was discussed during this week, What we are talking about is the rights that we have or do not have that could be now very rapidly eroding here before our eyes. And unless we have set up the proper committees, or whatever, right now as suggested by the hon. Premier and as referred to by my hon. friend opposite - and I mean this morning - then we are being negligent in our duties.

MR. SPEAKER: I have listened with interest to the comments of hon. members and certainly find them very relevant. Standing Order 84 provides for the composition, the establishment of a committee of this House on Immunities and Privileges. This House does not have one. I do not have the authority to establish committees, The House does not have one. In the absence of any refinement by this House, or definition or explanation of this House on its rights and privileges, I have no course but to assume that they are analogous with that of the House of Commons in Ottawa, which Section 19 of The House of Assembly Act states. And in the absence of any guidelines from a House of Assembly Committee on Privileges, it is the practice there that I have to follow, and it is the practice there that I familiarized myself with and discussed and have followed. I certainly concur with hon. members that it would be a great help to the House and to the Chair if there were such a functioning committee.

MR. HICKMAN: If I may with the leave of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: I thank Your Honour for bringing this to the attention of the House, I have no hesitancy in saying that we on this side of the House concur that there should be a Committee of Privileges

MR. HICKMAN: and Elections, which under the rules consists of five members. This I will be prepared to move, the constitution of such a committee, within the next few days after I have had an opportunity to discuss same with the hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce this morning the awarding of the third and final contract for work undertaken by the government on two cold storage buildings on the former US Naval Base at Argentina. This contract, which has been awarded to Josh Roberts & Sons Refrigeration Limited, is in the amount of \$424,778 and, like I said, this is the final contract now for the rehabilitation of the two buildings formerly owned by the US authorities at Argentina, the total cost of which will be in the order of \$1 million. These two buildings, Mr. Speaker, will be capable of holding eight to ten million pounds of fresh produce a year and this we feel will certainly be very beneficial for the fishing industry and will help to some extent to alleviate the shortage of holding capability in the Province at a time of the year when it is badly needed, especially during the glut period. So, like I said, this is now the third, the final contract of three contracts, the first being for the rebuilding of the buildings, the second one being for the electrical work and this one of course being for the refrigeration work.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister of Mines and Energy.

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, on such a morning everybody relishes in the thought of making statements right now after the earlier events, but life must go on, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce today the Rural Development Authority held its 76th meeting and approved nineteen applications for financial assistance from entrepreneurs throughout the Province. The applications approved had a total cash value of \$213,000. The loans approved

MR. PECKFORD: will in addition to helping maintain forty full-time and twenty-two part-time positions directly create twenty-seven new full-time and twenty-eight part-time jobs.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. PECKFORD: Some of the kinds of activities that are being financed by this latest group of approvals include sawmilling, farming, tourism, more agriculture in the blueberry processing industry and also approval of grants for \$12,240 for the department's craft program. It is interesting to note here, Mr. Speaker, that to date the money disbursed under the Rural Development Authority totals \$8,989,746, so I am pleased to be able to make this announcement today and to indicate our ongoing efforts to try to create permanent employment as well as part-time employment.

The grants through the craft program include funding through the independent marketing program and the establishment of a revolving fund for duffel production in the Bay St. George area.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Health.

MR. H. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce that Mr. Robert Peddigrew has been appointed to the position of Executive Director of the Newfoundland Medicare Commission effective from April 1st. Mr. Peddigrew's appointment was recommended by a search committee which was presided over by the Chairman of the Public Service Commission. He joined the staff of Newfoundland Medicare Commission in 1968 as supervisor of the editing division and in 1970 he was promoted to the position of Assistant Manager of Processing and Systems, and in 1971 became a manager of that division. He is a native of St. John's and received his education at St. Patrick's and Memorial University. Prior to joining the Newfoundland Medicare

MR. H. COLLINS: Commission he was employed by the Newfoundland Telephone Company. I would also like to say, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Peddigrew succeeds Mr. Roy C. Moores who was the first Executive Director of the Medicare Commission, a man with a number of years of service in the Department of Health, a man who did a great job in that particular field and I want to express on behalf of the government our sincere thanks to Mr. Moores and also our best wishes to Mr. Peddigrew.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PRESENTING PETITIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting reports by Standing and Special Committees:

Do we have leave to revert to petitions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

MR. P. CANNING: Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition to this hon. House. Mr. Speaker, I will give the prelude to the prayer of the petition that was passed to me to present to this House which it is my duty to do at this time. Mr. Speaker, I am going to ask for the silence of the House because I have had the experience of presenting many petitions - I actually know the number to this House over a period beginning with my first one twenty-nine years ago. I presented twenty-eight or twenty-nine, and this one is without doubt - I have no doubts whatsoever - is by far the most important petition that I have ever presented to this House of Assembly. I am hoping that I will get the attention of the Minister of Justice and others while I am presenting it. To the hon. House of Assembly - now in session - and, Mr. Speaker, I am hoping that the Premier will listen to it because I have just said that it is one of the most important petitions I have ever presented to this House. But anyway,

MR. CANNING: Mr. Speaker, if they are not going to listen I will raise my voice. I hope I will be heard because my opinion of this petition is it is today the petition of the people of Newfoundland. And I will again repeat the words of my petitioners: "To the hon. House of Assembly now in session. We, the undersigned parents, teachers" - and in this case, Mr. Speaker, the people who are parents and also teachers - "humbly sheweth our disagreement with the government's inflexible stand on a twenty-six to one pupil/teacher ratio that will cause in total the primary school, the elementary and central high school at Marystown to lose three teachers in September of this year - a total of three teachers - resulting in serious deterioration in music, physical education, remedial programmes and in programmes for slow learners. We fear the consequences of such reduced programmes coupled with increased work loads for pupils and teachers will be a lowered morale throughout the school and thereby cause serious increase in the drop-out ratio." I repeat that, Mr. Speaker, the drop-out ratio. "We, the undersigned subjects of Her Majesty, humbly pray that the hon. House now in session give immediate consideration that the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador withdraw its inflexible stand on the twenty-six to one pupil/teacher ratio in order to avoid any cutback in the number of teachers until such time that the appointed Task Force on education has completed its work and reported its findings and recommendations."

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. CANNING: Mr. Speaker, there have been traditional words used down through the years ever since the people of Newfoundland have had the blessing of the

MR. CANNING: House of Assembly, the centre through which they can express their wishes and voices. The traditional words have been - I have always heard them - the member presenting the petition usually will say, "Mr. Speaker, this petition speaks for itself." Mr. Speaker, I do not mind using them again although they are traditional. This petition, without doubt, does speak for itself clear and loud, Mr. Speaker. And in this petition there are some twenty signatures from the primary school at Marystown. Mr. Speaker, it is a petition on behalf of that entire school and the entire Burin Peninsula, which makes it very important, and one of my comments would be, I think it is the voice of the people of Newfoundland today.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is one time that I feel almost inadequate to support this petition that I will give my feelings on.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! The hon. gentleman's time has expired.

MR. CANNING: Mr. Speaker, if I could have the leave of the House -

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed?
The hon. gentleman, by leave.

MR. CANNING: - I will just add one

MR. CANNING:

one sentence; I will implore the House on both sides now, to stand up and be counted and to support this petition. I would be asking that - I would be laying emphasis if I had more time at my disposal - on the fact that government, I think this government or this House should today, agree to at least withhold this regulational rule or policy, whatever you might call it, on the teachers ratio and we should not apply this cutback until such time as a task force has done its work and reported its recommendations. I ask the petition be placed on the table of the House and referred to the department concerned.

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

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to support the petition so ably presented by my colleague and friend from Burin - Placentia West (Mr. Canning). Sir, I might point out in support of the petition that the hon. member who now represents Burin - Placentia West, and I stand to be corrected, was first elected to the hon. House of Assembly in 1949, in 1949 elected to the House of Assembly. He had one brief, involuntary leave of absence and he has since returned but I can safely say that this member is the most experienced member of this House of Assembly and he has said, he own words here this morning, that this to him is one of the most important petitions that he has ever presented, or he has heard presented in this House because it speaks for the whole voice of Newfoundland with respect to the student/teacher ratio.

Now, Sir, this petition has been signed by both teachers and parents and it speaks to the twenty-six to one student/teacher ratio, and the petition itself gives a concrete example of what is going to happen in that Marystown area school because of the inflexible stand of the government on the student/teacher ratio, the implementation of the third phase. not implementing it- and thereby causing a layoff of three teachers, ~~Three~~ teachers from that one school? Three teachers in three schools, is it?

AN HON. MEMBER: One teacher in each.

MR. F. ROWE: Yes. One teacher in each of the schools, Sir, and the member has pointed out that this will cause the cancellation of all of these courses of study outside of the basics.

Now, Sir, we have been standing up in this House of Assembly, at least since I have had the honour of being a member and we have been speaking about education and we have been talking about the importance of other activities in the school other than the basics, the three R's and this kind of thing. How important music education is, physical education is, remedial education is and all these other types of activities that could go on in the school, how important they are to the education of the student. And the member has demonstrated this morning that because of this inflexible stand of the government, three teachers will be lost and there will be a serious deterioration in these other very important aspects and sectors and factors of education in the school. And, Sir, I had the pleasure two or three weeks ago, along with the member for Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) of attending a function at the St. George's High School in New Harbour where students became involved in certain aspects of the fisheries and took several days off from their regular courses of study to do an in-depth study of the sealing industry and getting guest speakers in with their slide presentations and experts and what have you.

And, Sir, these students learn more about the way of life of certain parts of Newfoundland than they would ever learn in any formal courses of study in that school. That is the type of thing that is going to be missing from our school now if we continue on with this inflexible stand, Sir. And I agree with the member whole-heartedly, that there should be a complete freeze on the layoff of teachers until the educational Task Force has completed its study and reported its

MR. F. ROWE:

findings and made its recommendations. I think any layoff of teachers before that educational Task Force has completed and made its report would be a very serious, premature error on the part of the government. And with that, Sir, I would like to give my full support to this petition so ably presented by my colleague and friend from Burin - Placentia West (Mr. Canning).

MR. CROSS:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Bonavista North.

MR. CROSS:

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition.

MR. WHITE:

A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A point of order.

MR. WHITE:

We want to speak on this petition.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please! Apparently, there are other hon. members who wish to speak on the previous petition.

AN HON. MEMBER:

- Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Right.

The hon. the member for Fogo.

CAPT. E. WINSOR:

Mr. Speaker, in rising to support this petition, it is indicative, I think, of the vast majority of people in Newfoundland today showing their concern with the government's new policy in the reduction of the ratio of teachers in this Province. Now, Mr. Speaker, in supporting the petition I am only going to read a letter. And I do not want to be asked to table this letter because I just received it yesterday and I do not have copies made of it. But it is so fitting and refers directly to the petition which my hon. colleague

CAPT. E. WINSOR: here to my left just presented. And the letter is addressed to me. It is from a concerned parent of Deadman's Bay in Fogo district. And it says, "I am sure that this is not the first letter," - and I might add, nor is it - "that you will get on the subject of the recent decision of the government for cutbacks in education in this Province. Do you know that Cape Freels Integrated School Board will lose 5 per cent" - Mr. Speaker, this board will lose 5 per cent of its teachers. "Your children" - referring to me - "do not attend any of these schools, but mine do and I am very, very concerned about this. I have heard that one of the principal industries in this Province" - and of course, that is nothing new to be heard - "is the fishing industry. As far as I am concerned, because my husband is a fisherman, my children do not get the same education as a family in St. John's or Gander. Most of the fishermen in this Province live in the outports and, of course, their children are educated in the outports. I feel that my children are entitled to the same education as a neighbour's children in the city. I am fed up with hearing that government does not have the money for education. The government has the money to print fancy letters and information about sealing and promoting tourism. If the government wants to keep the ratio of teachers and students at twenty-six to one, then the only hope at present is to make sure that we have a lot more babies in this area to insure that our children can receive a proper education." I do not know what that means. "The education that my children receive is at best minimal and this is not good enough. Fight, Mr. Winsor, like you never fought before to get the government to change their decision. If I and others can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to let us know."

CAPT. E. WINSOR: Mr. Speaker, I think that letter speaks very well, and it is coincidental that I should have received this yesterday and my hon. colleague presented this petition here today. I strongly support that petition and I am sure, Sir, that it affects the whole populace of Newfoundland. And I am sure the government must now give serious consideration whether or not they will carry on on their original course or take the necessary action to change their programme on education.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker.

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

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this petition and in doing so I would like to make just two points in giving my support to it. The first point is that I would say that all parents in the Province recognize that the primary responsibility for education rests with them. And I would think that every parent is very jealous of this right and

DR. J. COLLINS: responsibility that the education of their children is in their hands in the primary sense and in no way is it passed over to the state and that if it were passed over to the state this would be a sad day for our type of democracy.

The role of the state in education, I would suggest, is one of support to the parents and this is a role that the state has to take extremely seriously. The other point about the role in education I think, in our Province, is that this is primarily exercised by the parents through their religious affiliations and I would think that the majority of people in this Province would have it no other way at this time.

The second point I would like to make, Mr. Speaker, in supporting this position is that in supporting education, the state, and in our case the provincial government, should recognize that it is working on a very broad plane. It is not only supporting one aspect of the activities of this Province, it has to support all activities. It should not direct its attention in one area so that others are unduly brought into disrepair or are unduly detrimented and I am sure that in support of education the state will remember its responsibilities towards employment, towards other social services, and towards other activities in the public domain.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Terra Nova followed by the hon. member for Ferryland.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great privilege to stand and speak in support of this petition and here, Mr. Speaker, we have a clear cut example of a situation where the teacher cutbacks will seriously effect a particular school, or a particular community, a particular area. Three teachers losing - three teachers which the petitioners said would affect physicial education, music, remedial programmes and programmes for slow learners.

Now, Mr. Speaker, these are not at all frills. These are important areas of work for any school, for any school board - physical

MR. LUSH: education, music and remedial programmes and programmes for slow learners, or disabled learners. These are very important programmes and it is indeed very, very - it must be a concern to every member of this House of Assembly that we are going to see an area in which these programmes are going to have to be dropped or severely curtailed. And here again is an example of quality education being affected by the teacher cutbacks.

There are two major results really of teacher cutbacks and I alluded to these when I was speaking to the debate in the Education estimates a week ago, I think, today. And I was pointing out the two major results of teacher cutbacks, one resulting in multiple classroom situations where a teacher would have to teach more than one class, which is certainly a most undesirable situation particularly today with the demands of the 1970's, the 1980's, with the kind of educational demands that people are putting on teachers, that there is no way that a teacher can handle sufficiently more than one class.

And the other result of teacher cutbacks would be the reduction in programmes, and here this is illustrated in this particular petition. People are saying that they are going to be losing some of their important programmes, namely physical education, music, and some of the other programmes geared towards helping disabled learners - or disadvantaged learners, I should say, Mr. Speaker, rather than disabled, disadvantaged learners. So this certainly will have a most serious effect on the educational programme in that area.

The petition alluded to the ratio, the inflexible ratio that the government was applying in allocating teachers throughout this Province, the twenty-six to one. Mr. Chairman, there is no question about it that this ratio will severely effect some areas while not having too much effect on other areas. And we have alluded to this that it is the areas of rural Newfoundland that are going to be most

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MR. LUSH: severely affected by the imposition of that
inflexible formula.

Now for the benefit of hon. members, I could
give you,

Mr. Lush:

for example, the breakdown of the pupil-teacher ratio throughout Canada to give you some idea where we stand in Newfoundland, because we are talking about a ratio- here we are talking about a twenty-six to one. Now we must remember that is the formula used by which we allocate teachers, by which we assign teachers. There are areas where that ratio would be lower than that. There would be areas where it is much, much higher. But the pupil-teacher ratio right throughout Canada, for example, in British Columbia, it is 18.6, and that is the teacher-pupil ratio right across Canada, the average 18.6. Alberta 18.6, Saskatchewan 18.7, Manitoba 17.8, and we just come to Newfoundland and ours is 19.7 the average, just about 20 pupils per teacher. The average for Canada is 18.6. That is the average for Canada, the average pupil-teacher ratio is 18.6, ours is 19.7.

If we were to use the Canadian average in this Province, if we were to try and achieve the Canadian average of 18.6, that would mean in this year hiring just about 500 extra teachers in this Province.

MR. J. CARTER: That does not mean though that the classroom classes should have about eighteen or nineteen pupils in a class?

MR. LUSH: No.

MR. J. CARTER: All of the speciality teachers are locked in with that.

LUSH: That is right. All of these - in this ratio, by the way, all the teachers are included.

MR. J. CARTER: (Inaudible) superintendents.

MR. LUSH: Yes. Everybody involved in the field of education in this breakdown.

MR. J. CARTER: Principals and vice-principals.

MR. LUSH: Yes. You see, what we must see is the difference in the allocation of teachers. We are talking about twenty-six to one, right? We are talking-that is just for the allocation, In this breakdown

Mr. Lush: of getting the average everything is included to get the average. But if we were to try and approach the Canadian average right on by 18.6, which is the Canadian average, the Canadian average of teacher-pupil ratio, 18.6 students to every teacher, if we were to approach that in this fiscal year it would result in hiring 475 additional teachers. And that is where we should be going, but instead of that we are laying off approximately 130. And, Mr. Speaker, to indicate that that will not affect quality, educational equality, is something that nobody can defend, it is an indefensible position. And we cannot defend the position whatsoever to say that these teacher cutbacks will not affect quality education as they are doing so drastically down in the hon. member's district. And whereas we are laying off teachers this is what we should be trying to approach, the Canadian average, which means that we would be this year employing 475 additional teachers instead of laying off 130.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Ferryland.

MR. C. POWER: I would like to rise and support the petition presented by the most experienced member of the House of Assembly, who has been here for close to thirty years, myself here being the least experienced member. It shows that the House can co-operate on matters of common interest, that the oldest, the most experienced member on one side can easily co-operate with the youngest and least experienced member on the other side on a matter that has come general public interest.

One thing that bothers me about this educational cutback is that it seems that sometimes when government makes an unpopular decision or a budgetary decision, that it is almost done so without feeling. I would just like to assure the members opposite that we as parents, as past educators on this side of the House, the minister himself as a parent and a past educator, certainly has a great deal of personal concern, and personal interest in this problem. I feel also that maybe the decision was made without proper or adequate consultation with the NTA, and with other persons interested

Mr. C. Power: in education.

As I say, I rise to support the petition. There is one word in the petition that, and I suppose it is a matter of interpretation, that I find hard to reconcile myself with, and that is that the petition continuously uses the word 'inflexible', that we are not flexible on this matter. And I find that by setting up a Task Force last week to study the ramifications of this issue, is in effect saying that we are flexible, that we are willing to listen to interested persons within the Province, we are willing to take their solicitations. And I assume once that Task Force presents its report, is that if it suggests that we should go back to the original format, if it is budgetarily possible, then I assume we are flexible, and as a government we shall reconsider what is taking place. And I certainly would hope that government would do that after the Task Force report is presented.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. C. POWER: I would also would like to say that in this matter that on education, having supported a petition previously presented by one of the hon. members, that education is a concern to everyone. As politicians, as taxpayers, we are spending in this Province over \$300. million in education and I as a parent, a politician, and a taxpayer am somewhat concerned that maybe we are not getting \$300. million of value from our educational system. And I would hope that when this Task Force which will study specifically the pupil - teacher ratio that after that is done that maybe there will make a sincere and complete evaluation of the educational system in Newfoundland to make sure we are getting our money's worth and that our students are getting their money's worth, which is a very important factor. An awful lot of the money spent in education do not get directly into the school system and is the problem that I think we in a province, not a very rich Province, have got to consider. In closing I would like to say that I find pleasure in supporting the petition presented by the member for Burin - Placentia West (Mr. Canning). It is a petition that causes all of us a great deal of concern, myself as a parent and an ex-teacher certainly as much concern as any, and I just said that I do hope that when the Task Force is complete that government will not be inflexible and will consider with a great deal of concern the reports of that Task Force. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member for Burgeo -

Bay d'Espoir.

MR. R. SIMMONS:

Mr. Speaker, it my great pleasure to support the petition presented so ably by my colleague for Burin - Placentia West. I believe the petition, and the parade of petitions we have had in recent weeks in this House suggests the need for a full scale debate on this

MR. R. SIMMONS: subject. It is an issue that certainly members of the House want to address themselves to and judging by the number of names appearing on petitions it is certainly something that the public of Newfoundland and Labrador want to address themselves to.

The figure of 130 or 135 teachers as being the number to be laid off is being used. For round figures, Mr. Speaker, if you assume that about 150 were to be laid off this year and assume that they were an average-say if you assume 150 were to be, when I say laid off I mean a 150 fewer positions this year.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is 127 this year.

MR. R. SIMMONS: Yes, I am just going through an exercise in terms of round figures to make a point which I do not think is argumentative. I am not intending to be that. I just want to make a point related to the petition. If you assume the 150 fewer positions at an average of grade three teaching license or teaching certificate with three years experience. The salary bill would amount to \$1,949,700 in respect to these 150 positions. If, Mr. Speaker, instead of laying off these 150 the government agreed to send 250 teachers on sabbatical-250, not 2 as we are doing but 250 this year at half salary, and assume that the persons going on leave at an average of a grade six teaching certificate with eleven years experience at the top of the grade six scale, give him half salary, half of \$22,358. The salary bill for that would be-or I am sorry, the salary saving, because they would be on half salary instead of full salary while they are on sabbatical salary, saving in respect to these two 250 people on sabbatical would be \$2,794,750. In other words, Mr. Speaker, if the 250 went on sabbatical the department could not only keep on the 150 that it would otherwise have laid off, it could also, Mr. Speaker, hire 100 graduates

MR. R. SIMMONS:

from the univeristy on

an internship program at another \$8,450, the bottom of the scale. The net effect, Mr. Speaker, would be that we would keep the 150 teachers that we are now laying off, we would take a 100 university students who would otherwise be without jobs and put them on the payroll and -

MR. WHITE:

You should be Minister of Finance.

MR. R. SIMMONS:

- we would send 250 away on

sabbatical, and we would do all that at no additional cost to the treasury, not one cent additional to the treasury. Now the figures are ballpark figures and where I say 150 it might have to be 147 or where I say 250 it might have to be 240 but the figures are ballpark figures just to make the point. What I am saying in effect in response to the comment from my friend for Ferryland (Mr. Power) about flexibility or otherwise is that there are a number of options here and the cutback of 127 teachers is by no means the only option that could have been explored.

MR. SIMMONS: If I were not a full time politician I would, if I had a savory farm and sat in the House part-time on the side, I would certainly accept a cutback because I could afford it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMONS: Pardon?

MR. POWER: I am just suggesting, Would that not compound the problem in 1989 or 1979 or 1980?

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, without getting into the realm of debate, I understand that the problem is a short-term one and that the third phase of the teacher - pupil ratio has not been dispensed with, it has just been frozen for a year or two pending better financial conditions, what this would do is buy time. I have looked ahead two years, the people who did the figures for me looked ahead two years, and you could repeat this process for a couple of years. The member for Ferryland (Mr. Power) is right that after about the third year it would begin to catch up on you financially. It is predicated on the same premise that the decision to hold off the third phase of the teacher-pupil ratio is predicated, that in two or three years we will be into better financial times and we will be able to continue to implement the earlier proposals.

I put that to the House, Mr. Speaker, as a suggestion, as an option and I would hope that it would be brought to the attention of the Minister of Education. I think it has real merit and it would have the effect of creating one hundred jobs and retaining one hundred and fifty that were otherwise going to be dispensed with this year; it would have the effect of giving us two hundred and fifty more job positions in the Province than we are going to have under the present arrangements or the arrangement that is presently proposed.

I certainly support the petition, Mr. Speaker, heartily support it and want to add my endorsement to the very able remarks made by the member for Burin-Placentia West (Mr. Canning) on

MR. SIMMONS: the subject.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: I have a word in support of the petition. I do believe that we have strayed a great deal from the prayer of the petition that was presented by my next-door neighbour, the hon. member for Burin - Placentia West (Mr. Canning) in which the petitioners, through him, expressed concern over the losing of three teaching positions in their school district area and presumably felt that this may have some serious effect on the quality of education.

I have some difficulty in following the supportive position for the petition taken by the hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons). He alleges that if we created sabbatical leave for 250 teachers at half salary that that salary would be only \$2.5 million instead of \$5 million, as I understand it, if they remained working full time. This would thereby enable the Province to retain the other teachers whose positions are now redundant or will not be operative next year. But that in effect means that we are adding \$2.5 million to the annual budget because those who would be retained would still be getting the maximum salary under their grade and certainly if there was an additional hundred hired this year on top of that I do not see how that could constitute a saving but I do see it constituting an additional expenditure of \$2.5 million.

I think, Mr. Speaker, what we cannot lose sight of in supporting these petitions is that - and I say first as the Minister of Finance - that that kind of a decision is as much a budgetary decision as anything else. Any Minister of Finance, if he wants to be totally popular, all he has to do is lash out all the money the people ask for, whether you have it or not. That is not feasible nor responsible because you only then pass on to your successor the obligation of shutting down the works and I am not going to do that.

But, Mr. Speaker, it is significant that in 1973-1974 we had in this Province 6403 regular teachers, we had no specialist

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MR. HICKMAN: teachers but we had 557 special education teachers for a total of 6960 teachers with a pupil enrolment of 159,831. In 1978-1979 we will have in this Province 6460 regular teachers, 355 specialist teachers, 711 special education teachers, for a total of 7526 teachers whilst at the same time our school population has dropped

MR. HICKMAN: which means, Mr. Speaker, that between the school year 1973-74 and 1977-78, the student enrollment decreased by 3669 pupils. And during that same period, the specialist teachers increased by 539 and the special education teachers by 154 for a total of 693 additional teachers. The result is that for this school year there is a projected reduction of 127.

And it is a fact, Mr. Speaker, that everywhere in the Western World where we have seen this very -

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

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order has come up.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, it is now clear that the minister is not speaking in support of the petition at all, but indeed, speaking against the petition. I submit, Mr. Speaker, that that is not permitted under the rules and tradition of this House.

The minister is now clearly demonstrating in his argument that the cutback of 127 is justified. The prayer of the petition is that it is not justified, that the opposite is true. Now the minister cannot have it both ways. Either he can support the petition or he can be against it, but if he is against it he cannot speak in support of it. That is axiomatic and I would ask that Mr. Speaker instruct the minister to either support the petition or just discontinue participating in the exchange.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. HICKMAN: To that point of order, Mr. Speaker. May I?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. House Leader.

MR. HICKMAN: I will say this, that what I am trying to do is to bring to the attention of the House

MR. HICKMAN: how the quality of education may be affected either for good or for bad as a result of the petition so ably presented by my colleague for Burin - Placentia West (Mr. Canning). I did wander from the prayer of the petition when I responded to the irrelevant comments of the member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir and I apologize for that. I strayed from the rules, I should not have responded to that comment because it was not relevant.

MR. SPEAKER(Collins): Order, please!

Hon. members are aware, of course, that no debate is permitted on petitions, but that statements not exceeding five minutes are permitted as long as they refer to the material allegations in the petition. I would encourage hon. members to keep within those confines.

The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: In concluding my very few brief remarks in support of this petition, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that all hon. members of this House in their concern for education follow the path that is now being so properly followed by educators and school boards, that whilst there may be fewer regular classroom teachers, that this gives us a splendid opportunity to develop and to spend more time with specialist teachers in other areas other than those that have been mentioned.

This will give us an opportunity, I suspect, in improving the quality of education and in supporting this petition on the quality of education, to spend more time providing programmes for the emotionally disturbed, the multi-handicapped and those whose education is hampered through hearing or slight impairment. That is why I am so pleased to support that petition.

MR. CANNING: Would the hon.minister yield for a question?

MR. HICKMAN: Oh,yes. Sorry! Sorry!

MR. CANNING: Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the minister because this petition does come from his district as well as mine, the whole Burin Peninsula. I am asking the minister if he would tell the House if he agrees that the government should hold off on the cutback in teachers until such time as the Task Force has done its work and reported its recommendations.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. CANNING: Does he agree with that or does he not?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

I am afraid I do have to point out that the hon. minister's time has elapsed, His five minutes in commenting on this has elapsed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CANNING: Is it yes or no? Does he agree or disagree?

MR. SPEAKER(collins): The hon. Minister of Inter-governmental Affairs.

MR. DOODY: If there is anyone else speaking on this particular petition I will yield. I have another petition here, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MCISAAC: I was just standing -

MR. DOODY: Oh!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Inter-governmental Affairs.

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition on behalf of the residents of Bell Island in the district of Harbour Main - Bell Island.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. DOODY: This petition was assembled by the Bell Island Kiwanis Club in co-operation with the town

MR. DOODY: Council of Wabana and represents the wishes and ideas of a great many different sectors and segments of the populace of the 7,500 to 8,000 people who live on Bell Island.

The petition represents their feelings regarding the ferry service, or the lack of service that the island has had to live with during the past years. I am sure hon. members are aware of this situation. I will try to summarize it as briefly as I can, Sir, without minimizing the impact of the ferry service on the island. Obviously, any of the members of this House who represent districts which are isolated areas know how important that ferry link might be. In this particular case the 7,500 or 8,000 permanent residents as well as the many people from the mainland section of our Province as it relates to Bell Island who use that ferry service have outlined their thoughts in some detail.

The general consensus is, Your Honour, that the ferry is not large enough. I can attest to that personally, as I have had the experience, as I am sure many of us have, of waiting for that particular ferry. There are people who try to get home on the 4:00 P.M. ferry to the island and it is often 8:00 or later before they get away from Portugal Cove. My last trip to the island was on Wednesday past, Your Honour, and I had to catch the 1:00 P.M. boat to come back to St. John's. Fortunately, I left my car in Portugal Cove and did not bring it over to the island so I managed to come back, but there were as many cars left on the island as there were on that John Guy, which takes about 22 - 24 vehicles.

So the basic concern is a larger ferry, one that is capable of carrying the kind of traffic that Bell Island has to service and one that is able to

MR. DOODY: operate in adverse weather conditions in terms of Conception Bay, and that does not mean a particularly heavy, ice-reinforced ship, just a reasonable ship with sufficient power to handle the winds and some ice from time to time.

The two ships that are there now, the Katherine, which is a stand-by ferry and operates in conjunction with the John Guy for several months of the year, and which is paid for by the Government of Newfoundland, is really a stand-by ferry and is not adequate for the service either.

So the people feel that an improvement has to be made in the ferry service, and they also feel that an improvement has to be made in the terminals and in the parking areas, particularly on the Beach Hill on Bell Island. So part of this petition relates to the Government of Newfoundland and particularly to the Department of Transportation and Communications, and I will certainly see to it, Your Honour, that it receives adequate attention in that department.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. DOODY: There is a great deal of it which relates to the Government of Canada. We are presently engaged in negotiations with the Department of Transport in Ottawa regarding the island ferry services, not only the Bell Island ferry service, but the ferry services in some of the Northeastern areas of the Province, and hopefully, during the process of these negotiations, we may be able to do something to help the people on Bell Island to attain this very worthwhile objective.

Needless to say, Sir, I fully endorse the sentiments of the people on the island. In this regard I have had a great deal of personal experience

MR. DOODY: with the ferry service, or lack thereof. I realize that there are people in this House who experience varying degrees of the same type of frustration in their particular areas of the Province, and so, Sir, I pass this to one of the Clerks, ask it to be placed on the table of the House and referred to the department to which it relates. Thank you.

CAPT. E. WINSOR: Mr. Speaker.

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

CAPT. E. WINSOR: I support the petition presented by the hon. minister and I am sure what applies to the ferry service between Portugal Cove and Bell Island applies to a great many areas of this Province. I can think of the Greenspond one, the Fogo Island ferry, the Little Bay Islands one, the St. Brendan's one. They all now appear to be inadequate. And it is very interesting - a few years ago, not so many years ago, the Bell Island service was operated by two much smaller boats than the ones they have there now - the Kipawo and the Minoco. And there was one period when I, myself, had the good fortune in a much smaller vessel than either of the ones I have mentioned of operating that service from Bell Island to Portugal Cove. The service was maintained, and that is about all you could say about it. You know,

CAPT. E WINSOR: the lifeline was continued between the two places. But now it appears and - I suppose in the heydays of Bell Island much smaller boats could take care of the service there, but now it appears that they cannot do it any longer and there are good reasons for it. There is a great increase in the number of vehicles which we did not have even ten years ago, so this is bringing more demand on the ferry services. People travel today and they want to go all the way by car, leave St. John's and go to Portugal Cove and put their car on, whereas a few years ago people were content to go by bus or by taxi to Portugal Cove and cross on the ferry to Bell Island and then of course come back and pick up a taxi or ferry again.

But, Mr. Speaker, this is a problem that the minister is going to have to face because if, as we understand, the ferry services of this Province will be taken over by the provincial government, then of course the baby is going to be placed right in the lap of the hon. Minister and Transportation, if he is still in that portfolio and I hope he will be.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

CAPT. WINSOR: Well this may happen, there is a limit on this, you know. The ferry services are to be taken over I believe within five or six months, and so we would not wish the minister to be without his salary at that short a period. But anyway it is beginning to get a serious problem in transportation and I am sure it affects all the areas where we have ferries operating. Now I can understand the frustration of the people of Bell Island but they have two fairly large ferries there now and it is -

MR. DOODY: The two do not operate.

CAPT. WINSOR: That is the point I was going to make, why do not the two ferries operate, one going and one coming?

MR. DOODY: That is one of the requests. It is a matter (inaudible) a million dollar subsidy gotten on the one ferry.

CAPT. WINSOR: I know \$1 million sounds like a lot of money today, but when you are operating ships \$1 million does not seem to be too much money to operate a service such as Bell Island.

CAPT. WINSOR: I would rather see perhaps the two ferries operating all year round and then that should provide a better service because if you are going to put all your eggs into one basket and go for one boat then you have no back-up service and I do not think that any company will be able to provide the type of boat and the size of boat that is required on Bell Island in order to keep the traffic flowing, so it is a matter I am sure the minister is going to have to give a lot of consideration to.

I certainly support the petition, Mr. Speaker, and trust that some action will be given to that service, not only to that service but to other ferry services operating in this Province.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. member for St. George's.

MRS McISAAC: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present -

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, could I just speak for a moment, just very brief and to the point?

Before we go on to the other petitions I would like just to have a brief word on the petition presented by the member for Harbour Main-Bell Island (Mr. Doody). First of all, Mr. Speaker, let me say to him that it is delightful, nothing short of delightful, if I could get his ear -

MR. DOODY: (Inaudible) .

MR. SIMMONS: Okay. -delightful to see the minister in the supplicant role for a change, in the praying position. He now knows how the people of Gaultois and McCallum, Ramea and Francois and Grey River feel. I support his petition on one condition, Mr. Speaker, that it is a tandem effort, it is an effort that involves not only the improvement in ferry services on Bell Island but a tandem effort which involves ferry services which he and his administration have committed for the Gaultois - McCallum area as well.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. member for St. George's.

MRS McISAAC: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition on behalf of ninety-two residents of the community of Mattis Point in the

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MRS McISAAC: district of St. George's. The prayer of the petition is, "We the undersigned residents of the community of Mattis Point in the provincial district of St. George's, do hereby petition this Department of Transportation and Communications to upgrade and pave the stretch of road from Main Gut bridge leading to our community."

MRS. McISSAC:

"At this point in time the road is in a deplorable condition and nearly impassable. We are at present without taxi services the taxi owners are reluctant to put their taxis over a road that is in such a run-down condition. If this condition persists there will be no vehicles passing over it, including the school bus. We have on a number of occasions contacted highway officials complaining of the road conditions but the only thing that has been done over the past few years was a little gravel put here and there which does not improve the driving conditions in anyway whatsoever."

Mr. Speaker, in supporting the petition I would like to say that this road to Mattis Point is a very short stretch of road. I believe from the Main Cut Bridge, as we will call it, to the end of the community is probably near a mile. It is signed by ninety-two residents and I would say that this is every eligible voter that is in the community of Mattis Point. It is a very small community. Now a few weeks ago a number of residents got out and barricaded the road and as a result some of them ended up in jail, but they were determined to get their point across. I have to agree with them that the road is in very very bad shape. It is a road that was - the road in the community of Mattis Point is not that good either, but the stretch from the Main Cut Bridge to where you enter the community is a causeway type. It is an area that was filled in, I do not know how many years ago, probably eight or nine years ago, and I believe that the problem is the culverts underneath that causeway are not large enough to carry the water in the Spring of the year. Every year they seem to have the same problem, that the water washes over the road and of course all the gravel is washed away and there is nothing but potholes and ruts.

MRS. McISSAC:

So I would like to ask the minister if he would have his officials take a look at it and see what the possibility is of having that road paved. I believe that if it were paved it would certainly save the department quite a few dollars because it is a steady cry for ballast or grading.

I have never driven over that road in the past two years that I could say that it was in good condition and it seems as though no matter how hard the Department of Transportation in the area tries to upgrade it and keep it in good condition, it is just not possible because of the fact that the water comes in over it. It is not built up enough and I believe if it were built up, at least a section of it if you cannot pave it all, at least the section that is causing the problem even could be built up and paved, I believe that it would mean dollars to the Department of Transportation. So I will ask that the petition be placed on the table and referred to the Department of Transportation and Communications and hope that they will give the same consideration to this one as they are going to give to the ferry service for Bell Island. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member for Baie Verte - White Bay.

MR. T. BIDEOUT:

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this very reasonable petition so ably presented by my colleague for St. George's (Mrs. McIssac). It is not very often when you have a petition presented to the House of Assembly that the real gist of it, the real nature of it is a suggestion to the minister and to his department how to save dollars. And as I understood the prayer of the petition that is exactly what this one is all about, the ninety-two residents of Mattis Point in my colleague's district are only talking about, I believe, approximately a mile of road that is almost sunk below the level of the ground and so it is costly to keep that piece of road even operatable at the moment. So it is a very reasonable

MR. RIDEOUT: take this into consideration, find the \$100,000 or \$200,000 necessary and do that piece of road to save some money in the long run for his department.

MR. NOLAN: Show some compassion.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is the short run that we are -

MR. SPEAKER: (Dr. Collins) The hon. the member for Bonavista North.

MR. CROSS: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition on behalf of 1,155 people of the communities of Dark Cove, Middle Brook, Gambo. The prayer of the petition reads as follows: "We, the undersigned support the Concerned Citizens Committee of Dark Cove, Middle Brook, Gambo, who prepared a brief and submitted it to the Minister of Justice, the hon. T. Alec Hickman, in July, 1977, It is our understanding that consideration would be given to their request for an RCMP detachment in our municipality. The brief contains valid reasons for the request, and a recent tragic accident has led us to support strongly their efforts in obtaining the above mentioned service. We feel that with such a spread out area, the detachment at Glovertown cannot possibly provide adequate control. We pray that the affixed signatures will cause your department to give this request a most favourable response."

Mr. Speaker, in speaking in support of this petition, I would like to say that this is not a new idea, it is not a new request, because the first request dates back to 1969. But there are a few facts that I would like to state in support of this petition.

MR. CROSS:

Certainly it is proved that Gambo, Middle Brook and Dark Cove, these three communities which in fact are one community - one leading into another - has the largest population in the communities now served; that is, they have a population of 3,000 people and they are the largest single unit of population that the RCMP detachment at Glovertown serves. True, the detachment at Glovertown serves a population of 12,8044 people, 7,404 of which are located in Bonavista North from Gambo to Parsons' Point. The communities are situated on the Bonavista North Loop Road, the main road that leads to the Northern part of the district. It is a busy highway and with improved transportation, naturally it would become busier and carry more traffic as time advances. And certainly, that road leading off the Trans-Canada causes much speeding to take place and certainly speeding often leads to accidents that cost lives, and the people feel that the presence of a law enforcement detachment at Gambo would act as a deterrent to drivers and certainly cause them to be more cautious and certainly would cut down on the number of accidents that take place. I may say also that these communities are growing communities. The fact can be attested to when we drive through these communities and see the new homes that are being constructed and the improvements that are being made every day.

Certainly, I would like to state also as I speak in this petition that the inadequate police protection casts no reflection on the job that is being done by the detachment at Glovertown. Under the circumstances, I think the police in the area from Charlottetown to Parsons Point, including the island of St. Brendan's, are doing the best job possible with the

MR. CROSS: number of officers that
are serving there.

The short term solution to the problem possibly would be an increase in the number of police at the detachment at Glovertown and I feel that this will be undertaken, but as I said, it would be a short-term solution because the problem is immediate. But to have an effective job of policing done in the area, a detachment of the RCMP set up at Gambo is, I think, the real solution to the problem.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this petition be laid on the table of the House and referred to the department to which it relates.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the member for
Terra Nova.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, again I rise to support this petition presented by the hon. member for Bonavista North on behalf of the residents of Gambo, Dark Cove and Little Brook, requesting an RCMP detachment be set up in that area, in Gambo. And, Mr. Speaker, the petition that the hon. member presented a couple of days ago is not unrelated to this one in a way because in that one the hon. member was requesting that there be sidewalks put in there and improvement to the shoulders of the road to cut down on the accidents there. In view of the fact that over the past few years there have been several fatal accidents in that community, and that is related in no small way to the excessive speeding that takes place on that particular highway and the road leading from the Trans-Canada down through these communities. And the hon. member pointed out, as did I, that it is an atrocious road to have to drive through as you leave the Trans-Canada, being brought down to twenty-five miles per hour going right through a community that is heavily populated with pedestrians on all sides and with no sidewalks and then with people speeding.

I mentioned in support of that petition a couple of days ago that it was a nightmare to drive through that community and it indeed is, people passing you and people from the area try to maintain the speed limits, generally it is people from outside, but that is not always the case. And so the presence of an RCMP detachment there I think would cut down on the speeding and you would only want to compare it with Glovertown. Glovertown is basically the same kind of situation, where you drive right off the Trans-Canada onto narrow roads with no sidewalks and yet the town of Glovertown does not come close to the fatal accidents that take place in Gambo. And I think the reason for that is the presence

MR. LUSH: of an RCMP detachment within the community, which naturally acts as some deterrent in preventing people from speeding.

And I think the petition also mentioned the rising vandalism in the Gambo area, and again, Mr. Speaker, there has been a tremendous rise in the vandalism in that area in the past three or four years and this also is another reason why the people, the residents, are requesting their own, if you will, detachment of the RCMP. Now I certainly would not want to see any reduction in the staff at Glovertown because that is needed; what we need is an additional staff in Gambo, their own RCMP detachment. I could not agree to a reduction in the staff in Glovertown, in that area, because these people have a tremendous area to police, a tremendous area. I do not know, if the hon. member were here he could probably help me, but I believe it goes down to Salvage, Eastport, which is all a large area, St. Brendan's, which is an island which makes it very difficult for it because it takes a day or a day and a half to go to St. Brendan's, and then I think they cover going the other way down as far as Indian Bay, I am not certain about that but I believe they go as far as Indian Bay because I think Wesleyville has its own RCMP detachment.

So that is a rather large area for any one police force to have to take care of, and as the hon. member mentioned, there is no reflections at all on the present work of the RCMP force in Glovertown. They are doing a tremendous task under the circumstances but the area is too, too large and I believe that the residents from Gambo have a very strong case for getting their own RCMP detachment and I would hope that the appropriate level of government would move quickly to see that these people have their request granted as quickly as possible.

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

MR. WOODROW: Mr. Speaker, I would like to support the petition so ably presented by my colleague from Bonavista North and so well supported by my hon. friend from Terra Nova. In supporting the petition, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that there has been a general traffic increase all over the Province and this applies not only to the urban centres but to the rural areas as well. In fact.

Mr. Woodrow: I am thinking especially now, naturally when I get up to speak I think of the Bay of Islands district, but I have to think of the petition as such.

And also, Mr. Speaker, certainly we say that vandalism, and I suppose to a certain extent crime is on the increase. Now I would ask the minister, and very likely he will be having something to say about the petition, to consider more highway patrols. I am not think, Mr. Speaker, especially about the Trans-Canada Highway, but in the various communities throughout the Province. It seems that young people are inclined to drive at a terrific pace. It is probably due to the age we are living in, and in almost every community children are at play, and it is a wonder there are not more tragedies than we have. We have witnessed a few in the past couple of months or so, as the minister knows, over in my district along the South shore of the Bay of Islands.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I feel, and probably I should give credit to the auxiliary police who are, I think, doing a tremendous job throughout the Province. And I still think that we should, I do know whether this is possible or not, give more thought to having the Newfoundland Constabulary outside the City of St. John's. I think this would also be very helpful. I think, Mr. Speaker, it is a very important petition and I give it my full support.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Lewisporte followed by the hon. member for St. John's South.

MR. WHITE: Mr. Speaker, I was going to say a few words on this, what I thought was something new, but the hon. gentleman for the Bay of Islands (Mr. Woodrow) stole my thunder. I was going to say now that the demands are coming in for RCMP detachments, additional RCMP detachments around this Province, we are going to get more of them during the months and weeks ahead particularly as new roads are developed and people find it easier to travel faster and so on over paved roads. I was going to suggest that the Minister of Justice

Mr. White: give serious consideration now, Mr. Speaker, to having the Newfoundland Constabulary expanded throughout the rural and outside areas of this Province, outside of St. John's. The debate has not been raised for the last couple of years, and I think it is time that we raised this debate. There are 300 or 400 or 500 new jobs that would be created for Newfoundlanders outside the St. John's area if the Newfoundland Constabulary were extended. The Newfoundland Constabulary is a provincial police force, it is not a St. John's City police force. And it is my feeling that it should be extended out, and what a better chance and a better time now than to set up the first outside detachment of the Newfoundland Constabulary at Gambo.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. John's South, followed by the hon. minister.

DR. J. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, in rising to support this petition I would like to make a comment along the lines of the hon. the member for the Bay of Islands (Mr. Woodrow) and the hon. member for Lewisporte (Mr. White), This seems to me a very sensible suggestion, and one that I was going to make myself if I had the opportunity to have arisen earlier.

My understanding of the petition is that the citizens in that area are particularly concerned in terms of road safety. The RCMP are a very sophisticated force in dealing with many areas in the prevention of crime and similar matters, and one wonders if a detachment is necessary in that area at this time to allay the concerns of the citizens as they have expressed them. And it would seem that rather than getting into an unduly elaborate mechanism which might take time, and excess expense, we could go some other route and supply some form of traffic control there, and it would seem that the Newfoundland Constabulary, some phase of that could be expanded to fulfill that role.

It reminds that in the Conception Bay South area years ago there was a constable from the Newfoundland Constabulary who did an exemplary job. I can remember when I was in that area, in

Dr. J. Collins: younger days, and I think his name, if I remember correctly, was Constable Churchill, and he controlled the whole shore almost up to Holyrood, I believe, from his own home, if I remember correctly. Now these were simpler days, granted, but despite that here was a local person, in a local area, with local respect, and he did a very fine job in terms of what was required of him.

DR. J. COLLINS: And I think consideration should be given to that in circumstances such as we are dealing with now.

MR. SPEAKER: I had indicated I would recognize the hon. minister next, I usually alternate but I do not think it vital here. The hon. Minister of Tourism, and then the hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir.

MR. MORGAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, a few words in support of the petition which is from a fairly large area of Bonavista Bay which I am quite familiar with. The petition indicates the need for some law enforcement in the area of Middle Brook, Dark Cove, Gambo area and the fact the nearest detachment is approximately fourteen, fifteen miles away at Glovertown, and the fact that the area concerned in the petition is larger population-wise than the Glovertown area, there is a definite need for some law enforcement in that area, and in particular to and in connection with the highway regulations and laws.

I agree somewhat with the comment made by the member for Lewisporte (Mr. F. White) that I think it would be an appropriate time, the next year or so, to look at the possibility of expanding the Newfoundland Constabulary, which, by the way, is doing a tremendous job in the city of St. John's. I feel that the RCMP should be emphasizing their patrol work and law enforcement primarily on the Trans-Canada Highway when it comes to highway regulations and laws. I know many times I have travelled the TCH over the past two or three years and found no patrols at all on the TCH, but you move off to a secondary highway and there are four or five patrol cars, but nobody on the TCH. What I would like to see, Mr. Speaker, in supporting the petition for some law enforcement, is consideration given to the possibility of establishing or expanding the Newfoundland Constabulary out to areas like the Gambo area, on the secondary highways, secondary roads and to patrol the municipal roads, local roads in these areas and to have the RCMP, primarily, when it comes to patrolling highways, on the TCH only.

MR. MORGAN: So I support the petition and I sincerely hope we can either have the Newfoundland Constabulary out there, hopefully the Newfoundland Constabulary, if not at least some law enforcement stationed there over the next year or so.

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

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, just a brief word in support of the petition presented by my friend from Bonavista North (Mr. G. Cross). Here is another area where we need at some point a full scale debate in this House and that is about the RCMP role in this Province.

I am one of a growing number of people who feel the RCMP arrangement is not serving us at all very well in this Province. It was a great novelty, I suppose, in 1949 to have them in here with their pretty uniforms and that kind of thing, and it was appealing to us as we became part of a new nation to have all the colour and trappings of the RCMP. Now what we need is some substance. And if you talk to a mayor or a leader in any small community in this Province, he or she will tell you that where they most need protection it is most absent. If you want to get someone ticketed for going three miles above the speed limit you can depend on the RCMP. If you want to stop a bunch of hoodlums from racing through the main street of a town at three o'clock in the morning, dead drunk, at ninety-five miles an hour the RCMP fellows will tell you quite frankly they are afraid to get involved in it. And they do not get involved in it. And I know of cases upon cases upon cases where the fellows are tearing up the town at a ridiculous hour in the morning, at many times the speed limit, and I can quote communities and quote chapter and verse for you. I can quote cases where I personally called the RCMP at two o'clock in the morning and reported an incident to them, and the answer I got basically is, "Well, what can we do? What can we do?" Lives are endangered because of the lack of protection, lack of

MR. SIMMONS: police protection in some of the smaller communities of the Province.

To the specific point raised in the petition, Mr. Speaker, the need for an additional detachment at Gambo just like - perhaps the Minister of Justice could indicate to me, the matter of locating additional detachments, is it embedded in the agreement or is it a matter of discretion for the RCMP people? Does the minister know off hand?

MR. HICKMAN: It is a matter of negotiation between the Provincial Department of Justice and the office of the Solicitor General of Canada because the Solicitor General of Canada, very fortunately for us, pays the full cost of establishing.

MR. SIMMONS: Okay. I thank the minister. I want to draw a parallel case and it is in Ramea in my district where they are having a representation on this subject. The case is not at all dissimilar to the Gambo case which has been cited, dissimilar only in the sense that there is greater isolation and therefore the time in travelling to the various communities is multiplied when you compare it to areas served by roads.

Mr. Simmons:

I have often wondered, Mr. Speaker—this might be helpful to the case made by my friend for Bonavista North (Mr. Cross)—I have often wondered what kind of formula is used in determining the size of detachments, the number of officers on a detachment. For example, in the community of Springdale there are five officers, and they serve a population area of about 10,000 people. In the community of Burgeo, which serves about 7,000 or 8,000 people, all of whom have to be reached by water, there is one officer, one officer for 8,000, five in Springdale for 10,000. In the case of the Springdale example, all areas are accessible by road with the exception of two islands, Little Bay Island and Long Island. So I often wonder about the formula or the rationale behind locating these detachments, and deciding the size of them.

I can support his case, and I would hope he would see fit to support mine as it applies to Ramea, and I believe Gambo and Ramea, Mr. Speaker, are just two of the hundreds of reasons why the entire RCMP arrangement in this Province needs to be looked at in a very scrutinizing way to see if it serving us very well, more importantly to see if it can serve us a bit better than it is right now.

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

MR. J. NOLAN: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the petition as presented. We have made some reference to policing, of course, during the Justice estimates earlier in this session. Again I repeat that the petitions we are getting on law and order administration in this Province indicates quite clearly a look of confidence in justice the way it is administered or not administered in this Province. Now it is easy enough, I suppose, to attempt to make the minister the scapegoat, but I mean we talking about a very, very important thing here. You take, for example, in my own district, Mr. Speaker, I am constantly amazed by the number of break-ins, vandalism, firms being broken into, held up and all the rest, there are people being

Mr. Nolan: victimized, and it has reached the point now that sometimes I hear of it a week or two later or a month later, whereas just a few years ago if something like this happened it would have been a major news story. Now the frequency is such that it has become a provincial problem, a very serious one. People have lost confidence, I am afraid, in the men, sometimes, and women, who have been engaged by the Department of Justice to administer the legal affairs of the Province. Then you come to the point, is it the policemen's fault, the local Constabulary, the RCMP? I would have to say, no. I have to say, no, because we have to look to see whether they are given the required personnel, the technology that is available, and most importantly, are we the citizens supporting the policemen in their work.

All of us sometimes are prone, we all have to have a fall guy. It is always easy, I mean I have had my share of it in taking my best shots at the Minister of Justice from time to time. But it is a provincial responsibility in the broadest sense. It is easy, maybe politically correct to say get rid of the RCMP.

AN HON. MEMBER: No.

MR. NOLAN: Maybe that will get you points.

But I think the problem is much more important than that. What is needed in the worst kind of a way, and I pray to God the minister will one of those days sit down and rather than have a partisan argument in this House on the administration of justice, take a good hard look at setting up a good committee to see how the communities, whether it is Gambo, whether it is Burgeo, whether it is out in Lewisporte, or Ramea, or in Labrador or wherever it is. We sometimes have committees set up consisting of alleged experts who will do everything but listen to the people who have the problems, whose homes are being broken into, whose children are being knocked down. Let me give you an example of what I am trying to say; a few weeks ago a four wheel drive that I drive was parked in a certain public place, in other words administered by public money, When my wife came out to drive the vehicle home the rear end had been removed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

AN HON. MEMBER: You must be kidding.

MR. NOLAN: I am not kidding, I will be quite happy
to give the hon. minister the place and the whole works, all right.

AN HON. MEMBER: Was it daylight?

MR. NOLAN: Oh, yes! Oh, yes! Sure.

So what happened was apparently

MR. NOLAN: she had offered to drive some ladies home and she found some difficulty in getting the vehicle in gear, She managed to crawl home practically with the vehicle and someone then, a friend, fortunately said, "Well maybe there is a piece of ice up under the darn thing. Let us put it in a garage," which they did to see if it would thaw out overnight, And this was done but there was no piece of ice, Apparently those who have much greater mechanical ability than me say that you can do this very rapidly. Now what is even more disturbing to me is when you have been in politics or in journalism, as I am sure my friend from Lewisporte (Mr. White) will attest, you have certain sources of information and what is often times - I am sure the ministers know this, sometimes it is most frustrating, Let me just give you a sequel, if I may, Mr. Speaker. Knowing that the darn thing had been stolen from beneath the wagon, the rear end, a week later I heard from another source that I have, quite by accident, that there had been an order in in a certain place for this piece of automotive equipment, I also understand that it was installed in a well-known and prominent automotive center and I also know the area of the Province who ordered it but I cannot prove that the piece of equipment was mine. I am not looking for public sympathy or anything like that, I am only indicating that close to home - and we have all had experiences, I submit that there is no member of this House who has not been victimized, or his relatives -

AN HON MEMBER: - my car.

MR. NOLAN: Your car, well that is what I mean, So if therefore, you know, we are not a select group! So I hope that the minister will take a hard look at what is going on. I suggest that the administration of justice in terms of vandalism and so on is out of hand completely, And I am not going to stand here and blame the minister. What I am doing is asking the minister in the name of God please, please, please let us get together in a non-partisan way and look at the system of policing in this Province as it applies to traffic,

MR. NOLAN: as it applies to vandalism and so on.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I have to remind the hon. member that his five minutes has elapsed.

MR. NOLAN: I thank the hon. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Presenting reports.

MR. HICKMAN: If I may have one word on this.

MR. SPEAKER: Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: I intended simply to refer to my very excellent meeting with Mayor Pritchett and her council earlier this week and the hon. the member for Benavista North (Mr. Cross), but this has gotten into comments concerning the police force that I have an obligation to respond to. Number one, I am not prepared to get myself in a position where I am arguing the Royal Canadian Mounted Police vis-à-vis the Newfoundland Constabulary. They are both very excellent police forces. On a provincial basis and a Canadian basis the Newfoundland Constabulary has a first class reputation and deservedly so. It is now getting for the first time in its 125 year history or more the kind of support that, in my opinion, it should have been getting starting in the thirties from the government and it is now getting it. The Royal Canadian Police is with justification ranked as the world's best police force and it is not a responsible position to try and downgrade their efforts.

In this Province today we have - I wish I had the statistics in front of me now, but it is either; well it is better not to quote them - but we have a very, very large number of RCMP officers, much larger than we have ever had in our history. And whilst we have a certain number under the provincial contract one must not overlook that there are 200 or 300 RCMP officers who are in here and they do not cost us anything and they are available for law enforcement of the Criminal Code when we require them. The drug squad is outside the provincial contract as we have no responsibility in narcotics.

AN HON. MEMBER: The fraud squad.

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MR. HICKMAN: The commercial fraud squad to a large extent is outside the provincial contract although there are certain charges. The formula, which is a rather complicated one, is a very attractive one, the financial formula for this Province. I am apprehensive that the formula is starting to be changed because of extreme political pressures on the government of Canada by the provinces of Quebec and Ontario who do not avail of the services of the RCMP. The formula right now is about fifty-fifty, with the government of Canada paying the capital account for detachment quarters and that sort of thing.

I would not be prepared to see the Newfoundland Constabulary set up in any part of this Province unless we were in a position to give them the same kind of quarters and the same kind of equipment as the

MR. HICKMAN: R.C.M.P. have and that will be a very substantial cost item.

In the meantime, we are pressing on with the construction of the first building, the first headquarters for the Newfoundland Constabulary in their history. In the City of St. John's our per capita population of police still compares favourably, if not better, than any other Canadian city.

With respect to - and people have to realize, I sympathize with the problem of the hon. member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan) but I am sure he will agree that if we had had three times as many members in the Newfoundland Constabulary in St. John's on that particular afternoon or night when his wife's vehicle was vandalized, it would still have occurred.

What we have to look at, Mr. Speaker, is this: Number one, in the Department of Justice, and I am very proud of the professional staff we have right now, we have a prosecutorial staff of about ten or twelve which is an increase from two in five years. We have the strongest provincial bench we have ever had, again an increase of eighteen to thirty-one, I think it is, in that period. The Crown has no control over sentencing, none, nor should it. The Crown should never have greater rights than the accused.

With respect to the particular petition here, last year Chief-Superintendent Farr and I went to Glovertown and met with the council. We agreed to increase the surveillance, and this was done very dramatically during the past few months. Mayor Pritchett was very strong in her praise for the work that is being done by the R.C.M.P. in the Gambo area.

MR. HICKMAN: But the main thrust, as I interpret it, is that they would like a police presence from a deterrent point of view in their municipal area. They realize that any detachment now, because of working agreements, must be a minimum of a three man detachment, that this will still not prevent someone racing through the town in a car under the influence of liquor, but it is the presence they are emphasizing.

I will give you a couple of statistics as to what happens, to show you some of the effectiveness of the law enforcement in the Gambo area.

MR. SPEAKER(Collins): Order, please!

I am sorry.

MR. HICKMAN: I wish I could give this because there has been an excellent -

AN HON. MEMBER: By leave.

MR. HICKMAN: May I by leave? And I have one minute.

MR. SPEAKER(Collins): By leave?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: By leave.

MR. HICKMAN: In 1975, and this is a thing that really counts, in 1975 - I will just take impaired driving - there were twelve impaired driving cases and all twelve were cleared; that means disposed of by the courts. The next year there were six and six. In the first half of 1977, zilch! That is the kind of law enforcement that is becoming so effective in this Province. And if you look at just one more item, break and entry, in 1976, thirty-three, twenty-three cleared; 1977, eight, five cleared. And remember, the police surveillance was increased and there are three members of the Glovertown detachment who reside - although they are in the Glovertown detachment - who reside in the community of Gambo, as I

MR. HICKMAN: recall it, Mr. Speaker.
So what I have undertaken with Mayor Pritchett is this, that this new thrust of the council, the new approach I am prepared to - and we only submit statistics and the population count, the area to be served to the office of the Solicitor General. I can make, as I have done on two occasions in the past year, a fairly firm directive but I have to be in a position to justify - why I say I, my officials - to the officials and the Solicitor of Canada that indeed this is necessary, otherwise they will not pay for it. But we are moving in the right direction, I am quite certain, in this case.

MR. SPEAKER(Collins): Further petitions.

NOTICES OF MOTION

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to move the House into a Committee of the Whole to consider certain resolutions in relation to the granting of Supplementary Supply to Her Majesty for the financial year ending the 31st. day of March, one thousand nine hundred and seventy-eight. How does that grab you?

MR. DOODY: That is not bad.

MR. SPEAKER(Collins): Further Notices of Motion.

ORAL QUESTIONS:

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER(Collins): The hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, a question for the hon. the Minister of Justice, the Government House Leader. I wonder first of all, Mr. Speaker, if he could

MR. SIMMONS:

indicate to the House when he expects to receive a report on the report of the Fire Commissioner, I would expect, on the fire at Elizabeth Towers a couple of mornings ago?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: There has already been a preliminary, a verbal report received from the Fire Commissioner. The procedure that is followed in most fires, certainly any fires involving large buildings or where a lot of people reside, is that if it is in St. John's the Fire Commissioner and the police conduct an investigation and eventually the two reports come in to the Deputy Minister of Justice. The Fire Commissioner is primarily concerned with safety and the other investigative body with cause. If it is outside, it is by the RCMP.

So to set the record straight there is nothing unusual at all, but it is standard practice for the police to be investigating this particular fire. The Fire Commissioner yesterday met with the St. John's Housing Corporation and reviewed with them fire safety procedures in Elizabeth Towers. Firstly I am told and I do not have a written report and I have to protect myself in this sense by saying it is being related to me second hand because the Fire Commissioner, I gather the man has been really going for the last forty-eight hours because we seem to have had more than our fair share of fires in the St. John's Area. But what has been transmitted to me is that, in fact only as late as a few minutes ago, that the St. John's Housing Corporation at the time they built the Elizabeth Towers complied with all of the regulations and all of the requirements of the Fire Commissioner at that time.

Fire Commissioner Cardoulis has directed, if direct is the word, he certainly has the

MR. HICKMAN:

authority to direct if it is necessary, the St. John's Housing Corporation to implement some remedial action by adding additional fire protective measures or procedures forthwith. I cannot advise the House of the nature of that because that has not yet been reported to me. But he has moved very swiftly indeed in this. I will have a full report. I am not sure if what the hon. member is talking about is a report on the cause of the fire.

MR. SIMMONS: The cause.

MR. HICKMAN: I am more concerned about a report to ensure that there are very adequate fire protective procedures and equipment in that building. That is my number one cause for many, many reasons, as it is the same reason as the hon. member for Port de Grave (Mr. Dawe). But the matter is being dealt with very quickly indeed and very effectively.

MR. SIMMONS: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary to the original question.

MR. SIMMONS: We are not unconcerned about the safety issue. We realize that was in motion as a matter of course. The Fire Commissioner comes in routinely. The question of cause, I am not sure the minister addressed himself to. Is he in a position at the moment to. I gather he is not in a position to indicate what the cause is, that that report is not complete. So I will put another supplementary to the minister, another question to the minister, Mr. Speaker.

On the subject of the executive assistant, or maybe the former executive assistant as the case may be, to the Minister of Industrial Development, Mr. Terrence White, can the Minister of Justice now indicate to us whether Mr. White's contract

MR. SIMMONS:

with the government has been terminated and if so, in what way was he fired. Did he voluntarily submit a resignation?

MR. HICKMAN: No, I cannot, Mr. Speaker. That question has to be directed to my colleague, the Minister of Industrial Development. He certainly would not consult me on that. I just have no idea.

MR. SIMMONS: Could the minister indicate where the Minister of Industrial Development is?

MR. HICKMAN: No, I cannot.

MR. SIMMONS: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

The gentleman we are talking about, Mr. White, was here in the House on the night the affidavits and the letter from Mr. White were tabled, or he was in the building at the time. I saw him an hour or so after the documents were tabled. I gather that he has not been around since. He might have left indeed the immediate environment of St. John's within a few hours.

A question for the Minister of Justice, Mr. Speaker. Did the minister in any way procrastinate, did he delay

MR. SIMMONS: in any way the setting up of the police investigation until such time as Mr. White had left the Province?

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I find that question offensive. I will not answer it. I direct that the Chair ask, demand, instruct that that question be withdrawn forthwith and then we will take the rest of the steps that are necessary.

MR. SPEAKER: I would rule that there was an imputation there toward the hon. gentleman to my left of at least dereliction of duty and possibly more serious matters. I would ask the hon. gentleman to withdraw it.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, certainly I withdraw any imputation of motives. Perhaps I can rephrase the question.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I am not prepared to accept that. That is not a withdrawal. As I interpret Your Honour's directions -

MR. SIMMONS: I said I withdraw any indication of motives. Mr. Speaker, unless the minister is standing on a point of order I have the floor.

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

MR. SPEAKER: On a point of order.

MR. HICKMAN: I interpret the ruling from the Chair that the hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir is to give an unqualified retraction and that was not one.

MR. SPEAKER: I think the situation here is to a certain extent a linguistic one. The hon. gentleman upon the requirement of the Chair that the question be withdrawn did withdraw it, and I think where the linguistic factor comes up and then said, "I will rephrase the question." The original question having been out of order and asked to be withdrawn, I can see the point of the rephrasing. What I would ask the hon. gentleman to do is to ask a question without reference to the previous one withdrawn. Just to ask a question without reference to the previous one.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I had not intended to be appearing to defy your request. What I wanted to do was withdraw the imputation and then seek certain information that obviously I had not conveyed very successfully in the first question. My concern really, and I will put

MR. SIMMONS: a question to the minister in this fashion. Is the minister satisfied that the setting up of the police investigation was done as expeditiously as possible and if it was not, for what reason was it not done as expeditiously as possible?

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, not only was the investigation set up as expeditiously as possible but I would suspect that we established a record for the quick setting up of an investigation of this nature. I cannot recall one since I have been Attorney General that was set up so quickly and so broad in its scope. I repeat that, number one -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. HICKMAN: That kind of gratuitous comment I am sure we can do without. Mr. Speaker, let me repeat, so that there can be no misunderstanding in this House, that there was an alleged affidavit and another alleged or purported document tabled in this House sometime between nine and ten o'clock on Tuesday. The House adjourned at eleven and at nine o'clock this matter was in the hands of the Crown's law officers with instructions to review it and advise immediately. They met with the RCMP that day, all day, and nothing could be faster than that. To try and even insinuate that this gentleman White, you know, that I had to say, 'Now who is going to tonight when they hear that, going to do something,' is certainly beyond the realm of possibility or even fiction or foolhardiness and falls into the category of half-wittedness.

MR. SIMMONS: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary, the original questioner.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, one other supplementary on this subject for me at least. I know my colleagues have some as well. The Minister of Justice, perhaps he could indicate to the House whether an understanding I had yesterday is correct, namely that the Minister of Industrial Development was not informed on the night the documents were tabled he was not informed by any of his colleagues that that was the case. I know the Minister of Justice cannot vouch for the Minister of Industrial Development

MR. SIMMONS:

in terms of what time he became aware of it. But what I am asking the Minister of Justice is whether he or to his knowledge any of his colleagues undertook to inform their colleague, the Minister of Industrial Development of the fact of the tabling of these documents on Tuesday night.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, let me say, first of all, I did not speak to nor communicate with my colleague, the Minister of Industrial Development, until I returned from Stephenville yesterday. And I heard him say, as every hon. member did yesterday in this House, that he was not aware of these charges having been hurled at him in the House until after the fire occurred, you know, the following day. But I am not aware of anyone communicating with him and I can assure this House that I did not.

MR. SPEAKER: I think the hon. gentleman stated that would be his last supplementary. Are hon. members now standing on supplementaries? A supplementary, the hon. member for Trinity-Bay de Verde.

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, in the letter written by one Terrence White which was tabled the other night, he made some references to T.V. sets from Alec Walsh to the Minister of Industrial Development and some talk about work to Walsh without tendering. I was wondering if the Minister of Justice could indicate the status of the police report regarding these matters at the present time?

MR. SIMMONS: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. HICKMAN: I do not understand the question.

MR. SIMMONS: My supplementary will clarify it.

MR. HICKMAN: Okay.

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

MR. SIMMONS: The document which the minister likes to call 'an alleged affidavit' is most assuredly his alleged affidavit, Mr. Speaker, alleged item number twenty-eight says, "When Corporal Eaton and Inspector Murphy attended at my home on August 18, 1977 they told me that they were not there to ask me further questions as they had told me but rather to execute a warrant, etc. etc." There was a search done apparently of Mr. Davidson's home at that point. Obviously there was an ongoing police investigation. Can the Minister of Justice indicate if his department has any report from that investigation or if any action has flowed from it or if any charges have been laid?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: I am not aware of any report because I think that investigation was an investigation not initiated in this Province -

MR. SIMMONS: Not initiated?

MR. HICKMAN: Or taking place in this Province.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Carbonear followed by the hon. member for Conception Bay South and Terra Nova.

MR. R. MOORES: I would like to direct a question, Mr. Speaker, to the hon. the Premier. Memorial University students are now ending their Winter semester and will be entering the labour market looking for Summer employment. In addition to the federal initiative in this regard, job creation for students, does the Premier or his government have any plans to initiate any job creation this Summer for our students.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Mr. Speaker, it is not just the students unfortunately who are unemployed for the Summer. It is also the students who are graduating, which is of major concern to both levels of government, I would suggest, and to students themselves. I think it is well known that we are working wherever possible with the federal government to have make work programmes for the Summer students who are on vacation during the Summer. And also to try to develop an economy that will allow the graduates when they are on a much more serious job seeking effort to have the opportunity to take meaningful jobs in the future.

With the unemployment situation in this Province, and certainly with it like it is in Canada, it is fairly obvious that that is not an easy solution. But I know that all levels of government are doing everything possible to try to alleviate it.

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

MR. R. MOORES: I think I am well aware as most hon. members are in the House that the Premier and his government intends to create 40,000 jobs within the next five years. But I would like the Premier to be more specific when he says that he is working along with the federal initiative in the Summer employment job creation for students. Would you please be more specific and inform the House what exactly you are doing?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Mr. Speaker, as far as the provincial government is concerned—the other one would be the subject of a joint announcement — as far as the provincial government is concerned we have a programme this year to employ Summer students in virtually every government department.

Premier Moores: We have particular emphasis on the departments such as Tourism, with their parks wildlife, and the emphasis is on Summer students, equally for guides and so on. I do not know what the grand total is, but I think there would be in excess of, I do not know, but I would say in excess of 500 that would be employed in the various government departments.

MR. SPEAKER: I have indicated that I would recognize the hon. gentleman for Conception Bay South next.

MR. NOLAN: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Justice, if I can capture his attention. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister would be good enough to confirm - I understand that he or his officials met with the Newfoundland Constabulary or their executive yesterday on certain negotiations that are being carried out. What I would like to ask the minister is this, is he aware that one of his officials indicated to the executive or a member of the executive that they were not to go to the press to discuss the matters being discussed and negotiated, and that if they did that action would be taken against them?

MR. R. MOORES: Go 'way!

MR. NOLAN: Would the minister wish to confirm or deny that?

MR. R. MOORES: Dr. Goebbels.

AN HON. MEMBER: Go on!

MR. HICKMAN: As confirmed and I cannot deny it. There is a labour management group in my department who meet with representatives of the Newfoundland Constabulary periodically, and it has been working very well. They do not report to me.

MR. NOLAN: Who do they report to?

MR. HICKMAN: They do not report to me on every meeting, it is only if there is some problem arises out of it. There is a provision in, I think, it is in the Collective Agreement which says that any statements to the press from the Newfoundland Constabulary, I think, goes through the Chief of Police or the President of the Brotherhood with the permission of the Chief of Police. That has been in the

Mr. Hickman: Collective Agreement, I believe, since the first agreement was signed. But as to what transpired in a particular meeting, I am afraid I cannot help the House on that.

Mr. Speaker, may I while I am on my feet, that is why I asked the hon. member for Bay de Verde (Mr. F. Rowe) to come over, but I can do it, I think, under this heading, I want to be sure that the House understands the answer I gave the hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) on this affidavit. I repeat, there has been no, as I said, investigation initiated in this Province, nor is there an investigation being carried on before this under the auspices of the Attorney General's Department. But I believe some RCMP have been doing work in connection with their outside initiated investigation in the Province of Newfoundland, but they would not report to my department on that. But I did not want anyone to feel that I was misleading the House in to saying that nobody is doing any work on it, because I have learned now, and I guess I knew before because it was in the press that there was some work going on.

MR. NOLAN : A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary, the hon. member for Conception Bay South.

MR. NOALN: Again I want to get back to the point of, I understand that a meeting was held, I understand that the members of the executive or a member of the executive was told flat out, 'Do not go to the press or you are in trouble.' Now the next question to the minister is this, 'Were this group told by a senior official of the minister's department, 'Do you attempt to contact the minister, You must go through the Chief of Police.' I am talking about possibly the President of the Union. I mean this is a threat, and I mean - if the minister does not know will he find out for us?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman should not get so excited over that.

MR. NOLAN: I see!

MR. HICKMAN: What I am concerned about though, if what the hon. gentleman is saying is true, that it means, what he is saying, is that two groups of employees in my department, namely, members of the Newfoundland Constabulary and officials of my department, have confidential, interdepartmental meetings that become public knowledge. And I frankly admit that that distrubs me, because if there is one department of the Government of Newfoundland where confidentiality has to be the order of the day, bar none, and if there is one division of that department where it is even moreso, it is the Newfoundland Constabulary. And what the hon. gentleman is saying to me now indicates that some confidentiality has been broken, and I will look into that because no Department of Justice can function, nor would any citizen in Newfoundland agree that it could function. under these circumstances.

But to answer the question, it has been Standing Orders for years that any time a member of the Newfoundland Constabulary wants to meet the minister, the meeting is arranged through the Chief of Police.

AN HON. MEMBER: Why?

MR. HICKMAN: Because that is a Standing Order. And it is the same thing - nothing wrong with it, you know. And the police agree with that approach.

MR. NOLAN: Does that mean if the Chief of Police goes berserk tomorrow that the executive -

MR. HICKMAN: Do not be so silly! Do not be so silly!

MR. NOLAN: -

MR. HICKMAN: Do not be so silly! You know, you are only downgrading the Newfoundland Constabulary when you make these kinds of comments.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. HICKMAN: We have a first-class Chief of -

MR. HICKMAN:

Police. We have a first-class assistant Chief of Police and we have a first-class deputy assistant and we have a first-class force of officers and men in the Newfoundland Constabulary and they like some of the rules that are there and they like that rule and that is the way that it happens. Is the hon. gentleman going to suggest that every time that a member of the Newfoundland Constabulary has something arising out of the course of his employment that he should simply walk into the minister's office? How could you have a Chief of Police? He would be so undermined -

MR. NOLAN: How about their president? (Inaudible).

MR. HICKMAN: The Chief of Police of the Newfoundland Constabulary has to know everything that is going on in his force and there is only one way he can know it and that is if they want a meeting they go through him. I invite him - I would not think of - My practice is that if the Newfoundland Constabulary or the executive of the Brotherhood want to come to see me and they will admit that I am the easiest person in Newfoundland to see. They have never asked yet to see me that they have not been able to see. I think that the results of my meetings with the Newfoundland Constabulary have been excellent. I think that because of these meetings we now have a force that for the first time in their career are getting a half decent salary. They are getting good headquarters. They are getting good training and they have the respect of pretty well everybody in this Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. NOLAN: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I will recognize the hon. gentleman for a final supplementary. I will point out that the Question Period-if hon. gentlemen will please take their seats.

MR. NOLAN: Mr. Speaker, I will make one -

MR. SPEAKER: All hon. gentlemen please take their seats. I will point out that the Question Period is not a period in which there should be debate, nor should there be interjections while a member is asking a

MR. SPEAKER: question or while a member is answering a question.

The hon. member for Conception Bay South.

MR. NOLAN: There is a supplementary, Mr. Speaker, I beg the Minister of Justice to bring to this House confirmation or denial of what I have said. Were officials of the Newfoundland Constabulary threatened by his officials yesterday? Yes or no. If he does not know will he be good enough to please find out and let us know, otherwise we will use our own methods to find out. We will not get the information here apparently.

MR. HICKMAN: I certainly will not accede to that threat nor will any member of the Newfoundland Constabulary. But I can say right now categorically, without even asking, that there was no threat.

MR. NOLAN: No threat. All right.

MR. SPEAKER: I have indicated I will recognize the hon. member for Terra Nova next, and following him the hon. gentlemen for Fogo, Lewisporte, Baie Verte-White Bay, and Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir time permitting.

MR. LUSH: A question to the Minister of Labour and Manpower, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the minister is in a position to give hon. members and the people of this province any significant information, any new developments with respect to the two major strikes in the Province, namely, the Labrador City strike and the one at Baie Verte?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Mr. Speaker, a little information and it is the situation at Labrador City that two of the major items that I suggested for impeding a collective agreement have been settled by the negotiating committee forever in the House. When I say settled at that it still has to be ratified by the membership. They are now discussing, starting yesterday, I believe, the wage package. They have stayed at the table, as I requested, and they will stay at the table until such time as they can or cannot come up with a settlement. The situation of course is compounded by the situation at Seven Islands because that certainly has a bearing on the situation in Labrador City. So talks are progressing

MR. ROUSSEAU: and it appears that both sides are willing to continue the talks and try to come up with a settlement.

The situation in Baie Verte - First of all I would like to say something: The gentleman from the union the other night on a programme, and whom I have very much respect for, indicated that we phoned to find out if they were ready to go down on their knees. That is not the case. I think it is proper to say that in negotiations the department is always in contact with both parties and not to say, "Are you ready to give in or give up?" Now obviously and unfortunately I have not been in the office yesterday and today because my office is outside the building and I have not had a chance to get a report. I have been talking with the company since last week, not with the union but with the company, because I have to get certain things clarified in my mind before I take an initiative. I would anticipate that I will be taking an initiative early

MR. ROUSSEAU: in the week with respect to the Advocate strike. By Wednesday at the latest - Tuesday or Wednesday in all probability. I am going to give some thought to it over the weekend. I am waiting for further information from the company that I think I need.

One must assume that as Minister of Labour I am aware of some things that the union is not, and aware of some things, I hope, that the company is not, from both sides. I always cannot say what information I have in the House because I do not want to do it in public, obviously, because of the private negotiating sessions between both parties.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. LUSH: Recently there have been indications from the various news media that the minister has presented before the House legislation with respect to occupational health and safety. Indeed, I have read one account in The Evening Telegram, I think it was, where one gentleman of the labour movement and a declared candidate in the upcoming federal election has viciously attacked this piece of legislation. Now my understanding is that there is no such legislation before the House. I think we have been given notice of the bill, that the legislation on occupational health and safety will be presented in this session, but I have no idea of any legislation. So could the minister clarify this?

Is this a situation where the minister has demonstrated contempt for the House by giving this legislation to the public at large without first having presented it before the members of this House? Would the minister clarify that situation?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Labour and Manpower.

MR. ROUSSEAU: I certainly will. To the best of my knowledge the gentleman in question who was interviewed for that article has not seen the legislation. I was talking to him yesterday because I delivered a talk to the Labour/Management - he has not seen it to the best of my knowledge. The only way he could have seen it is because one member -

MR. LUSH: It got front page commentary in the Telegram.

MR. ROUSSEAU: I know. And he suggested to me that the way the article was written was not the way he said it in the interview, I do not know, But he has not seen the legislation. As a matter of fact, as a public posture I have said that I am not prepared to give it out as a white paper because I want it in this session of the House.

Now that gentleman has not got the legislation, this House has not got the legislation. It could be on our desks in five minutes because it is printed. It is quite a long piece of legislation, but it will come here first. That will be the first public view that anybody will have of it and it will then be available to the public.

That gentleman, to the best of my knowledge, unless he got it from one of the six labour members on the Interim Advisory Council, or the six management members, which I doubt, has not seen it officially from me. That is the only possible way he could have seen it. He may be confusing it with the regulations that my colleague the Minister of Mines and Energy is promulgating, I do not know.

MR. SPEAKER: As I have indicated the hon. gentleman from Fogo is next, followed by the hon. member for Lewisporte.

CAPT. WINSOR: Mr. Speaker, may I direct a

CAPT. WINSOR: question to the hon. Minister of Tourism? Headlines in The Morning News say, "Big game licences for all straight shooters." That is a change. My question to the minister is, have or are there any changes being made in the issuing of big game licences? And perhaps he can answer another question by telling the House when applications would be mailed out to applicants.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Tourism.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, that story in the morning paper was from a reliable source. It was not the hon. minister who gave the story. But however, the story is correct because this year - correct to a point - because this year there will be some changes over last year's method of allocating licences and it ties into the system of testing hunters around the Province which commenced last year. Now we have approximately 20,000 prospective hunters or applicants who qualified by passing all the tests. We have these registered now with the department, on computers.

Therefore, hopefully, next week I will be in a position to announce the method we are going to use to allocate the licences. Number two, this year the applications will be mailed directly to all the prospective hunters whereas last year they had to go to certain points to obtain applications. This year, by means of the hunter testing being carried out and the hunters being registered, we can mail out the applications directly to the applicants and ask them to return them as soon as possible.

So I am hoping next week to be in a position to announce the method to be used this year in allocating licences and to announce the deadline to receive applications.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is that I
leave the Chair.

 I will appoint the hon.
member for Fogo, if he will agree, to take the Chair in
Committee.

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

MR. SPEAKER: I will appoint the hon. member for Fogo, if he will agree, to take the Chair in Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Capt. Winsor): Rehabilitation and Recreation, page 53
Item 901.

MR. HICKEY: It is not my intention to take up too much time introducing my estimates. I thought we were never going to get to them this morning, but I prefer to have as much input from both sides of the House on the areas for which my department has responsibility. I think, Mr. Chairman, I might start off by just reflecting on those areas because they cover the entire spectrum from the youngest infant to the senior citizen or oldest resident. Included in that are such very important areas as the youth of the Province, such very critical and important areas as the mentally retarded, the handicapped, the number of private agencies that we assist and the whole area of rehabilitation, Mr. Chairman, which certainly is one on which one could spend a great deal of time. My department has responsibility for senior citizens homes, licensed boarding homes, the training schools, the Boys' Home, the Girls' Home, the Children's Home on Water Street for the mentally retarded, and of course I am sure that I do not have to inform anyone that the department is also responsible for Exon House.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to take a few minutes to inform the House on some of the very positive measures that has been taken by the government over the past number of years to improve the lot of the mentally retarded and the handicapped people in this Province. Maybe, Mr. Chairman, before I get into that kind of detail I should say that there has to be an education programme, and we hope to get into this kind of programme, to inform the public on really what the role of the community and the Province should be or is in most areas and most jurisdictions with regards to the mentally retarded in this Province or indeed the handicapped in this Province.

MR. HICKEY: Too often, Mr. Chairman, people just take for granted or assume that if a family has the problem or the misfortune of having one or two or more handicapped or mentally retarded children that automatically the responsibility for those children rests with the state, and I want to say, Mr. Chairman, that that is certainly far from the truth, far from the case. The responsibility for the mentally retarded or the handicapped is squarely on the shoulders of the parents as is the responsibility on their shoulders for their normal children. It does not just mean that because a child is deemed to be retarded or handicapped

MR. HICKEY:

that the responsibility for it automatically falls on the state. I think, Mr. Chairman, it should be said that probably one of our biggest mistakes in this Province is that up to now we have been probably silent on this particular matter. All of the controversies which surround and have surrounded an institution like Exon House or the Children's Home or any incident that might happen in those institutions can only lead one to believe that the public at large accepts or is of the opinion that each and every retarded child or retarded person or handicapped person in the Province is in total the responsibility of the state. And I say, Mr. Chairman, it is not, that is not the case.

I think if we had recognized this or if we had addressed ourselves to this twenty years ago or fifteen years ago we would not have Exon House, for example, as the type of facility it is. We would not have the Children's Home as the type of facility it is. I think the government of the day would have moved in an entirely different direction, the direction, Mr. Chairman, in which this government is moving and has been moving for some number of years now. That is, to obviously respond to a very serious and a very sad situation where a child or an adult finds himself or herself in a family setting in which the family cannot cope with that situation, either for financial reasons, either for professional reasons in terms of professional training, or just do not have the ability or the resources to properly see that child or that person develop.

I think what would have been done, Mr. Chairman, is that there would have been a programme which would have taken people and assistance and programmes and systems from the government into the

MR. HICKEY:

various sections and for that matter even down to the towns and communities of this Province. That would, Mr. Chairman, have been the way to go. I recall when I was Minister of Social Services back in 1972 discussing this very issue with my staff at that time, I might say who are not in the service today, and I was appalled to find that I was talking about something which at least seemed to be maybe five years ahead of time, or certainly at least it was an issue for which there was no support.

This certainly convinces me, as it did then, that we have a very wrong impression of where government should be and the role we should play in the care for the handicapped and the mentally retarded. Mr. Chairman, if there is one single thing that I am deeply proud of it is the record of this administration in moving forward in the whole area of mental retardation. There is no area, Mr. Chairman, which beckons help more than this one. There is no area that can move people emotionally and in almost every way than to go to Exon House or the Children's Home and to see those children that we have in our care, some of whom are not trainable, some of whom cannot be helped to function any more than they are where there is total retardation. But, Mr. Chairman, the really sad part is that when you go and see, and when you have confirmed for you by the professionals, that there are many children in those institutions who are not functioning at 100 per cent but who have the potential to function and to develop to a much larger degree than they are at the moment,

Mr. Hickey:

but they have been housed in institutions, Mr. Chairman, and up until a few years ago without a programme to help them, a hospital kind of environment, an institution just to house them, to feed them, and basically that was all.

As I said, one could not be more proud of any issue or any area than this one, and the progress that we have made. I am sure that my hon. friend from Lewisporte (Mr. White) or my colleagues representing Corner Brook know exactly what I am talking about, and share the pride that I share in the progress that has been made. Not in total, mind you, on the part of the government, I think we have to acknowledge, and we should acknowledge, the initiatives that have been taken by the communities themselves, by the people in the community, by people who care and who are prepared to take up the challenge of working with the mentally handicapped, with the assistance of government and the staff of government, in putting together pilot projects to take the handicapped people, the mentally handicapped people who had received some training, and to provide for them an opportunity to be self-sufficient or partly self-sufficient.

In other words, Mr. Chairman, what I am saying is that even if you take the training programme that we have in place and which is ongoing at an institution like Exon House, and if you take a retarded child or a retarded teenager, and through the systems and mechanisms that are now in place you bring them to their total development, you cannot stop there, Mr. Chairman, it is next to criminal to stop there. And that certainly has been the case because in this Province if a retarded adult, a mentally handicapped adult received some training by chance or by the initiative of its parents, Mr. Chairman, that was the end of the line.

So let us face it; what use is it, be it government or community, or both, to embark upon a challenging programme of training

Mr. Hickey: of the handicapped or the mentally retarded, if all you are going to do is to broaden their horizons to the degree, and to train them and develop them to the degree that they can get out in their respective communities, that they can become responsible members, and take their place in society, if indeed you do not go that other step and provide that opportunity for those people to go to work, and to earn partly or completely a livelihood for themselves?

This is what those two pilot projects which are now ongoing in Corner Brook and Lewisporte are all about. They are not new, Mr. Chairman. They are new to this Province, and we are ten or fifteen years too late, but they are not new in other jurisdictions. They have been in place in places like Connecticut and many other jurisdictions in various parts of the world for years and years. In Connecticut, Mr. Chairman, in 1972 I had the opportunity to tour a number of sheltered workshops in which the mentally handicapped and the mentally retarded were being trained. And then those people went from there into a factory where they put together transistor radios on an assembly line, where they went into woodworking, where they went into a whole host of areas of endeavour which gave them an entire new life, a new lease on life, a whole purpose for living realizing that they were, too, although they were suffering from a handicap, be it mental retardation or whatever or a physical handicap, that they too were making their contribution, and that they were self-sufficient.

This,

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Chairman, is why I say it is the most important step forward taken by the government and certainly I am very happy to see it get started and I know that it will be ongoing.

The other area, Mr. Chairman, is a programme called the Direct Home Services Programme which in itself, as the title would indicate, takes the services that are required for the mentally retarded to the home, to the various communities in the province, and eliminates to a great degree the necessity of taking those children or adults into an institutional kind of environment. We already have centers in Carbonear, in Corner Brook and in St. John's and we are further expanding this year into Gander and Labrador City and Stephenville. We have specialists in the field, Mr. Chairman, who work with the families, work with those children, training at various levels to improve their lot and certainly at the same time improve the lot of the parents and remove the anxiety from the parents that have plagued them for so long.

The public at large, Mr. Chairman, have to come to grips with one basic misconception, as I said, and that is that any programme which is going to answer the problem of the mentally retarded or the handicapped must be a community oriented programme and not an institutional one.

Mr. Chairman, another important area in my department is the area of youth services. As I said, the responsibility of this department covers the entire spectrum from the infant to the old aged. In this area, Mr. Chairman, again government has moved and certainly have a great number of things to do yet. We have really just started, but at least, Mr. Chairman, we have moved by setting up the Youth Commission and the Youth Advisory Council to provide the youth of this province an opportunity to have input into legislation, to programmes and policies, indeed to have an input in the governing of this Province. I am sure there are many examples where those people, those young people have made their presence felt already and I cannot recount them all

MR. HICKEY: naturally but one very quickly comes to mind, Mr. Chairman, and that was while I was Minister of Tourism. I met with the Youth Advisory Council as regards to lifeguards at all swimming areas under the control of the government or developed by the government. There were not lifeguards there before and the youth of this Province, Mr. Chairman, can take responsibility or took the responsibility, and I should say can take the credit for rectifying that situation because through the Youth Advisory Council under the auspices of the Youth Commission that matter was brought to the forefront, brought to the attention of government and acted upon swiftly and will go into place this year and surely there is a very positive sign, one positive step that comes to my mind right away.

There is a great deal of work to be done, Mr. Chairman, to involve the youth of the Province and it must receive attention, and it will, because I think one has to say that if we are not going to provide facilities, if we are not going to provide activities for the youth of the Province to involve themselves in then certainly, Mr. Chairman, it can only be said that we can look for an increase in vandalism, we can look for an increase in delinquency, we can look for an increase in all of those areas which certainly are of great concern to us.

MR. HICKEY:

So there are many reasons for involving youth, not political, not a matter of just doing something for somebody. The dollars that are spent in youth, Mr. Chairman, are not near enough. We do not have enough this year. We will look for more and please God next year we will be able to really break some ground in really getting into a total programme for the youth of this Province. Because anyone who cannot acknowledge the need for money in this very vital area has indeed got their head buried in the sand.

Mr. Chairman, my time has just about run out. I think I will just take my seat and give someone else an opportunity.

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

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Chairman, I appreciated some of the comments of the minister, particularly with respect to vandalism and delinquency and this sort of a thing amongst the youth. And it brings to my attention anyway the alcohol and drug abuse within this Province of ours, which is obviously not unique to Newfoundland and Labrador but a problem all over North America and of course the world. But if there is any one single thing in society that wrecks families and causes death and injury to people - youth, middle aged, older people - vandalism, delinquency, robbery and crime, because people need money to purchase their drugs or their alcohol if they are addicted to it, I would suggest, Sir, that this is one of the most rapidly growing problems in our society today, drug and alcohol abuse, simply because it is so easily accessible and it is the thing to do. And you can throw in that, of course, I suppose cigarette addiction. It is just as bad.

But what I am trying to do is make particular reference with respect to the vote for

MR. F. ROWE:

the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Foundation which is \$100,000 this year, which I might add is the largest grant to any of the private agencies in the Province and I commend the minister for that. Some of these other private agencies do have other sources of revenue, I am not so sure about the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Foundation, but their sources of revenue would be outside of government revenue.

Sir, the point that I would like to make is that since this is such an extremely serious problem in this Province I would like to make a suggestion that I made, I do not know whether it was last year or the year before, and that is to consider the revenue of the Newfoundland Liquor Corporation, which last year I believe was in the order of \$37 million, revenue to the government through taxes on liquor amount to \$37 million, and, Sir, what I would like to suggest is that if the government took only 2.7 per cent of that amount of money, \$1 million would be freed up for an agency such as the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Foundation. If you took 10 per cent, only 10 per cent, you would end up with 10 per cent of the revenue from the Newfoundland Liquor Corporation, if you took 10 per cent of that you would free up \$3.7 million for the purpose of educational purposes with respect to alcohol, drug and, as I say, cigarette abuse and addiction, proper treatment and rehabilitation.

Sir, although there appears to be a healthy grant to the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Foundation I would suggest, Sir, that that would just barely, would not even cover the administrative costs of such a foundation if they are to do a worthwhile job. Because if such a serious problem affecting so many people in this Province that, I would sincerely submit, Sir, that it should be the policy of any government to

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MR. F. ROWE:

take out of the revenue of the Newfoundland Liquor
Commission a certain percentage that would make an
agency such as the Alcohol and

MR. F. ROWE:

Drug Addiction Foundation a more meaningful and a reasonably functioning organization because there are just too many people who are in very serious trouble. I did not have time to get the statistics on the estimated number of confirmed alcoholics or drug addicts in the Province, but anybody who has been reading the newspaper and listening to the news realize that it is a very serious problem and many of the vehicular accidents in this Province, boating accidents in the summer, many of the crimes of vandalism, delinquency with the young people, are a direct result of alcohol or drug abuse.

Sir, I would submit that this grant to the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Foundation be substantially increased in such a way that really the revenue is coming from the source of the problem it started off with. That is, you do not increase sales tax on clothes or set up a special tax for this particular purpose but you tap the very revenue from the sale of alcohol in this Province which I repeat amounts to \$37 million. I think if you took ten per cent of that revenue, which would be \$3.7 million, or if you took two point seven per cent you would get \$1 million, right out of the Newfoundland Liquor Corporation's revenue to the government you could set up a worthwhile agency. And this is not to indicate that that agency at the present time, that foundation is not a worthwhile one at the present time. All I am trying to point out is that that foundation, the Alcohol and Drug Foundation, cannot do the job that they wish to do with the present budget. I would submit that any foundation of that source who can successfully conquer and treat and rehabilitate and educate the area of drug and alcohol addiction, that that \$100,000 would be only a small part of their administrative costs and that we need to get into terms of millions of dollars on educational programmes, treatment programmes and rehabilitation programmes to do an effective job.

Now, Sir, the Government House Leader is gently motioning me that my time is running out. I would like to spend a little bit more time on this particular item later on, Sir. So I will take my seat because of the time.

On motion that the Committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again, carried. Mr. Speaker returned to the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Chairman of Committees.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply have considered the matters to them referred and have instructed me to report having made some progress and ask leave to sit again.

On motion report received and adopted. Committee ordered to sit again on tomorrow.

The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I move that the remaining Orders of the Day do stand deferred and that this House on its rising do adjourn until tomorrow, Monday, at two of the clock and that this House do now adjourn.

MR. SPEAKER: It has been moved that this House adjourn until Monday next at 2:00 P.M. Those in favour 'Aye'. Contrary 'Nay'. Carried.

This House stands adjourned until Monday next at 2:00 P.M.