

PRELIMINARY
UNEDITED
TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

FOR THE PERIOD:

2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 1978

The House met at 2:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

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

PRESENTING PETITIONS:

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

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, I rise to beg leave to present a petition on behalf of 3,122 persons from the areas -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: How many?

MR. FLIGHT: 3,122, that makes 10,000 now roughly over the past four or five days.

MR. STRACHAN: Liberals?

MR. FLIGHT: No Liberals, people against the spray.

MR. MURPHY: And that is 240,000 votes for the -

MR. FLIGHT: And, Mr. Speaker, the petition comes from the areas of Corner Brook, the Bay of Islands area, St. Anthony, Baie Verte, Jackson's Arm and there is a letter so I will read the letter and then I will read the prayer of the petition.

CAPTAIN WINSOR: Read the prayer of the petition first.

MR. FLIGHT: Well, the member says read the prayer of the petition first.

CAPTAIN WINSOR: You cannot be particular when you (inaudible).

MR. FLIGHT: So I will read the prayer of the petition first. "The spraying of Canadian budworm infested forests has not eliminated or even controlled the spruce budworm. Egg mass counts, the traditional measure of budworm severity, have increased in the annual sprayed forests of New Brunswick and Quebec. In Nova Scotia and British Columbia, where governments rejected the pressures of the pulp-chemical industrial complex and refused to spray, the egg mass counts have decreased drastically. We therefore submit the following petition to Premier Frank Moores."

"Whereas aerial insecticide spraying has proved ineffective in controlling budworm epidemics, and whereas long term forest management provides the only solutions to budworm

MR. FLIGHT: epidemics and a provision for sustained forest yield, and whereas aerial spraying of insecticides diverts millions of dollars annually from long term forest management, and whereas aerial spraying of insecticides pose serious hazards to human health and the environment, and whereas federal laws prohibiting the spraying of homes, farms, livestock, water supplies and areas of human habitation are routinely violated in aerial spraying operations, we the undersigned, urge that you immediately call a moratorium on all aerial application of poison to combat the spruce budworm."

Now, Sir, that is the verbatim prayer of the petition. As I say the petition is signed by 3,122 people, bringing to a total over the past four or five days, 10,000 people who have indicated their concern with the spray programme as it is being practiced by this administration. And, Mr. Speaker, the reasons why the people in this Province are concerned has been talked about this past three months. One, of course, their concerns with the little research done on matacil, the little knowledge, the fact that we do not know. Research has not been done into the long term and short term effects of the chemical matacil either on the total environment or on human well-being. And a greater concern may be, at this time, the unbelievable decision by government to spray water supplies, headwaters of rivers, spray blocks that have communities on the immediate perimeters of the spray blocks and thereby creating a danger that spray would drift into communities and children and everything in that community would be therefore exposed and, again, not being aware of what the characteristics or the effects of matacil might be. There is a great feeling, a great fear amongst our people as to just what

MR. FLIGHT: they are being subjected to.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this debate reached an all time low I thought yesterday in the Question Period when the Minister of Health stood up and said that he answered some questions, what he could, there were some he could not answer and he indicated that, "I do not know. It is not my programme." It is not his programme. He inferred of course that, he had to be inferring that it was the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture's programme and that he did not appear to be that happy with the programme. He emphasized, "It is not my programme."

Now there has been some attempts, Mr. Speaker, to drag politics into the spray programme but I have seen, as far as I am concerned, a blatant display of politics in the last few days, when the Minister of Health used his political position to increase the buffer zone between Gander Lake and the sprayed lot. Now why, Mr. Speaker? How about the people in Port Blandford who sent the first petition in? How about the other people in Newfoundland living in the environs of the sprayed blocks, people whose water supplies will be sprayed? Were they not entitled to the same consideration as the people of Gander? And when the minister rises to speak I want him to address himself to the - I cannot believe that - I want him to address himself to that position. When has a Minister of the Crown, or as Cabinet they decided to increase the buffer zone around the Gander Lake, why did that not apply to all the areas in Newfoundland that have indicated concern because their water supplies and their communities are in the vicinity where there is a danger of spray drift? Why just Gander Lake? That is a blatant political

MR. FLIGHT:

decision where, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health used his political position to bring about something that would keep his constituency happy and was not too concerned about the feelings of people in other areas who have been represented in this House with other petitions. And why not a buffer zone around other areas and other water sheds in this Province and communities to which there is a great danger of being exposed to drift?

Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe it! The five minutes have gone and I have to sit down, but I want to say I want to lay the petition on the table of the House and refer it to the department to which it relates. Mr. Speaker, I whole-heartedly support the petition.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. S. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, I support the petition, Sir, presented by my colleague on behalf of 3100 citizens in the Western part of the Province especially in the greater Corner Brook area, Bay of Islands area.

Mr. Speaker, the reports that we have so far on the spray programme are not very good at all. Some of the people whom I met in Central Newfoundland over the weekend and in Western Newfoundland have a feeling somehow or other that the RCMP have been instructed to lay off Conair, to take it easy on Conair. Now personally I do not think that is true, I would like the Minister of Justice comment on it. But I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, if the RCMP cannot enforce the regulations under The Newfoundland Pesticide Act, then who does enforce the regulations? Is it the representatives of the Department of Consumer Affairs and Environment? Could the minister tell us if his officials enforced the Pesticide Act? If the RCMP does not do it, then who does it? Do the people themselves have to call in and report violations of the Pesticide Act? And if so, how long would it take then for a complaint to be prosecuted? The spraying programme will be over.

MR. S. NEARY: I heard the minister this morning on radio saying, "Well, anybody that has a complaint should process it through the proper procedure." Well, what is the proper procedure and how long will it take? Is not the proper procedure the law enforcement officers of this Province? Or does the minister have his own investigative staff that can go out and look into any violations of the Pesticide Act? It is a very serious matter, Sir.

When I came through Gander on Sunday evening the three Conair aircraft were over loading up the matacil and not a thing anybody could do about it. The people in Gander were all set to go out with their placards and surround the little isolated part of the airport where they were loading the matacil on board. But is pathetic, Sir, it is really pathetic. People are frightened, scared stiff in this Province and yet there is not a thing they can do. It is like Bill 50. The government says they are going to ram it down the throats of the people whether they want it or not. And we have the same thing with the spray programme.

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible)

MR. S. NEARY: - two of the most unpopular measures brought before this session of the House, the spruce budworm spray programme and Bill 50. And yet the government, Sir, is so arrogant that they will not listen to anybody. The people say they do not want it and yet the government decides that they are going to go ahead and squirt this dangerous poison around the Province anyway. It is a frightening situation, Sir. There are a lot of groups now planning to go out in the countryside, Beavers and Cubs and Scouts and Guides and Brownies and 4-Her's and they do not know what to do. They do not know what minute the spray plane is going to appear overhead a couple hundred feet from the ground. I have a young fellow myself who is scheduled to go out in the Terra Nova Park on the 23rd. I do not know if I am going to let him go or not even though I paid his registration.

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MR. S. NEARY:

And that is not politics. People are very concerned about the health of the innocent children and from what we can gather, Sir, so far the various reports that are coming in, and some of them are contradictory, that the waters that run into water supply in the Glenwood area and in Gander have been sprayed. They have taken

MR. NEARY: samples in the bottles and they were pure red, just like blood and yet, Sir, we are told, Oh, there is nothing wrong with matacil, matacil is alright. I heard one of the Open Line hosts this morning arguing with a lady, saying there is no proof that matacil will injure your health. Well, there is no proof that it will not injure your health either. Just imagine, Mr. Speaker, the people having to prove that it will not injure your health. It is up to the minister and the government, and the Minister of Justice should take criminal action against his colleagues for going out and squirting this poison around. It is up to the minister to prove that it is not dangerous, not up to the people to prove that it is not going to harm the health of their children if they go out in the countryside. And how will you know? You will not know for a year or two maybe whether it has injured the health of little innocent children or not. A very, very serious situation, and Conair could not care less. They are ripping off the Public Treasury and what do they care? They have their contract; they are going to make their killing off this and they could not care less. They will get the 'planes off the ground and the minister says, 'Well, they will not spray if the wind velocity is over five to six miles an hour.' Conair says, 'Who cares about the minister? We will go out and spray anyway.' And we heard the other day where the air traffic controllers and the people who know about the velocity of the wind in Gander said that they were spraying over the limit that was laid down by the minister. And yet there is nothing the minister can do about it expect go over to the Holiday Inn where he can hide away from the spray. And, Sir, I say it is a

MR. NEARY: scandalous crime and I think it is time now to call it to a halt before any more damage is done in this Province.

MR. STRACHAN: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: (Collins) The hon. the member for Eagle River.

MR. STRACHAN: Mr. Speaker, I hope the Minister of Forestry in reply to this petition will answer three very basic questions. First of all, yesterday in the House here the Minister of Health stated quite clearly that the spray programme was not his programme and therefore he should not be questioned on it. I wonder if the minister considers that loyalty, loyalty from Cabinet. Could the minister tell us when he replies whether it is a Cabinet decision or an administration decision or whether it is his decision alone, because the Minister of Health has stated it is not his programme and he should not be questioned about it; it has nothing to do with him. The Minister of Consumer Affairs and Environment also has stated previously that it is not his programme either and in fact has refused to answer questions.

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

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order.

MR. PECKFORD: If I am not mistaken, Sir, both the present speaker and the previous speaker are violating one of the Standing Orders of the House and that is Standing Order No. 97, "There shall be no debate on a petition, " and, obviously, the previous speaker was, and now the present speaker is getting into the business of debate as to whether it is a government decision or whether it is a ministerial decision. He is actually debating the prayer of the petition and the whole spray programme rather

MR. PECKFORD: than relegating his remarks to the prayer of the petition. So therefore I think that should be considered.

MR. SPEAKER: (Collins) Order, please. In presenting petitions, those commenting should confine their remarks to the material allegations, to the number of signatures on the petition and also the statement of support given by the person presenting the petition, but not engage in other areas related to the petition that might get into an area of debate.

The hon. the member for Eagle River.

MR. STRACHAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Three thousand two hundred people have signed their names to a petition and they are wondering whether the Minister of Forestry, since it is his programme and only his programme, whether he is prepared to reconsider it, whether he is prepared to change it in view of the fact that it seems that other people do not want to have anything to do with it. So basically we are asking what the current situation is with this spray programme, and these 3,200 people, obviously, are asking for the same reasons. I wonder also if the minister could explain in his answer here the whole question of the buffer zone and whether he could let us know whether there have been changes in the programme; whether the one mile buffer zone for Gander, for instance, will also be applied to other areas; whether other areas can submit requests to the minister and have the zones changed, have the whole situation changed, the watershed area, lakes, water supply areas; whether other groups

Mr. Strachan: other than Gander itself can have this? Especially people on the West Coast who are very concerned since last year. There was spraying on the West Coast which had some very bad results, at least the people could see there were bad results. Whether they could feel the effects then or whether they have got to wait a number of years down the line before they feel the effects at least they could physically see some very bad results from the spray programme on the West Coast, and I am sure they are very concerned and want to know whether the buffer zones could be changed for the West Coast.

And lastly, the minister probably in these questions, and obviously the petitioners are worried about it, they are worried very much about whether the limits to spraying, obviously the limits to spraying whether the people are, the Conair, or the group spraying are spraying in extreme weather conditions from a point of view of spraying. Obviously they are spraying in twelve and fifteen mile an hour winds, and the minister has stated before in the House here that this is not allowed. His regulations state five miles an hour is the acceptable limit. And I wonder whether the minister could stand and reassure us that they are meeting these limits, and whether the people in Gander or the West Coast are correct in petitioning that their concern that these limits have been exceeded possibly in the buffer zones, and also in the wind conditions under which they are spraying?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

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

I rise, Sir, to support this petition signed by, what is it? 3,100, over 3,100 names of people from a wide variety of areas in Newfoundland, Mr. Speaker, from the Bay of Islands area, Jackson's Arm, all up around that area. I do not know if Your Honour has ever tried to gather for any purpose 3,000 names on a petition. I was involved in some petitions years ago, Sir, and I can tell you it is a massive job, a massive job trying to gather these names together, and it indicates the dedication of the people who are trying to combat the spray programme

MR. W. ROWE: as it presently exists, and the interest of the people themselves to have penned their names to this petition.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we know who is looking after the interest of the paper companies. We know that the Minister of Forestry is looking after the interest of the paper companies. We know who is looking after the interest of the government from a PR point of view, because we only need to turn on the radio and look at the paid political advertising campaign that is going on, paid for, by the way, out of your funds and mine, on the radio trying to support a programme which cannot support itself on its own merits. Mr. Speaker, the question I would ask, Who is representing the interests of the people of this Province?

Two or three weeks ago I directed a question to the Minister of the Environment; he made it quite clear that he could not care less about the programme.

MR. HICKMAN: On a point of order.

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

MR. HICKMAN: Your Honour has already ruled that with respect to petitions any hon. gentleman has the right to support the petition to confine himself or herself to the facts contained therein, but there shall be no debate. And the hon. the Leader of the Opposition has had two minutes of outright debate in absolute violation of that rule.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): In petitions, in commenting on material allegations, the remarks -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

In commenting on the material allegations, remarks of those

Mr. Speaker (Dr. Collins) supporting the petition should not stray from the statements in the petition. I understand that the petition being discussed now relates to concerns as to the effect of the spray, and concerning health aspects, and if my memory serves me correctly, the beneficial effects of the spray. So remarks related to concern in those areas I would say are quite in order, but they should not be put forward in an argumentative fashion. I think that is what one would have to say.

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. W. ROWE: Thank you, Sir.

We know that the government's interest is well protected by a \$100,000 or \$200,000 advertising campaign. We know the paper companies interests are being protected well by our Minister of Forestry.

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MR. W. ROWE: We know that the Minister of the Environment is not the least bit concerned and is grossly ignorant and lacking in knowledge of all the facts concerning the programme.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please when a point of order is being heard.

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I submit that the Leader of the Opposition is putting forward his support for the petition presented by the member for Windsor-Buchans (Mr. Flight) in a very argumentative, provocative way which violates completely and categorically the Standing Order already referred to, "There shall be no debate on a petition," That is clear and concise.

Now I recognize, Mr. Speaker, that the various elements in the prayer of the petition allow for some flexibility on this score and as Your Honour has already ruled therefore there are a lot of areas here on health and the concern of the people on which an hon. member can support it. But he should do so, the hon. member should do so in as less a provocative and argumentative way as possible. And I submit that saying that the various ministers are lacking in knowledge or ignorant of this or that in no way corresponds with the ruling that Your Honour just made. I would submit that the hon. Leader of the Opposition if he wishes to support a petition must do so, especially a petition of this sort, in the least provocative way or otherwise he is definitely breaking the spirit, intent and literal interpretation of that Standing Order.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! It will be recognized of course that it is difficult often to determine when the bounds are overstepped from mere support to debate. I would say if the actions of others are questioned this could be in the area of debate. I would think that the hon. Leader of the Opposition should confine his remarks more clearly to the allegations.

MR. W. ROWE: Thank you, Sir. I heard yesterday the Minister of Health wring his hands like Pontius Pilate and say it is not his programme. The question I would ask is who is looking after the interests of the people in this Province? For example, does the Minister of the Environment or has the Minister of the Environment even considered this point? No, Sir, because he is leaving now having spent his five minutes quota in the House today.

MR. PECKFORD: A point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Before hearing the point of order I think I have my own remarks in there by a very short head. I was just going to say the Hon. Leader of the Opposition's time has expired.

Is there a point of order?

MR. PECKFORD: There was a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I was up on a point of order. My point of order was, simply, comments relating to the absence or presence of an hon. minister on this side of the House in no way reflects relevance upon the prayer of the petition presented by the member for Windsor-Buchans (Mr. Flight).

MR. W. ROWE: To the point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! If I may rule on a point of order because I think the relevance of the point of order has now passed. I am ruling in regards to the point of order.

MR. W. ROWE: May I speak to the point of order, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! When the Chair is making a ruling it is difficult to complete the ruling unless hon. members will permit the Chair to state the full case. The point I am putting forward is that a point of order was brought up in regard to the remark of the Hon. Leader of the Opposition but the hon. leader's remarks had been terminated, because his time had terminated before the point of order was in actual fact recognized by the Chair. So that the point of order, having heard it one did not know what the point of order was, it could have been on any matter at all, but having heard it my position is that the point of order has no relevance now as the point in time when the point of order might have had relevance has now passed. I had to hear the point of order because I did

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MR. SPEAKER: not know what it related to, but having heard that it related to the Hon. Leader's remarks which he had terminated I would say it has no relevance.

Hon. member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this petition and in doing so I want to pose a couple of questions to the minister, who is no longer in his seat, and to the Minister of Education as well as far as this spray programme is concerned because the restaurant owners and the hotel owners in Stephenville and

MR. HODDER: surrounding areas are very, very upset at the present time because I do not know what we are paying Conair to come down here and spray. They have spotter planes, they are flying DC - 7's but I would say that if they are going to take the chance of contaminating the Stephenville water supply and everything else, that they should not be living in the Bay St. George Community College and paying \$2.50 a night rent. I think that, at least, the hotel owners - and eating at the Bay St. George Community College restaurant -

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

MR. SPEAKER(Collins): Order, please! A point of order has come up.

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, the question of whether people who are employed by a company who are to spray in this Province, the question of whether they are lodging or living or boarding in Port au Port or in the community council residences or on Bell Island -

MR. HODDER: The Community College, the Department of Education.

MR. PECKFORD: - or the Community College or wherever, has no relevance whatsoever to the prayer of the petition and hence is irrelevant.

MR. HODDER: To that point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER(Collins): The hon. member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, I think it has a lot of relevance. These people were hired to come here and spray the forest. The chemical, matacil, is being stored at Stephenville, there were broken containers and that sort of thing; they are staying at a government institution at, I am told, \$2.50 per night - not over \$5.00 - but the figure that was told to me by the Restaurant Association was \$2.50 per night. They are eating at the

MR. HODDER: Bay St. George Community College, directly under the control of the Minister of Education. The hotel and restaurant owners are upset but nevertheless, this is part of the spray programme and I happen to be talking about the spray programme.

MR. SPEAKER(Collins): Order, please!

The material allegations in the petition, I believe, in substance relate to concern for the effects of the material itself and the means by which it is being distributed on the forests. I think, therefore, that the matters relating to the housing of crews and similar questions would not be related to the material allegations. I would ask the hon. member to direct his remarks to the material allegations themselves and other matters that might legitimately arise.

The hon. member.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, as I have said before in the House, we have not proved, there has been no proof shown that we actually destroy the spruce budworm or do anything for the forest. These people have been brought in here at great cost to the Province. I would ask the minister in responding to the petition, if he does, to tell us how much this particular company is being paid. I would also ask the minister to tell us what fringe benefits they are getting. I would also ask the Minister of Education, as I said before, to tell us when he stands up why the Bay St. George Community College is putting them up at that price.

CAPT. WINSOR: Mr. Speaker.

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

CAPT. WINSOR: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the petition presented by my colleague, the member for Windsor - Buchans. I do so, Mr. Speaker, because I have a suspicion that there are signatures on that petition from parts of

CAPT. WINSOR: Fogo district, and I am thinking of the area around Rogers Cove, George's Point, Gander Bay and in that area.

But, Mr. Speaker, it may be coincidental but just before I came to the House of Assembly I had a call from a lady down at Rogers Cove and she said, "What are the government trying to do? They are trying to choke us with dust and now they are going to poison us with spray." Now, Mr. Speaker, when you get a call like that you must feel that people are concerned. This is from an area where most of the people in that one community derive their livelihood by working in the lumber woods. So this will indicate, Mr. Speaker, the concern of the people in that particular area.

They are concerned because they are afraid of the unknown. They are afraid of what effect the spraying of matacil will have upon their lives and the lives of their children. This lady went to great length to explain to me; "Now today," she said, "school is closed and the children are out and they are up around the lake fishing and they can see the aircraft coming over spraying and they are scared." So, Mr. Speaker, I think the government should take a good hard

CAPTAIN WINSOR:

look the seriousness of this spray. They may be gone too far to stop it, but surely they must take into consideration the concern of parents especially, and as my hon. colleague there mentioned when he supported it, the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary), that he has a son going out to the national park, and he is not the only one. There are many parents today who are anxious to get their children out in some park for relaxation and enjoy the outdoor life. But, Sir, they are now so concerned with this spraying that they are giving thought to whether they should send their children out or not. So this is one major concern I should think of the government.

I certainly support the petition, Sir, and I do not know what the government can do but certainly they should take another hard look at the spraying.

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

MR. RIDEOUT: Mr. Speaker, I rise to say a few words in support of this petition presented by my colleague from Windsor-Buchans (Mr. Flight), in behalf of more than 3,000 residents of the Western and Central part of the Province. I notice that there are a number of names on the petition from the Baie Verte area and Jackson's Arm area in the White Bay part of the Province.

Mr. Speaker, those three thousand-odd names must now bring to close to 10,000 or so the numbers of fellow Newfoundlanders who are so concerned with the government's spray programme that they have seen fit to sign their names to one petition or another, half a dozen or so in the last week or ten days, and sent to this House in an effort to have the government reconsider this spraying programme.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that must indicate to the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture and to all the ministers, to the Cabinet, that there is a grave concern, a very great concern among

MR. RIDEOUT: the residents of this Province about the spray programme that the government has embarked upon. There are so many unanswered questions, Mr. Speaker; and there appears to be no effort, or very little effort by the government to provide the answers that people are looking for so as to allay the fears that exist, justifiably or not. The fears are there. The people are concerned and I think the onus is on the government to provide the people with the information that they are looking for, and the government to this date just have not done it.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the philosophy that was so adequately expressed here yesterday seems to be the philosophy behind the spray programme, that you are going to get it done to you or not, whether it is good for you or not we are the ones who will decide that and you will put up and that seems to be the attitude.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there is no evidence, there is absolutely no evidence that has been brought before this House or brought before the public of this Province, that this spray programme actually works. If we had some reason to believe that it was the only alternative, the only way the government could go was to spray the forests and that it would work, that something would come because of it, then maybe we could take a different attitude and look at this programme a little differently than we have. But we know, Mr. Speaker, that there are other options. We know that there are hundreds of unanswered questions related to the chemical being used in this spray programme, the chemical matacil. We know also from experiences in other parts of the Mainland of North America that the spray programme just does not work. So, Mr. Speaker, I think the people of this Province are asking of their government, and justifiably so, what are we doing it for? If we do not hope to achieve anything, if the spray programme has

MR. RIDEOUT: not worked in other parts of Canada and in other parts of North American, what is so different about it down here? What makes us believe, what makes us really believe that this programme is going to work and do any good for the forest.

So, Mr. Speaker, there are so many unanswered questions. I am very concerned as I move among the people in my own district asking questions about the spray programme that I just cannot answer. Those questions have been asked in the House of Assembly and the Minister of Health, who has sloughed off the programme as not being his responsibility and other ministers have done the same, there are just no answers to give those people. So I think their concerns are justified. Their concerns are so adequately expressed in the prayer of this petition, Mr. Speaker, and I have no hesitancy in supporting it and I would hope that the government would seriously consider the alternatives, the options, They have not done that either, even though there has been no evidence of this programme will work, even though they have not adequately answered the questions posed to them, they have not given any serious or given no evidence that they have given any serious consideration to the options to a spray programme.

So, Mr. Speaker, I whole-heartedly support the prayer of the petition and those petitioners in the Baie Verte area and Jackson's Arm area of White Bay who signed it.

MR. SPEAKER: (Collins) The hon. the member for St. George's.

MRS. McISAAC: Mr. Speaker, I rise too in support of the petition. When you see another approximately 3,200 names coming in today on the petition it certainly makes you stop and think that the Opposition are not the only people who are against the spray or concerned about the spray. There is nothing, we have seen no evidence, as has been said here several times, and if there is any evidence why has it not been produced? We have not seen any evidence that matacil is harmless. If it is harmless and the government knows it is harmless, why do they not produce the paper work or the evidence to confirm it? We have people in this Province who are scared to send - of course, they are not sending their children anywhere; they are scared to let them out through the door now. They are keeping their doors and their windows closed because they do not know what is going to happen. And people are scared to death, and it is evidenced by the number of people who are petitioning, but yet on goes the spray, and of course, there is no way in the world that anyone will convince me that the water supplies are not going to be contaminated. It was on radio yesterday - I cannot verify that it was contamination, but I can certainly verify that I heard on radio yesterday morning that there were traces of it found in the water in Gander yesterday.

AN HON. MEMBER: Where did you hear that?

MRS. McISAAC: It was heard on radio. I say I cannot confirm it, but if there are traces found in the water and nobody knows whether or not it is harmful - and if it is harmful, well then people are going to drink it.

MRS. McISAAC: And who would have thought ten years ago that we were going to have trouble in Baie Verte and all those other places? That was laughed at too first when it came out, but until we have proof and proof positive that matacil is harmless we certainly should not be tampering with the lives of human beings; I will not even mention the wildlife anymore. But I know that right in St. George's where the spray is going to be conducted there, it is going to cover the watershed area, the three ponds that feed the Dribble, and that is our main source of water supply. And there is no reason in the world for me to think that that is not going to be contaminated. If it is not contaminated - well, if matacil is harmless it is not going to be contaminated, but there is no way in the world that you can prevent it from getting into the drinking water at St. George's and the same right across the Island. And why should this government make any commitment to do something against the will of that many people? And all the petitions are not in. I am told that there is a petition being circulated in my area to come in, and I would venture to say that before this week is out that we will have probably four or five more petitions with probably as many names on it as was presented today. I cannot see for the life of me why they are so determined to spray this chemical, this unknown chemical, this chemical that has not been confirmed as harmless. I cannot see why they are going to spray it. And if it is harmless then tell us and produce the evidence that it is harmless and we will sit down and say, 'Go ahead and spray it if it is harmless.' But from all the evidence that I have it has not been proven harmless, and it is too late when we have people here in this

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MRS. McISAAC: Province in the same condition that they found people in New Brunswick, affected by the matacil spray. Then the government is going to have to answer and maybe it may be too late for the government then and much too late for the people. I am not concerned about the government. If they are foolish enough to do it without knowing what they are doing, well then, that is fine, stand the consequences. But the thing about it is it is the people that I am concerned about. Wildlife - what about wildlife? Wildlife is one thing but human life is something else. And if we do not get it directly from the spray we are going to get it indirectly from eating wild meat or from drinking the water. And certainly there are three departments of government that should be more than interested in it and should certainly have all the evidence that they can collect from wherever or whoever possible before they do it. And if they have done that then why not produce it? I have not seen it.

10900

MRS. MCISAAC: I have not seen the evidence that it is harmless. I still have a minute. I do not need it, I think I have said all that I had to say, except that I am concerned about the St. George's area. The member for Gander (Mr. H. Collins) went to the Minister of Agriculture apparently or went to Cabinet or went somewhere and asked to have his area changed, the boundaries on the area in his district that was to be sprayed changed, ^{so} why can we not all do that?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MRS. MCISAAC: Now I am asking right now to have the area that is going to be sprayed in St. George's changed, because the spray is going directly into the three Dribble ponds that feed the pribble, our water supply. And if the Minister of Health or the member for wherever he is, Gander, can have his area changed then why can I not have mine changed. I do not want to see the ponds that feed the St. George's water supply get contaminated.

MR. F. ROWE: They are trying to poison the Liberals.

MRS. MCISAAC: My people are not second class people any more than his are -

MR. F. ROWE: They are trying to poison the Liberals.

MRS. MCISAAC: - and I want my area changed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MRS. MCISAAC: And this is the request right now, wherever the minister is - he never stays in the House long enough to ask him a question. So I cannot ask him if he will change the zoning, but I am certainly going to find him this afternoon and ask him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. J. NOLAN: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the petition as submitted in such a forceful, sympathetic, and compassionate manner by the member for St. George's (Mrs. McIsaac).

AN HON. MEMBER: Windsor-Buchans.

MR. NOLAN: - or Windsor-Buchans (Mr. Flight) rather -

AN HON. MEMBER: And supported by St. George's.

MR. NOLAN: - and supported by St. George's , of course,

The situation now is one that has caused some wide concerns. People now are afraid to let their children go out into the woods camping with the various Guides, Brownies, Cubs, Scouts, and so on. It is a situation now where we have, as anyone will know, throughout this Province many bodies of water that are utilized, many of them by gravity feed to cut down on the economic costs involved, water supplies for the areas in this Province. I can whole-heartedly sympathize with the people in Gander, and I certainly support the fact that the spray has been moved back from what was the original intention. But as the member for St. George's (Mrs. McIsaac) mentioned, how can you make chalk of one and cheese of the other? Surely no one, especially the people in Gander, would suggest that their children or their family are more important than, say, the children of the families in Port Blandford, or in St. George's or anywhere else. So there has to be a very clear and definite statement of policy on it and the time is now in regarding water supplies in the spraying of this Province. It is nothing to tangle with.

Right now there are hearings going on this very day, I believe, either in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick regarding Reye's Syndrome. There are meetings going on this day there. There is great concern, but what do the people have to do? Apparently the Leader of the Opposition poses some very pertinent and important questions as requested by people in this Province, parents and so on; he is ignored, laughed at, jeered, -

AN HON. MEMBER: Put down.

MR. NOLAN: - put down .

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

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): A point of order has come up.

MR. PECKFORD: The hon. the member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan) is debating; he is debating the issue as to whether the Leader of the Opposition should be ignored or not when he poses certain questions as it relates to the spray programme, and that surely is totally irrelevant, number one. And number two, the hon. member is debating the issue when he is suppose to be supporting the material allegations contained in the prayer of the petition.

MR. NEARY: To that point of order, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: This afternoon, Sir, the hon. the member for Green Bay (Mr. Peckford) has become a constitutional expert.

MR. PECKFORD: Thank you very much.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, there is no point of order. My hon. friend is completely relevant. He is not debating, Sir. It is a very serious matter that involves the health of our people. My hon. friend is merely raising points of order to try to drag out the time, so time will run out. He is not interested in the health and welfare of the people of the Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): Order, please! In an emotional issue, one would have to take that as being an emotional issue perhaps it is easy to stray beyond the restrictions or strictions laid down. I would ask the hon. member if he would confine his remarks to the material allegations.

MR. NOLAN: Mr. Speaker, thank you very much.

I have stood in this House and I have seen some leeway allowed on various important issues in the past.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NOLAN: I did not see people jumping up on points of order. I am talking about human lives.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NOLAN: Is that not important?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): Order, please. A point of order.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. PECKFORD: A point of order.

The hon. gentleman is not only questioning your ruling,
Your Honour, but he is also -

MR. NOLAN: No he is not.

MR. PECKFORD: - starting the debate all over again.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: Cannot the Government House Leader get you under
control?

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): Order, please! The time is limited
in speaking to a petition. I would ask the hon. member if he wishes
to conclude his remarks?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NOLAN: Mr. Speaker, again I attempt to appeal to all sensible, rational people who are in this Legislative Assembly or without to do anything possible to stop this spraying programme. It is not enough to experiment on the lives of people in this Province, particularly young children or anybody else. Thirty-one hundred people are not to be sneezed at, and if it were only five it would be equally grave. This situation is one that needs the immediate attention of everyone who is even casually concerned about this situation.

I am sorry to say, and I hope I am wrong, that by the time we find out just exactly what the effect of this matacil spray will be, it may very well be too late. But there is no forgiveness for those who have remained silent on this particular issue and the Hansards of this House will prove it. Why is it that members opposite are not standing up to support this petition? How can they sit there like Legislative lumps?

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

MR. NOLAN: I support the petition.

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

MR. F.B. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I should like to speak in support of the petition presented by my friend and colleague from Windsor - Buchans, Sir, on this spray programme.

Sir, I would like to raise a number of questions to the - to whom? Which minister? The Minister of Environment is not here, Sir. The Minister of Forestry is not here, and the Minister of Health is not here. Sir, there is nobody over there. The Premier is not here so there is nobody here, Sir, to really address the questions to. So I would assume that the hon. House Leader on the government side will take note of the questions.

MR. NEARY: The Premier has given up.
MR. SIMMONS: If you shout loud enough he will hear you. He is down on MacDonald Drive.
MR. F.B. ROWE: Probably so, Mr. Speaker,
MR. NEARY: Hanging on to a light pole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!
MR. SPEAKER (Collins): Order, please!

MR. F.B. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, there is a curious thing which happened with respect to this spray programme. One, we were trying to find out what the policy was, and that was practically impossible except we knew that the government was going to spray with matacil. Then when the policy started to be implemented, we found that there were little changes occurring here and there.

The government is obviously yielding to political pressure from one specific area in the case of Gander.

MR. STRACHAN: To save the Minister of Health.
MR. F.B. ROWE: As a result, presumably, to save the Minister of Health's political hide.

Now, Sir, the government either has a policy or it does not have a policy. It sticks to a policy or it does not stick to a policy. We had trouble identifying the policy. And now, Sir, that we have identified the policy of indiscriminate spraying - that is the only way you can call it - we find out that the government has decided to change it here and there to accommodate certain districts.

Now, Sir, I suggest - this may sound foolish, but just to make the point - that if the government are not prepared to poison a P.C. districts, they might give some consideration to not poisoning some Liberal districts in this particular spray programme.

Sir, I submit that the problem with this whole spray policy was this, that this administration decided before it got the information and the research and the

MR. F.B. ROWE: . . . data to contract an aircraft company to do the spraying and they bought the chemical matacil. Now they were locked into those agreements and there was no way the government could get out of them. I have yet to hear, Sir, whether or not tender calls were put for the various aircraft companies for the purposes of spraying.

Sir, the curious thing is that it seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that all of the information, it all related to the spray programme, the effect that this chemical might or might not have on water, on insects, on the forest itself, came after, but not during, the time when we were presenting petitions and asking questions about it and debating it. Sir, it came from and through a government sponsored advertising programme on T.V. and radio and presumably in the newspapers,

MR. F. ROWE: paid for, Sir, out of the taxpayers pockets.

Now, Sir, I would submit that if the government had in fact the information, that the information pertaining to this spray programme could have been brought to the attention of the people of this Province through the press via the House of Assembly, if the various ministers informed had saw fit to answer the questions that were put to them during Oral Question Period and during the presentation of the petitions. But no, Sir, they would not answer the questions and now they have the spray programme going in -

AN HON MEMBER: No notice.

MR. F. ROWE: - no notice, Sir. What happened to the twenty-four hours notice that was suppose to be given? I have not heard anything about that. But, Sir, the sadness of it is this, the government refused to answer questions and have now embarked on an expensive advertising campaign to sell the spray programme and, Sir, I will predict that the egg mass count will go down from this year to next year. And you know something, Sir, this hon. crowd over there will try to take credit for it through the spray programme. I will tell you now, Sir, that the egg mass count of the spruce budworm is going to go down naturally anyway through normal predators. It has already started, Sir, and we will hear the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture, the Minister of Health and the minister of what have you getting up and talking about the great success of the spray programme and that the egg mass count has gone down. Sir, if it goes down it will be by nature's course and if it does not go down, Sir, I will submit it is because of the fact that the spray has killed off the natural predators of the spruce budworm and that in fact could increase the egg mass count. So, Sir, I give my wholehearted support to this particular petition.

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

MR. SIMONS: Mr. Speaker, I want to rise in support of the petition from 3,100 people from various parts of the Province - Corner Brook, Pasadena, Stephenville, Beroid's Cove, Lark Harbour, York Harbour, Silverdale, Langdon's Cove, Springdale, Little Bay, Kings Point, Baie Verte

MR. SIMMONS: LaScie, all over the Province, the Western and Central part of the Province, dozens of communities, a good cross section. And put together with the signatories on the other petitions we had, it represents a very sizable consensus on the part of the people who are directly concerned about and affected by this budworm spray. And why the government is not listening I do not know. How large a sledge hammer, Mr. Speaker, do they need? How large a sledge hammer do you have to whack them with before they get the message? Now I suppose half the problem is that the minister concerned is not here and he was not here yesterday. The Minister of Health says it is not his problem, the Minister of the Environment suggests that it is not his problem.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Again so as not to encroach on the order of the House, I should remind the hon. member that comments should be confined to the statements made by the petitioner or petitioners, those involved in the petitions and the allegations arising out of the petition rather than the conduct of hon. members or hon. ministers or other aspects of the question.

The hon. member.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, nobody is talking about the conduct of any of the ministers; that is not parliamentary to talk about their conduct. Now the fact is, Mr. Speaker, if I am going to address myself to the moratorium which this calls for, if I cannot refer to the minister, Mr. Speaker, I quit here. And if the member for Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) is going to yap today let him do it from his place, Mr. Speaker; enforce the rules on both sides of the House.

SOME HON MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMONS: Now, Mr. Speaker, a few words about the petition.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Interjections will not help the presentation of the petition so I would encourage hon. members to give the hon. member speaking his due silence.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I have a letter here from a person who is concerned about the issue. I checked to make sure that his name was

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MR. SIMMONS: on the petition and sure enough it is there so I guess this is in order. He says to me in part, "I am sorry to hear that the debate on this controversial issue was stopped yesterday"- he is referring to that infamous day when the sometimes member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall) moved his infamous motion, and he wrote me on the subject. He sent me a number of questions, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to raise them for the House, He has

MR. SIMMONS: will the spray destroy the natural predators? He says, "May we ignore the warnings on the matacil containers concerning by-stander danger from the spray mixture since the need for buffer zones is only psychological. Is it true that the company who tested matacil for registration on behalf of manufactures is under investigation by the United States Government with a view to prosecution?"

MR. S. NEARY: That is right.

MR. SIMMONS: "Is it true," he says, "that the company" - Sorry, the next one. "Do our geographical and topographical features differ so much from those in New Brunswick that we cannot accept their experience of addiction will not apply here?" He asks, "Is it reasonable for us to disregard the reasons why Nova Scotia and B.C. have decided against spraying?"

MR. W.N. ROWE: Good question.

MR. SIMMONS: Then he says, Mr. Speaker, he names one of the members of the House who is his member. He says, "Will Mr. Peckford invite his colleagues' children for a camping holiday in his buffer zone?"

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMONS: Now, Mr. Speaker, if the member for Green Bay (Mr. Peckford) had been less busy with points of order today and had raised his questions because they were really sent to him with a copy to me, but he did not ask those questions, Mr. Speaker. He did not ask them. Now, Mr. Speaker -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

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

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order.

MR. PECKFORD: Now, Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to debate the spray programme or any other issue that government is involved in in this Province.

MR. SIMMONS: No, you are not.

AN HON. MEMBER: Chicken!

MR. PECKFORD: I understood, and I have been up on my feet on several occasions already this afternoon as it relates to relevancy and to debate on the support of petitions as is the wont of all hon. members when one sees that a number of rules of the House are being broken. Now I cannot stand by and watch the hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d' Espoir get into, obviously, debate on the whole question of the spray programme and then to question why I did not raise these questions that this hon. person who wrote the letter and sent a copy to the hon. member, that I have not raised them.

MR. SIMMONS: Aha!

MR. PECKFORD: Now this is debate on the petition which has nothing particularly to do with the petition, and to raise letters that were written to me with copies sent to the hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d' Espoir in a way to support a petition presented by the member for Windsor - Buchans (Mr. Flight) in my view is not in order. Now if the hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d' Espoir wants to bring in a resolution in this House, wants to debate with me outside the House at some public gathering, I will only be too happy to do so.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. PECKFORD: But as far as doing it here under the guise of a petition presented by another hon. member, I think is unfair and completely out of order.

MR. SPEAKER: (Collins) Order, please!

My understanding is that the hon. member raised a number of questions that related to the effect of the spray and so on which clearly, I think, would be in order but it would be out of order then to expand that into enlarging, using that to enter onto an area of debate in regard to another member's actions.

MR. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member for Green Bay served his purpose, served his purpose very well but I still have a few seconds left, Mr. Speaker. The letter writer goes on to say to me and to the member for Green Bay that this is not a political matter but one of survival, Mr. Speaker. The issue we are talking

MR. SIMMONS: about is one of survival. Now I am not concerned about the letter to the minister. He will respond to this one like he does to other letters, Mr. Speaker, with his usual poison pen fashion but that is not the issue right now, Mr. Speaker. The issue instead, Mr. Speaker, -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. PECKFORD: A point of order.

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

MR. PECKFORD: The hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir is again referring to me as one hon. member relating to the kind of letters that I write to individuals around this Province. And I say that the kind of letters that I write to individuals around this Province has no relevance at all to the material allegations contained in the petition presented by the member for Windsor - Buchans, number one, there is no relevance, and number two, it is a debatable and argumentative issue and on both counts the hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir once again for about the one thousand and one hundredth time in this session has been out of order.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Three today, five yesterday.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

As hon. members are aware, I was coming into the Chair and the hon. member for St. John's South (Dr. Collins) was going out at the time, so if hon. members will excuse me it was very difficult for me to have followed the point so if we can leave it there, if not I will review the Hansards and make a decision later on.

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I would like for you to review the Hansards. The point at issue here is that the hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir was casting -

AN HON. MEMBER: Aspersion.

MR. PECKFORD: - aspersion on me as it relates to letters that I write to individuals around this Province and in so doing was being irrelevant to the material allegations contained

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MR. PECKFORD: in the petition that is now under
discussion presented by the member for Windsor - Buchans, number one;
and number two, in so doing he was in the area of debate which is
also

MR. PECKFORD: disallowed under the Standing Orders, and therefore I would ask Your Honour to review the tapes in due course and to make a ruling as it relates to this point of order.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. SIMMONS: To the point of order, the member for Green Bay (Mr. Peckford) has finally succeeded in stating it in terms that the Speaker of the House can understand. What I did, Mr. Speaker - and I think this is permissible - the letter I have in front of me is addressed to me: "Dear Roger," signed by a first name, a good friend of mine, a constituent of the member but a good friend of mine, a lot in that category down there, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. PECKFORD: (Inaudible) the back door.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I would not dare come to the front door because I would not find the member at the front door.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I must ask the hon. gentleman not to interrupt when someone else is speaking.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I did make a brief reference to a letter I had from one of the signatories of the petition presented here today and to which I am speaking. I read a number of questions and in passing, Mr. Speaker, I submit purely in passing, because anything more than a passing reference to the member for Green Bay would be completely unjustified and a waste of words, in passing, Mr. Speaker, I made a reference to the fact that the member also got a copy of this same letter and

MR. SIMMONS: in passing only, Mr. Speaker, in about ten words, I intimated that I fully expected he would reply to this letter as he had other letters in the past, and the House is well aware of his record on that point, Mr. Speaker. I submit my reference was purely in passing. I submit also that the member has achieved his purpose, I think he has risen on nine points of order today so far since this petition came up, and let the records show that he is deliberately delaying, using the tactic of points of order, Mr. Speaker, to obfuscate and delay the business of the House. And this is most unfortunate.

What we are talking about here, as my letter writer says, Mr. Speaker, is a matter of human survival, and it is that issue I want to address myself to if I could be given a moment to do so, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! On the point of order, I have the arguments of both hon. gentlemen. I will review Hansard when it is available and give a decision at that time. I do understand that the hon. gentleman's time is up.

MR. SIMMONS: If I could just have a few words, Mr. Speaker, to clue up -

MR. SPEAKER: Does the hon. member have leave?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, no!

MR. SIMMONS: - a sentence or two to quote further from this letter to the member for Green Bay which I fully expect he will answer in his usual poisonous fashion.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please!
I understand the hon. gentleman does not have leave.

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! On that point of order, I have heard argument from both hon. members.

MR. SPEAKER: I will see the Hansard when it is available and give a decision at that time.

The hon. the member for Bellevue.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the petition, a petition of 3,100 petitioners in the Baie Verte - Jackson's Arm area of this Province, who are protesting the spruce budworm spraying programme presently in progress, I suppose is as good a word as any, by this government and in particular, of course, the Department of Forestry and Agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, I was not here when the petition was presented; however, I did go to the table and read down through the prayer of the petition. It was in the form of a resolution somewhat. It read, 'Whereas' and 'We therefore protest'.

Mr. Speaker, in supporting this petition, I want to say first of all that what the people here are protesting more than anything else, I believe, is the fact that the spray programme is being carried on in close proximity to communities and towns where people live and also in close proximity to water supplies, watersheds and so on, Gander Lake. The Appleton - Glenwood area was mentioned yesterday as examples of that.

Mr. Speaker, other speakers and the statistics show that the egg mass count is down. The little budworms have not been laying this year as they should have been because of the cold weather, the weather which is unsuitable for us but very suitable as far as destroying the budworm infestation. I do not know why, Mr. Speaker, in view of these things and other facts that we have heard from other provinces - the fact that the egg

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MR. CALLAN: mass count is down in other
provinces as well where they have not carried on any
spraying whatsoever - why the government are intent on
carrying out the spray programme in spite of

MR. CALLAN: all the information that has been presented and much of it scientific information that has been presented.

MR. W. ROWE: He has come up against Maynard.

MR. CALLAN: It is a good question. Why is the government so intent on carrying out this spray programme, especially with a chemical, matacil, which we have heard from authorities has not been tested adequately and leaves them a number of questions in the minds of the people who are being affected in one way or the other by this spray programme.

A former speaker this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, asked a question, Why is it that the employees of Conair, who have a lucrative contract with this government to carry out the spray programme, why is it that they are being housed in the Bay St. George Community College when hotel operators and others are protesting this fact? This is a question I think that needs an answer. Why?

Mr. Speaker, we have heard of some of the actions of this government being questioned and being televised and so on. We have seen it on the national news, we have seen it in local news, and I think, Mr. Speaker, we have now hit a new low when the actions of a government is described in the weather forecast, I think we are hitting a new low and this is where we get the forecast for the spraying programme. I was watching it last night on the news. It was part of the weather forecast, the forecast of what spraying would be carried on today, weather permitting and where.

Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the egg mass count is down and therefore there is not nearly the danger as we thought there might be a month or more ago, in view of the fact that the egg mass count is down, why does not the government get cracking and put a stop to this crazy scheme, which of course has been demonstrated by hundreds, thousands of people in

MR. CALLAN: this Province through petitions presented in this House and many thousands that we have not heard from and perhaps will never hear from, but who are anxious and who are concerned that damage will be done, if not this year, perhaps two, three, four, five years down the road.

Mr. Speaker, I support the prayer of this petition.

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

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, I want to say a few words in support of the petition presented by my hon. friend and colleague, the member for Windsor-Buchans (Mr. Flight).

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed peculiar and strange that a government would embark upon such a mad and crazy programme when it is a well known fact that spraying to control the spruce budworm is an ineffective measure, being demonstrated in several provinces in Canada and in the United States, that insecticide spraying is ineffective in controlling the spruce budworm. And yet in view of that the government is still pursuing this mad and crazy course.

Mr. Speaker, it becomes much more peculiar when one realizes that in view of the large number of acreage of our forest that is infested by this spruce budworm, the large acreage that is infested, comparing that with the little bit of spraying that we are doing, this small acreage that we are about to spray and knowing that it is ineffective makes this a completely crazy and mad programme and why the government is pursuing this course against the wishes of the people, Mr. Speaker, is certainly strange to

MR. LUSH:

understand knowing, Mr. Speaker, that the only effective control is forest management.

Mr. Speaker, another offensive thing about the spray programme is the fact that the money used for the spray programme is taken from forest management; actually, the amount of increase for spraying this year is equal to the decrease in forest management from last year. The two figures are just about equal. The two figures, Mr. Speaker, are just about equal. That is the amount of increase for spraying this year and the amount by which the budget decreased last year, these two figures are just about equal.

MR. SIMMONS:

He is not listening, he is looking out for the buck. Looking out for the buck, eh?

MR. LUSH:

That is right. The government should take a lesson from the Government of Nova Scotia, pursue the course of action taken by that government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. LUSH:

That government realized that spraying was a futile programme, it was useless in controlling the spruce budworm and they have acted very wisely, and I only wish that this government would act likewise. But not so, Mr. Speaker.

In finishing up my few remarks, Mr. Speaker, I want to implore upon the minister, since this petition protests against spraying in residential areas and around watershed areas, since the petition directs itself to that, since the petition addresses itself to these two things, I would hope that the minister would also heed the wishes of the people of Port Blandford. Actually, the first petition that was presented in this House of Assembly objecting to the spray programme because it was coming too close to the community, because it was too close to the watershed area.

MR. LUSH: Now, the minister has accommodated one group of people apparently. The minister has accommodated the people from Gander and I certainly hope that the minister will accommodate the people from Port Blandford and all other people in the Province who have protested on the grounds that the spray is coming too close to their communities and too close to watershed areas.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. LUSH: I would hope that the minister is not going to make chalk of one group of people and cheese of another group of people.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. LUSH: So I would implore upon the minister to treat all people in this Province equally. And hopefully, when he rises in his place to speak this afternoon, he will tell us that the government have decided not to spray.

MR. SIMMONS: Who? Who is that? Who?

MR. LUSH: This is the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture.

MR. SIMMONS: He is going to need a couple of fellows to hold him up.

MR. LUSH: So when the minister rises in his place to talk to this petition this afternoon, to respond to the wishes of the people - 3,000 was it? - 3,000 people from the West coast, when the minister rises to respond to the wishes of these people - certainly he is going to respond to that, 3,000 people - that the hon. minister will tell the House of Assembly that he intends to give the same treatment to the people of Port Blandford and the people of other areas in this Province that he accorded the people of Gander, that he is going to accommodate these people and not spray within residential areas or too close to watersheds. With that, Mr. Speaker, I will clue up my

MR. LUSH: remarks.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WHITE: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Before recognizing the hon. member for Lewisporte, I would like to welcome to the House of Assembly on behalf of all hon. members, a number of visitors this afternoon. Hon. George Doucette, Speaker of the Nova Scotia Legislature accompanied by his wife; also in the Speaker's Gallery, Sir Robin Vanderfelt who is the Secretary General of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and Mr. Ozzie Fraser, a member of the Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia. I know all hon. members join me in welcoming Mr. Speaker Doucette, Sir Robin Vanderfelt and Mrs. Doucette and Mr. Fraser to the House of Assembly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Lewisporte.

MR. WHITE: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the petition that was presented here in the House today and signed by 3,100 people. I suppose the total - I do not know if anyone has totalled up the number of names that have been signed to petitions that have come before the House on this matter this year. I suppose it is probably the greatest number of names of people in Newfoundland protesting any one singular act of government this year.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: With the exception of electricity.

MR. WHITE: With the exception - of course, my hon. colleagues remind me, with the exception of electricity.

MR. WHITE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that I drove in today from Lewisporte into St. John's and I am happy to say that I got here but I did keep my windows closed all the way in because I did not know, contrary to the government's -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. WHITE: That is the truth. I kept my windows closed coming in because I did not know if the spray was going to come over and come down into the car, Mr. Speaker. That is how concerned I am about the matter and I was worried about it to that extent. And hon. gentlemen opposite, who sit in their fancy offices in St. John's, should also be concerned about it.

Mr. Speaker, I have been listening to the radio and television trying to hear the advance notices of spray programmes to be given by the government and I am not hearing them with any consistency at all. What I am hearing, Mr. Speaker, are ads on the media that I have never heard the like of in my life before. One ad even said that a survey was done showing that eighty per cent of the stories in newspapers relating to the spray programmes were false. Eighty per cent of the stories in newspapers were false. Now this is government propoganda, Mr. Speaker, that concerns me very, very much.

I would also like to say, Mr. Speaker, that four communities in my district are having their water sources directly affected by the spray programme and that concerns me very greatly. People in those areas that I visited this weekend it was the major single topic of conversation, Mr. Speaker, the

MR. WHITE: spray programme, even greater than the dust and goodness knows if there was not enough comment about the dust.

Mr. Speaker, I noticed in McLean's Magazine a couple of days ago that they were wondering about, and questioning the validity of the Newfoundland Government making a decision to spray the forests of Newfoundland when the egg mass count in this Province was down forty-seven per cent last year, minus forty-seven per cent in this Province last year the egg mass count was, yet in New Brunswick where they sprayed and have been spraying for many, many years, the egg mass count was up by thirty per cent.

So, Mr. Speaker, there is a total lack of sense in respect of this matter. I do not know what we have to do to get the government to back down. I suppose the last resort is some kind of a civil disobedience or something like that and I hate to see it come to that in this Province but I suppose if we have to press an issue and press it strongly we will have to do something like that.

Mr. Speaker, I support the petition.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMONS: Somebody is getting a rip off.

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

MR. J. WINSOR: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the petition so ably presented by my colleague from Windsor-Buchans on behalf of 3,100 people. The signatures are 3,100 but it is on behalf of a lot more people than that. All of Newfoundland apparently is up in arms over the spray programme but apparently government does not want to listen to it with their usual semantics and rhetoric fired at us because we are opposing it in support of our people.

I think the story must be this; they bought a lot of matacil and they did not know what to do with it after the

MR. J. WINSOR: complaints started coming in. The only thing to do was spray it over Newfoundland. I hope the kick back this time goes to the government and not the people, because certainly enough evidence has been produced to indicate that there is a great deal of danger in the spraying.

There is some spraying being done in the area of the districts represented by my colleague from Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) and mine. There is spraying going on in Conne River and the only part of the district will be sprayed, there is no name on it, but people know it is there so they are going to spray it now and make sure they do not get in there. Because they will not want to be. And some of the best fishing grounds in the country is in that area, as you know, and I certainly would be remiss if I did not stand on my feet and support the stand that we have taken against the spray.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

NOTICES OF MOTION:

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Consumer Affairs and the Environment.

MR. MURPHY: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleague, the Minister of Social Services, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The Social Assistance Act, 1977."

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN:

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): The hon. the Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, this is the answer to Question No. 106 asked by the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) directed to the Minister of Transportation and Communications on the Order Paper of June 7, 1978, and it deals with the purchase of two Canso or PBY water bombers to be added to the Province's existing air fleet. There are only a few notes here, Sir, so if I may I would like to read part of it here and Table the rest.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. DOODY: The Air Services Division was asked subsequent to the 1977-1978 Budget estimates, or during that period, rather, since they had had the necessary technical expertise to supply an estimate on the cost of the purchase of two additional water bombers for the Newfoundland Forest Service Air Fleet. The estimate at that time of the cost of purchasing of converting to water bomber configuration and the renovations of each aircraft to precise specifications to ensure compatibility with the existing water bomber fleet, the total would be in the vicinity of \$900,000.

MR. NEARY: No, \$780,000.

MR. DOODY: This then was the figure used by Forestry and Agriculture in preparing its estimate at that time.

MR. NEARY: No, it was not!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order!

MR. DOODY: Following approval of the Provincial Government and the Management Committee of the Forestry Subsidiary Agreement to have the cost of the purchase of the aircraft, cost-shared under the DREE Forestry Subsidiary Agreement, Forestry and Agriculture submitted the request to the Government Purchasing Agency to tender the supply of the two water bombers. Tenders were advertised in five local and two Mainland papers.

MR. NEARY: All pre-arranged.

MR. DOODY: The closing date of the tender was July 28, 1977.

A public tender opening was held on July 29, 1977.

MR. NEARY: Who was in attendance?

MR. DOODY: Only one tender was received, and that was Field Aviation of Toronto.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Surprise! Surprise!

MR. DOODY: And they placed a bid in the amount of \$1,093,000.

MR. SIMMONS: How about the secret share list now?

MR. DOODY: The fact that Field Aviation was the only bidder was not surprising, since this company was fully aware of the standards required by the Province -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. DOODY: - and in fact it was the only firm in Canada able to undertake conversion to water bomber capability. I understand that Field Aviation has indeed got the patent in Canada for the conversion process.

MR. NEARY: \$190,000 (Inaudible) \$190,000.

MR. DOODY: Do you mind? I will just fill in between the hon. member's comments, Sir -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: You paid (inaudible) have it there.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. DOODY: - at the pleasure of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: I must require the hon. gentleman please to obey the requirement of the Chair that the hon. gentleman speak without interruption.

MR. DOODY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: \$110,000.

MR. DINN: I am ashamed of him.

MR. DOODY: Since the amount of the tender had exceeded budget estimates, and in view of the fact that it would take several months to obtain both Provincial and Federal approval for additional funds, it was decided then that the following action would be taken; one, the purchase, conversion, refurbishing of one Canso as specified in the tender call; two, the purchase and conversion to water bombing only of the additional Canso as per Items 13 and 14 of the tender specifications. I will not read them, so they are attached. Thank you.

MR. NEARY: Do you want to read my file there, too?

MR. DOODY: This much, Sir, one and two above to be funded from the 1977-1978 budget allocation which I mentioned a minute ago; and three, Sir, to obtain an option from Field Aviation for the refurbishing of the second Canso, and a contract for the remaining amount of funds to be confirmed in the fiscal year 1978-1979. This would permit the extra time to obtain Provincial and Federal approval to have the extra funds covered under the DREE Subsidiary Agreement. Both the Provincial Government and Field Aviation were in agreement on these items.

One of the Canso bombers has been received by the Department of Forestry and Agriculture. As for the terms of the agreement, and I have been informed that it is in serviceable condition; indeed, Sir, it is in active condition. I visited the hangar on Saturday and the plane was there. It had been used, and it has been used for water bomber service.

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible).

MR. DOODY: It has been operational, and is operational, and it is a welcomed addition to the forest protection fleet.

The Department of Forestry and Agriculture has been authorized by a Minute-in-Council, dated March 16, 1978 to proceed with the completion of the remaining contract to refurbish the second Canso.

MR. NEARY: How much?

MR. DOODY: It is expected - it is all here, Will you just get a grip on yourself for a minute?

MR. NEARY: No, but -

MR. DOODY: Would the hon. member just relax.

MR. NEARY: - when will it be tabled?

MR. DOODY: In a few moments. Just peace and benediction, brother. All things will come to those who show a little patience, even you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. DOODY: I think the hon. member is relaxed, Your Honour, With your permission we will proceed with this answer to the question.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: He is all up tight today whatever the trouble
is.

MR. J. CARTER: No tranquillizers.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: He is certainly up tight.

MR. DOODY: I attach, Sir, for the information of the House
and members the public notice,

MR. DOODY:

invitation to tender over the signature of E. E. Rowe, the Director of Purchases, Government Purchasing Agency. The report of the public tender opening with the signature of those people who were present, the Government Purchasing Authority officials, the Department of Transportation and Communications representative, Mr. D. B. Simmons, and Mr. E. P. Piercey of Air Services and a representative of Field Aviation. I also attach copies of the tenders received from Field Aviation and a copy of the specifications from the Department of Forestry and Agriculture which were sent to the Government Purchasing Agency signed by the Deputy Minister of Forestry and Agriculture and copy of correspondence from the Deputy Minister of Forestry and Agriculture to the Secretary of Treasury Board covering the funding of the aircraft and copy of the specifications for the refurbishing and conversion of the aircraft. I have no hesitation in tabling these documents, Mr. Speaker, as I have checked thoroughly with the officials of Forestry and Agriculture, with Inter-governmental Affairs, with Transportation and Communications, with Treasury Board and with the senior officials of all those government departments who were involved together with the Joint Management Committee under the DREE subsidiary agreement, and they have all assured me that the proceedings were entirely proper and correct in every detail.

I might say that the members of the Management Committee of the subsidiary agreement, joint federal/provincial also acted as the tender board and these people were Mr. J. A. Brennan, who I think is the Assistant Deputy Minister of Forestry and Agriculture, Mr. A. M. Davis of the federal Department of Regional

MR. DOODY: Economic Expansion, Mr. John Fitzgerald, the Assistant Director of Inter-governmental Affairs, Dr. W. J. Carroll of the federal Forestry Service, Mr. Roy Forward, Secretary of the Committee and also an official of the Department of Forestry and Agriculture. The board also consulted with other officials of technical knowledge of the proposed contract, namely, Mr. Lloyd Leland, Chief Inspector of the Air Services Division, Mr. E. P. Piercey, Director of Air Services, Mr. J. A. Doyle, Director of Forest Protection.

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible) of the aircraft (inaudible).

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, is it necessary to have me harassed? I am trying to provide the House with information that was asked. Now if the House does not want the information I will not bother. Again, there are a couple of other questions on the Order Paper which I would be only too happy to provide, but the hon. members are so impatient, Your Honour, they are so bloodthirsty, they are vicious, cruel. I think it is gone past their feeding time. It is time to slop the hogs, Your Honour.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Did not have his Pabulum this morning.

MR. DOODY: Now where was I? I was working on the expertise and knowledge of the various officials who advised us on this very correct and proper procedure.

The recommendations were made to the Director of the Government Purchasing Agency through the Deputy Minister of Forestry and Agriculture and the decision was and the advice was to award the contract to

MR. DOODY: Field Aviation in the manner outlined. This has been done, and I have absolutely no hesitation in accepting the advice and the information of the people involved and I tabled all of the relevant documents for the information of the House.

Now there were some other points raised on that particular question of the water bomber. One of them was that the 'plane was a bucket of bolts and it was unfit for service and so on. I have already mentioned the fact that that is not so. The 'plane is very serviceable. It is indeed on duty, in use, and I think some hon. members opposite took advantage of the opportunity to visit the hangar to look at the aircraft and they -

MR. NEARY: And saw the oil leaks.

MR. DOODY: Yes. That is not at all unusual, I understand, for aircraft of the vintage to have oil leaks. I would not want to have the hon. member in that aircraft either, Sir. It is a far too valuable piece of government equipment to trust it in the hands of the hon. member.

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible)

MR. DOODY: Anyway, I have a few other things here, but I will not bother, because obviously, Sir, they are not interested in information, they are more interested in harassment, and I am much too delicate, too nish, too sensitive to take these slings and arrows. Thank you, Sir.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I know it is improper, Sir, to respond to an answer given by the minister,

MR. NEARY: but I sent the minister over a letter from Austin Aviation in Timmins, Ontario which shows the price that Field Aviation paid for that aircraft that the minister just referred to - \$110,000 on the back page there - and I believe the aircraft cost the Newfoundland Government \$535,000.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: I am asking the minister if he would table it. I want the minister to table my letter.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The same ruling was made last year that under this Heading No. (6), Answers to Questions for which Notice has been Given, there are no supplementaries or further questions. They would be in order under the next calling of Oral Questions. I would suggest that that would be the appropriate place. But I could not allow questions under this heading. We would have two Question Periods, one of thirty minutes and one of indeterminate length.

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

MR. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, where is the Premier of the Province? I want to ask an important question of the Premier of the Province, Sir, and he is never in the House.

MR. NEARY: Bally Haly.

MR. W. ROWE: Where is he? Would the House Leader mind telling us when we will have the pleasure of his company so I can save up my questions for him? Is he coming tomorrow? The House Leader does not know, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: Move the Assembly down to Bally Haly Golf Course.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!
The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I presume that is a question because it is a very good one to answer but, firstly, may I apologize to our guests from Nova Scotia for the behaviour they have seen coming across the House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKMAN: It is the first time that the Opposition have seen any living Liberals in a half a century and they are all excited this afternoon. This is why, Mr. Speaker, they are sort of out of control.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMONS: There is a turn-coat Liberal over there.

MR. HICKMAN: And do you know, Mr. Speaker, I must chastise my campaign manager; he is - you know - and I do wish, Mr. Speaker -

MR. NEARY: If he only had his time back.

MR. HICKMAN: That is right. For once in my life I am on all fours with the hon. the member for LaPoile. If only I had my time back.

MR. NEARY: No, the hon. member I mean -

MR. HICKMAN: He warned me I was wrong. He said I was wrong. He said I made a mistake.

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

MR. HICKMAN: And, Mr. Speaker, I admit it to him.

MR. NEARY: Sit down and do not be making a fool of yourself.

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

I must point out to hon. members that what they may well regard as and often start off as pleasantries, frequently do lead to a deterioration of order. So I would ask hon. members during the Question Period to keep their remarks to questions with the preamble which is necessary and to answers rather than other matters.

A supplementary, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. W. ROWE: In the absence of the Premier, Sir, I will have to save my questions until probably next session; he is not likely to be here.

MR. NEARY: Go down to Bally Haly and learn how to golf.

MR. W. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I will direct a question to the hon. Minister of Forestry -

MR. NEARY: The Speaker from Nova Scotia, ask him a question.

MR. W. ROWE: I might as well, for all the sense I am going to get from the Minister of Forestry.

Mr. Speaker, we saw the Minister of the Environment wash his hands of the spray programme a month or so ago, saying he knew nothing about it and was not going to answer any questions on it. Yesterday we had the spectacle of the Minister of Health stand up and publicly disassociate himself by saying it is not his programme.

MR. NEARY: I would not blame him.

MR. W. ROWE: And he would not answer any questions on it. I asked yesterday the Minister of Health why it was that in spite of the day after day proclamation by the government that they were not going to change the spray programme, the Minister of Health, whose district happens to be Gander district, got Gander taken out of the spray programme and a new buffer zone, Mr. Speaker, established with respect to Gander Lake and the town of Gander.

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MR. W. ROWE: Now let me ask this of the Minister of Forestry, is the minister prepared to hear and make changes on other communities, towns in the Province who may wish to have a larger buffer zone as far as the spray programme is concerned, or to be taken out of the spray programme altogether? I refer particularly, for example, to Port Blandford.

MR. SIMMONS: Hear, hear!

CAPTAIN WINSOR: Gander Bay.

MR. W. ROWE: And Gander Bay, and a couple of districts in my learned friend's, my hon. friend's district, the member for Lewisporte (Mr. F. White). Communities that want to be further removed from the spray programme. Is the Minister of Forestry prepared to provide larger buffer zones with respect to some of these communities, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MAYNARD: Mr. Speaker, Gander Lake was the only water body that is directly a water supply where spraying was to be carried out to the edge of the water supply. There is no other actual water supplies in Newfoundland where spraying has been allocated to the edge of the water supply.

MR. F. WHITE: Rivers.

MR. MORGAN: Gander Lake.

MR. MAYNARD: Well if you keep away from rivers and watersheds in Newfoundland, I am afraid that you would keep out of it completely.

MR. F. WHITE: That is what you should do.

MR. MAYNARD: We decided for the Gander water supply, because the people felt -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. MAYNARD: - that it was necessary to have a buffer zone around, then we established the buffer zone. All the other communities and water supplies in Newfoundland have a buffer zone already established and the buffer zone is two miles with the large aircraft and one half mile with the small, crop duster type aircraft.

MR. W. ROWE: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary, the original questioner.

MR. W. ROWE: the answer to the minister's question is that, no, this psychological buffer zone, which was not even necessary according to him in previous statements but which has been extended by political pressure in the case of Gander by the member, the Minister of Health, in order to safeguard the health of the people of Gander, that will not be changed with respect to any other communities in the Province. That is an edifying answer, Mr. Speaker, I must say. Let the minister answer this question; Are there any government inspectors on board these planes which the spray company, the company which is spraying this poisonous chemical, matacil, into water supplies and near communities and in the woods and so on, are there any government inspectors directly on the plane monitoring the spray programme in each of these spray planes on a day to day basis?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. MAYNARD: The government technicians, Mr. Speaker, are on the spotter planes. The spotter plane accompanies each spray aircraft at all times and the government technician is on the spotter plane and directs whether the spraying should be done or whether the nozzle should be turned off at any point in time or whether the wind speed becomes too high or whatever. He is actually in charge of the operation from the spotter plane itself.

MR. W. ROWE: A final supplementary, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition.

MR. W. ROWE: I have a question which I was going to make mention in my petition, the speech on the petition but I was cut off by the arrogant Minister of Energy with his specious points of order. Mr. Speaker, let me ask the minister this; it is a personal question, a question similar to the one that was asked by the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) district. I have a daughter who is going off to camp, or supposedly going off to camp on the 22nd of this month which is two days from now. She is going to Mint Brook, Mr. Speaker, which is right in the middle of the spray area. Now, I ask this question as I asked the minister before with regard to 4H club campers and so on, is it in fact safe for

MR. W. ROWE: children to be going out camping in the area where this spray programme is taking place? Is it safe? What guarantees or what assurances can he give me and people in my position, hundreds of thousands of them, that their children, innocent children, Mr. Speaker, who I may be sending out like a lamb to the slaughter for all I know, what assurances can he give parents, concerned parents that their children are not going to be adversely affected, medically with regard to their health, by this spray programme?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. MAYNARD: The answer, Mr. Speaker, is yes it is safe and the assurance has come from the medical people who approved this programme, the medical experts in the field. I am not a medical expert but I have to take the advice of the medical experts and I say, yes, it is safe to be in the area.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. member for St. George's followed by the hon. member for LaPoile.

MRS McISAAC: My question is for the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture, Mr. Speaker. I wrote two notes across this House to the minister this afternoon to ask him if he would consider changing the spray boundary in my district because of the fact that there are three ponds that empty into this dribble, directly into the water supply of St. George's and he ignored both notes. So now I would like to ask him a question; would he please tell me if there is a possibility of having that buffer zone changed in order to keep this spray out off the water supply for St. George's? We have had problems enough with the water supply in St. George's, God knows, and we do not need matacil in it. Would you please answer that?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister of Forestry and Agriculture.

MR. MAYNARD: Mr. Speaker, there is no spray carried out over any water supply in Newfoundland. The buffer zones have been established, they were established a long time ago, over any water supply. If the hon. member can show me that there is any spraying to be done directly over the water supply then we will look at it but we are not aware of any water supply in this Province being sprayed.

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MRS. McISAAC: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member.

MRS McISAAC: If the minister is so sure that there is no spray going on in any of the watershed areas -

AN HON. MEMBER: Water supplies.

MRS McISAAC: - why did he - water supplies, Okay, the same thing. If the water runs out of the glass on the floor the supply is still in the glass.

MR. F. ROWE: Have some respect for a lady.

MR. McISAAC: And if the water supply in Gander, if the buffer zone in Gander could be changed then there must have been some danger that the matacil would get into the water supply, if the buffer zone was changed. If not why was Gander changed and why cannot St. George's be changed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Minister of Forestry and Agriculture.

MR. MAYNARD:

I said water supplies, Mr. Speaker, not watersheds and there is a distinct difference in water sheds from water supplies.

MRS. MCISAAC:

Water sheds, water supplies, the same thing.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. MAYNARD:

Gander Lake was the only water supply in the Province where spraying was to have been carried out to the edge of the lake. For psychological reasons we moved it back one mile. That is the total answer. There are no other water supplies in the Province that are close to the spray areas.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member for LaPoile followed by the hon. gentleman for Burgeo - Bay d' Espoir.

MR. S. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question, Sir, to the minister responsible for scandal, Sir. The hon. -

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please! Order, please!

I do think that as a matter of fact, I am quite sure that that should be withdrawn. The hon. gentleman will direct his question to the minister.

MR. S. NEARY:

I withdraw. He may not be directly responsible but scandals come under the hon. gentleman's jurisdiction.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please! Order, please!

I think the hon. gentleman is as aware as I am that that is an inappropriate way to preface a question and I would ask him to preface it in the normal manner.

MR. S. NEARY:

Sir, if the Minister of Justice cannot answer the question then maybe the minister responsible for housing can answer it. Is it correct, Sir, this morning the reports that we read in the morning news that another scandal has been uncovered in the housing agency, in the St. John's Housing Authority that there is a probe going on there by the police by the CID. Could the minister confirm whether this is correct or not?

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

MR. J. DINN: Mr. Speaker, obviously this is an area where we have to watch ourselves; we are talking about a police investigation. But the fact of the matter is I cannot confirm that there is. We received information in the department, the Department of Justice was notified and the Department of Justice made the decision that they should have an investigation and the investigation is ongoing.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile, a supplementary.

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker now that we have confirmed that there is another scandal on the go -

AN HON. MEMBER: How many now?

MR. S. NEARY: I do not know how many this is, Sir.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Number eight.

MR. S. NEARY: Number eight. We have got them in alphabetical order now. Mr. Speaker, would the hon. gentleman tell us the nature of this scandal? What prompted the police investigation? What kind of reports do the minister have? Does it involve federal/provincial funding or just what is the nature of this latest scandal?

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

MR. J. DINN: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) is obviously as his same old game trying to create Newfie jokes, which I detest. There is no scandal. In Newfoundland as in every other province of this Dominion, and in the country as a whole in the Northwest Territories - nobody is guilty until an investigation is completed and they have some evidence -

MR. WHITE: Maybe not then.

MR. DINN: - and then they go to a trial
and then the judge makes the decision or a jury makes the decision.

In this country there is no scandal -

MR. FLIGHT: Why do you have an investigation?

MR. DINN: There is an investigation going on
because we have some information that there may be something untoward,
wrong. When that investigation is completed the justice department
will handle it in its normal,expeditious manner.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman of course
is wrong that you are guilty in this Province until you are proven
innocent. That is the philosophy the Minister of Justice operates under,
Sir. Can the Minister of Justice shed any light on this matter? Does
it involve provincial/federal funding? Does it involve servicing
contracts? What is the nature of the - What prompted the police
investigation? What kind of an investigation is it? We are not asking
the hon. gentleman to tell us whether people are innocent or guilty.
We just like to know what is going on,if the Public Treasury is being
adequately protected. That is all we want to know. What is the nature
of the investigation?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. minister.

MR. WN. ROWE: One at a time now.

MR. HICKMAN: Was the question directed at me .

MR. S. NEARY: Well I do not know who can answer
it.

MR. SIMMONS: The minister in charge of (inaudible)

MR. S. NEARY: The minister has a tendency to
cover up. Maybe we should go to the Minister of Municipal Affairs
and Housing.

MR. HICKMAN: I am just wondering if that spray matacil would cure scandalitis because if it is I would recommend a huge dose for the member for LaPoile. Mr. Speaker, -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. S. NEARY: The hon. gentleman (inaudible)

MR. HICKMAN: - any requests that come to the Department of Justice from any department of government or any citizen for an investigation is carried out, carried out immediately. Fortunately we do not have gossips in the Department of Justice, they rely only on fact.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary.

MR. S. NEARY: Obviously, Mr. Speaker, there must be some gossips in the housing authority because the hon. minister said that somebody had reported that there was some evidence of wrong-doing and that was not - I do not know if it was gossip or not but the minister thought he should report it to the Minister of Justice, his colleague.

MR. HICKMAN: That is right.

MR. S. NEARY: But, Sir, what is the nature of this complaint?

MR. NEARY: Can the minister give us some idea what kind of an investigation is being carried out?

AN HON. MEMBER: No! No! No!

MR. NEARY: Does it involve servicing contracts, local contractors who are doing work for the minister's department? Or does it involve somebody siphoning off funds that were channelled into this Province by the Government of Canada? Provincial -

MR. DOODY: Another one of his multiple choice questions.

MR. NEARY: No. Well, I mean, you pay your money and you can pick your choice, But, Mr. Speaker, we are just trying to get some information from the minister. We are not sure at this stage, Sir, if the Public Treasury is being properly protected or not, and we are trying to find out. What is the nature of the investigation? That is all we are asking. We are not asking the minister for names, or if people are innocent or guilty. But why carry out an investigation? What is the purpose of it? And what is the nature of the investigation?

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

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker, I did not go through all of the information that was presented to me, but I can confirm, I am quite sure that it had nothing to do with building supplies on Bell Island.

MR. NEARY: No. Did it have to do with A.B. Walsh?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I stated that I would recognize the hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir next followed by the hon. the member for Baie Verte-White Bay.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker -

MR. NEARY: Bug-eye (Inaudible).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMONS: Well, Mr. Speaker, since we do have some distinguished visitors I will ask my question to one of the intelligent ministers so the others will not make a fool out of themselves. I was intending to ask it of the Premier but he is obviously on the golf course or wherever he is today. Did we find out where he is?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No.

MR. SIMMONS: The question is really for the Premier -

MR. NEARY: He is playing another tape for CJON.

MR. SIMMONS: - but, perhaps, in the absence of the Premier, the continued absence of the Premier, perhaps the Government House Leader the Deputy Premier, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, the man who will never make it to the Bench, perhaps he, Mr. Speaker, can answer the question I had for the Premier. Does the minister know or is he aware as to whether the Premier has asked for the resignation of the Minister of Manpower, the former Minister of Public Works, or asked perhaps more properly that he not pursue his assignment in his Portfolio until such time as he has been cleared of the charges of unethical conduct now laid publicly against him, conduct during the period when he was Minister of Public Works? Does the minister know if the resignation has been asked for and/or received by the Premier?

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

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, that is the kind of a question that no decent person would ever ask.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: That is right.

MR. WHITE: Somebody is going to have to answer it, though.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

AN HON. MEMBER: It has got to be answered.

MR. NEARY: The government will change one of those days.

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

MR. SIMMONS: The Minister for Cover-Up.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I have -

AN HON. MEMBER: Note what Premier Bennett did.

MR. HICKMAN: I have no idea what the hon. the Premier does in communications with his ministers, and I am quite certain that he has not asked any of the ministers named, any such question or suggestion as posed by the hon. the member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons). And I would hope that the hon. gentleman is not naive enough, because it would have to be in that category that he would ask the question, to suspect that anyone would be foolish enough to act or unwise enough to

Mr. Hickman: act until a decision of the appropriate person is received and not on one bit of evidence.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. SIMMONS: Sure, Mr. Speaker. the minister mentions - misses, rather the entire point of the question. we have a case now, Mr. Speaker, where a Minister of the Crown has been cited in quite a public fashion before a public enquiry by his Deputy Minister of some years for unethical behaviour, unethical conduct in the pursuit of his duties as a Minister of the Crown. And it seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that is a fairly serious charge. And my question was worded carefully the first time. I never said until he is convicted or proven guilty; I said, until such time as he is cleared of those charges. We now have a minister of Crown against whom these charges of unethical conduct have been made. And it would only be fair to him, I submit, Mr. Speaker, and to the public certainly when you have a man of the reputation of the former Deputy Minister, Mr. Jack Ralph, making these statements in public knowing full well the impact of the statements, I am sure, and their ramifications, it seems to be it would only be proper for the minister to discontinue in a Portfolio of Cabinet until such time as the matter has been resolved publicly. And the minister in responding somewhat misconstrued the question, but that is all very well, that is his privilege.

But what I am asking one more time is whether or not a resignation has been received to his knowledge? Or whether to his knowledge it is the intention of the Premier to ask for the resignation?

MR. HICKMAN: No.

MR. SIMMONS: No, no? Mr. Speaker -

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. for -

MR. SIMMONS: - a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A final supplementary.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, the minister had indicated the answer is, no, to the best of his knowledge. Can the minister indicate to the House whether the Minister of Manpower is still acting in that capacity, as the Minister of Manpower? And if so, I notice he is not in his seat today, can the minister indicate to the House where he is if he is away on government business?

MR. WHITE: Or if he is coming back to the House?

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

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker ,

MR. HICKMAN: I am quite confident that the hon. gentleman is still Minister of Manpower and Labour Relations, or whatever the title now is. I know that he is presently today, this morning very early, to meet in connection with a labour dispute that is on in this Province.

AN HON. MEMBER: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I have indicated I would recognize the hon. gentleman from Baie Verte - White Bay followed by the hon. gentleman from Port au Port.

MR. RIDEOUT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Fisheries. Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that we operate in and hopefully believe in the free enterprise, competitive system, I wonder if the minister could tell the House whether or not his department is prepared to take any action against the Lake group of companies, the operators at the Englee fish plant, who have obviously now beyond any doubt told the fishermen of Englee that they are not prepared to buy any codfish from those fishermen who have been so naughty as to sell salmon to a competitor?

AN HON. MEMBER: Aha! Boy! Free enterprise!

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

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, if the matter referred to by the member is correct then, of course, we will take whatever action we can. My deputy minister is presently investigating that allegation and if there is any way that the government can put a stop to it we will, and if we do not have the authority under the Act to do it, well, then I would be quite prepared to ask the House to amend the Act, because the licence to process fish is a public trust and must not be allowed to be used by the private sector as a licence to make money for their own convenience.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. W. CARTER: We would, Mr. Speaker, take whatever action we can to put a stop to that sort of thing. If we have to amend the Act we will do it. It certainly will not be allowed to continue.

MR. RIDEOUT: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. RIDEOUT: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister could tell the House whether or not his department will be getting in touch rather promptly - I know the deputy minister has already been in touch - with the Lake group of companies and saying to them in no uncertain fashion that 'Unless you are prepared to buy fish from any fisherman who wants to sell you codfish in Englee, then we would very seriously consider revoking that processing licence' or some other kind of licence such as to force them to carry out the public responsibility that the minister has referred to?

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I can only repeat what I said, that if, in fact, the allegation is correct we will take that kind of action. If we have the right under the existing Act to lift the licence we will do it. If I do not have the authority, well then I will seek it in the Legislature.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the member for Port au Port, followed by the hon. gentleman from Trinity - Bay de Verde.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications in his capacity as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Labrador Linerboard Limited. A few days ago when I was

MR. HODDER: speaking here on a particular bill, or I believe on the Throne Speech debate, I mentioned that Abitibi had made a proposal on Labrador Linerboard Limited and the minister denied it. Could the minister now tell me whether a proposal has come from Abitibi to the government?

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

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, the Divestiture Committee responsible for the Labrador Linerboard Limited facility, the people responsible for trying to interest a prospective buyer and/or manager for the facility, are still actively involved in discussing the possible sale or other arrangement with various companies, one of whom is Abitibi. There are at least four that I can think of offhand. To the best of my knowledge no concrete proposal as such is in the hands of either the committee or in the hands of government. Discussions are ongoing and hopefully a conclusion will be reached with one of these prospective buyers. It is far too early in the game to make any statement more positive or concrete than that. It would be unfair to the people in the area and it would be misleading, and it also, of course, would weaken any bargaining position that we might have with any particular company. All I can say to the hon. member is that it is an ongoing process; it is one that the committee is working on very diligently and there is some real interest and some real enthusiasm shown for the facility out there. I sincerely hope that we can bring it to a conclusion that is beneficial to the Bay St. George area. Certainly we are working in that direction and it appears to be

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MR. DOODY: encouraging at this point, but beyond that, Sir, I would not make a comment.

MR. HODDER: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. HODDER: Just one day ago or two days ago

I spoke to a member of the Divestiture Committee who told me that they had not met since January and that particular committee has been keeping the Bay St. George members in touch with what has been going on and he told me that they had not met,

MR. HODDER: but the question I have for the minister is, if what the minister says is so why did the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture in Stephenville on last Sunday night make the statement that there would be a statement made by this government, a favourable statement made by this government as far as the acquisition of the mill was concerned, either at the end of June or very early in July?

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

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, I know nothing of any conversation that the hon. member may have had with a member of the Divestiture Committee. If that particular member of the Committee is looking for information on conversations and discussions he is well aware of the channels through which he should go and he knows who the people in charge of co-ordinating the activities are.

As for the comment allegedly made by the hon. the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture, Sir, I have no knowledge of that, Sir, and obviously the question should be directed to the minister who is supposed to have made such a statement.

MR. HODDER: A supplementary, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: A final supplementary.

MR. HODDER: In preamble to the final supplementary I would like to read a little portion of Hansard which was said by the Premier last year. These are the words of Hansard, May 13, 1977; "The fact is, Sir, that I would suggest that when the time comes and the Advisory Board - he talks about the Advisory Board bringing in its report - then he goes ahead, "at that time, maybe at that time we should have the member for Port au Port (Mr. Hodder), the member for Stephenville together with government members, sit down with the final reports and as negotiations go on and various things happen let them be

MR. HODDER: aware of what it going on."

He goes on to say, "I think it is very important that when the final reports come in and possibilities develop rather than make promises on radio stations, rather than make false hopes available to the people, rather than doing these things that we sit down with those members who are most immediately concerned so that they can be part of the decision making process and the analysis and the judgements that have been made."

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

MR. HODDER: The question -

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

I think the hon. gentleman is getting to what I was about to direct him to, and that is to the question.

MR. HODDER: The question to the minister - I had meant to direct this question to the Premier for the last week and-a-half, but the Premier has not been here for a week and-a-half - but would the minister inform me now whether -

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

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order, I must interrupt.

MR. HICKMAN: For the record, that is not quite correct. I am sure the hon. gentleman's mind is not working clearly, The hon. the Premier was here last week.

MRS. MCISAAC: We saw him a couple of times.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. HODDER: I will withdraw that, Mr. Speaker, I will withdraw.

MR. SPEAKER: It is certainly not a point of order. It is not a matter on which the Chair can express an opinion. Will the hon. gentleman please continue?

MR. HODDER: The question I ask the minister in Charge of the Board of Directors, the Chairman of the Board

MR. HODDER: of Directors -

MR. DOODY: Excuse me, Mr. Speaker, I cannot hear the question the member is asking.

MR. HODDER: The question I have for the minister, does the minister have any intention, now that these negotiations are going on, or does the Premier have any intention of having a non-partisan committee look at proposals made as the Premier promised last year?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, there are several facets to that question. One of them is the preamble which I am tempted to ask the hon. member to repeat in the interest of information and for the interest of the House. It was rather lengthy but I think I distinctly heard the hon. member say, "Maybe it would be in the best interest of something or other if a group of the members from Port au Port and the member for Stephenville or something or other should sit down and so on to discuss various things." Obviously, the Premier and others decided in their wisdom that it would not be in the best interests of the divestiture of the mill if the hon. member for Port au Port and the hon. member for Stephenville were to sit down and discuss it, for the very reason that the hon. member mentioned himself, as he closed off his rather lengthy question, that the intent would be to have a non-partisan committee. It is very difficult to imagine a non-partisan committee composed of politicians from opposing parties. It kind of boggles the imagination and kind of hurts the sensibilities.

The object of the exercise, Sir, is to reactivate the mill for the benefit of the people in the Bay St. George area. It is not the intention nor indeed the concern of the Province of Newfoundland nor of the Government of Newfoundland to make political life more comfortable for any individual member in this particular House, whether he be from the Bay St. George area

MR. W. DOODY:

or from any other area. And towards that end, Sir, we have directed the activities of the Divestiture Committee and towards that end we will continue to do so. And hopefully, Sir, we will conclude the operation successfully and bring it to a conclusion that would be of benefit to the people in the area. That is our object, that is our aim and that is what we fully intend to do.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

MR. SPEAKER: Before the hon. gentleman calls an order or whatever matter may be looming, I recently noticed in the gallery above us Hon. William Woodroffe, Speaker of the legislature in New Brunswick. And I know hon. member would join me in welcoming him along with his colleagues.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I believe it would be appropriate at this time, Sir, and I am prepared to move a motion that Your Honour dispatch a letter of congratulations to the gentleman that I am about to refer if I can get a seconder on the government side of the House, Sir. I refer, Mr. Speaker, to the appointment that was made recently of Mr. Herb Wells to the International Research Organization Board. I must confess, Sir, it is the first time that I have ever heard of the IRNO but they tell me, Sir, it is a very prestigious organization throughout the world and that Mr. Herb Wells is, I believe, the first Canadian—maybe not the first Canadian, but certainly the first Newfoundlander to be appointed to this board. Hon. members will know Mr. Herb Wells as the veteran's columnist in the Evening Telegram. He was born in St. John's, served with the Royal Navy in the Second World War and was severely disabled in the Battle of the Atlantic. He was educated in St. Thomas's School, ex-servicemen's school and Memorial University College.

His column has kept before the people of this Province, Mr. Speaker, the sacrifice and the deeds of Newfoundlanders who served in two World Wars and the Korean Conflict.

MR. NEARY:

He has also, Sir, kept before the public the needs of veterans and his humane work on behalf and behind the scenes has now been recognized throughout the length and breadth of this Province. The veteran's column, I am told, is the longest continuous column in the one hundred year history of the Evening Telegram. And as a result of his work, Sir, in researching naval history, and we have all read many interesting items in connection with episodes that took place in the Second World War, it is in his research of the naval history, Sir, that he has been made a member of the prestigious International Naval Research Organization, IRNO, with headquarters in the United States.

I am sure, Sir, that members on both sides of the House would join with me in extending sincere congratulations to Mr. Herb Wells on this notable appointment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. House leader.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, with the leave of the House, because I realize we have passed the point in the Orders of the Day when Orders of the Day are called in the beginning, I would like to on behalf of government join in congratulating a distinguished public servant, still a very distinguished public servant, Mr. Herbert Wells who was a few years ago transferred to the Archives from another division of the public service where he is performing excellent service.

Apart altogether from his very distinguished war record, Mr. Wells has done yeoman service to the veterans of Newfoundland particularly in the field of research and I think it is to his credit that he has done more, I think, in researching the activities of the Merchant Marine than any other researcher in Newfoundland. We have had a lot of research work done by many writers into the Royal Navy and the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. Mr. Wells has done that also but he has in addition to that he has done a great deal of work in the local Merchant Marine and in those who sailed in schooners out of Newfoundland during World War II.

MR. HICKMAN:

I join with the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) in congratulating Mr. Wells on this well deserved recognition.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it the agreement of the House? Agreed.

MR. HICKMAN: Order 7, Bill No. 50 adjourned debate.

MR. SPEAKER: Order no. 7. The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. W. ROWE: Thank you, Sir.

MR. STRACHAN: Three more weeks to go on that bill.

MR. W. ROWE: Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Municipal Affairs talked about - where is the minister?

AN HON. MEMBER: He is gone again.

MR. W. ROWE: Gone again?

MR. STRACHAN: He has got a helicopter coming.

MR. W. ROWE: Ah, the ministers, Sir, are getting

MR. W.N. ROWE: very, very testy. There goes the Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: I am going to make one telephone call and I will be right back.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Come right back, though. I love to look over at the hon. Minister of Justice and see the look of embarrassment on his face, Sir, when his colleagues make fools of themselves in the House day after day.

So on this bill yesterday the Minister of Municipal Affairs talked about everything, Sir, except Bill 50. He dragged red herrings across. I do not blame him, Mr. Speaker, for not talking about Bill 50 because it is very hard to defend that bill, very difficult to defend that piece of legislation both in what it contains and the savage way in which it is being rammed down the throats of 250,000 - 200,00 people anyway.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. W.N. ROWE: Now, Mr. Speaker, we had a display of the manners and the lowness of the character of a certain minister yesterday, Mr. Speaker, in the House in your presence, if my memory serves me correct. Sir, I would like to be able to make this speech without suffering the indignities of discourtesies from that particular minister, Sir, if Your Honour would care to enforce the rules.

MR. MORGAN: Next time it will be outside the House.

MR. F. WHITE: (Inaudible) Moores is going to throw him out. He says he is. He has told everybody at Bally Haly he is going to throw him out as soon as the House closes.

MR. W.N. ROWE: There he goes, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not blame the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs. Now, Mr. Speaker, are you going to enforce the rules, Sir, I ask you? I do not want to be interrupted by that hon. gentleman, Sir, of all people in this House.

MR. MORGAN: You do not wish interruptions!

MR. W.N. ROWE: You have to use honourable even if you mean the opposite.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! If an hon. member requests
silence

MR. SPEAKER: for his remarks, of course the Chair will enforce the rules because all interruptions really are out of order. Only those are permitted which the House seems to condone. If an hon. member wishes to speak in silence, the Chair will enforce it.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, there are some interruptions and some interjections by hon. members opposite that I welcome because I have respect for certain hon. ministers and certain hon. members but, Sir, there are some, Sir, for whom I have nothing but the utmost contempt.

MR. MORGAN: I suppose.

MR. W.N. ROWE: People who fling around accusations, Mr. Speaker, serious accusations which fortunately are diminished by the lowness of the character and source from which they come, low types of low-lived individuals, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to be interrupted by that type of individual. If the hon. Minister of Energy wish to make a comment I would welcome it, Sir, or the hon. the House Leader, or a lot of other members opposite, but not that hon. member.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Municipal Affairs tried to intimate yesterday that the problems with St. John's and the region, the area that has grown up over the years, is the lack of regional government as mentioned in this Bill 50. Now I would agree, Sir, as we have mentioned publicly on hundreds of occasions that there was a need for a form of regional management in the St. John's urban area, the Northeast Avalon urban area. There was a need for regional management, a form of government but, as I said earlier, Sir, the problem with Bill 50 is that it contains some very obnoxious provisions in the principle of the bill and the manner in which it is being jammed and rammed through this House, Sir, is a disgrace to this institution and to that government and a disgrace to the will of hundreds and thousands and tens of thousands of people in the urban area, in the urban region concerned, a disgrace.

Mr. Speaker, just to briefly summarize what I said last night, we believe that a form of regional government in areas of this Province like the Burin Peninsula, for example, a form of

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MR. W.N. ROWE: regional government is good and acceptable and the concept is a good and acceptable concept. But, Mr. Speaker, Bill 50 as I mentioned yesterday perverts the concept, twists

MR. W.N. ROWE:

the concept, turns the concept into a monstrosity. And some of the powers contained in bill 50 are actually dangerous, Sir, to the democratic processes in this Province at whatever level you might want to have it, municipal or provincial or federal. And so the method which is being used is a contemptuous method, contemptuous of the will, of the thoughts, the ideas of people throughout this Province and throughout this area.

MR. MURPHY:

You must have been a wonderful baby.

MR. W.N. ROWE:

I thought the hon. member for St. John's Centre (Mr. A. Murphy) promised he was going to resign, Mr. Speaker? Why could he not keep his promise? At least he could have kept that promise. We know the government do not keep any commitments, but that should have been a promise he might have kept.

Mr. Speaker, the minister in his attempt, his stiff-necked and arrogant attempt to get this bill through the House, tried to turn St. John's as a city against the suburban and the rural areas of the region, tried to pretend that it was only St. John's that was against it, tried to pretend that St. John's was a city which could not plan its own future at all, which is the reverse and opposite of the truth. Because as I indicated yesterday, St. John's has a good history of planning and government, better, Sir, than this administration here, better, Mr. Speaker, one thousand times better in financial management, in planning than this administration over the past six years.

The minister will say that he has not heard one objection to date that has been backed by sound argument, that kind of an arrogant stand, Mr. Speaker. And now we have the situation where instead of regional government being implemented by way of a reasonable and

MR. W.N. ROWE: thoughtful process which I am sure the member for Mount Pearl (Mr. N. Windsor) would have welcomed, I am sure the member for St. John's Centre would have welcomed, a reasonable thoughtful process of give and take, consultation and so on, what do we get, Mr. Speaker, instead of that kind of a process? We have an arrogant minister treating people with such contempt that he has the whole area in a complete uproar, with 200,000 people or their representatives coming out against the minister, bill 50, and in some cases, Sir - I am sure this would not have been the case two or three months ago if the right procedures had been used - in some cases you have people coming out against the concept of a regional government because the atmosphere has been so poisoned by that hon. minister in the way he has been trying to ram it through without consultation except, perhaps, with a few of his own colleagues. But I would remind him, Sir, they do not represent everybody in the area and that there are other levels of government and other levels of society which are not represented adequately by seven or eight or nine or ten P.C. members in this House of Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, last night I mentioned something as well which has raised suspicions of people in this urban region and that is, Sir, that this government's history has been one of passing the buck and laying the blame on the backs of councillors, whether they are dealing with St. John's, or Corner Brook in the case of City councils, or town councils or community councils, Sir, pass the buck and lay the blame or cause the blame to be laid on councillors for the fact that services are not being provided in various communities, lay the blame or cause the blame to be laid. I say here now, Sir, that the suspicion is abroad, based, I would say, on good sound experience that this attempt, this particular attempt under

MR. W.N. ROWE: bill 50 to establish a regional government was and is another effort by this government to jam in the middle, between themselves and the people, a buffer zone such as the Minister of Forestry keeps talking about - buffer zones - a buffer zone that can take the blame when blame is going to be laid for the lack of services or lack of provision of services and that can be directed by the government when the government needs an instrument or a tool of its own policy. That is the suggestion, Sir, and the suspicion and I would say it is based on good sound experience.

MR. J. CARTER: Would the hon. member permit a question?

MR. NOLAN: No.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, he will have a chance to speak.

MR. J. CARTER: Just a short, serious question.

MR. NOLAN: Yeah!

MR. W.N. ROWE: A short serious question, Mr. Speaker, and the hon. member expects me to believe that in the light of experience.

MR. J. CARTER: Will you be laying out alternatives (inaudible).

MR. W. ROWE: Yes, we will, Sir, after the next election and leading up to the next election when our policies are made out to the people of the Province, we will have alternatives and we will be laying out some today. But if the hon. member wants us to take over the government all he has to do is persuade his Premier, if he can ever see him, to call an election.

MR. WHITE: Any day. We will do a better job.

MR. W. ROWE: Any time. Any time.

MR. NOLAN: The jig is up, 'John', boy.

MR. J. CARTER: I am serious.

MR. W. ROWE: And I am serious.

MR. J. CARTER: Alternative proposals (inaudible).

MR. W. ROWE: Yes, Mr. Speaker, alternative proposals will be presented at the right time and in the right place.

MR. RIDEOUT: Just like the Crosbie said when they asked him in Ottawa.

MR. W. ROWE: What did they say to him?

MR. RIDEOUT: They said exactly the same thing that you just said.

MR. W. ROWE: Exactly. If the hon. member wants me to be the government or represent the government, we on this side to represent the government, come on over with his proposals.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NOLAN: Crosbie is his buddy, sure.

AN HON. MEMBER: What is the right place? Did you find the right place -

MR. NOLAN: No. God no.

MR. DINN: Ask Crosbie. Let Crosbie answer your question.

AN HON. MEMBER: When are you going to do it?

MR. W. ROWE: It will be done, Mr. Speaker. It will be done.

Some of it will be done today and in succeeding days, some of it will be done leading up to the next election and during the next election and some of it will be done after the election is over.

MR. F. WHITE: The member for Mount Pearl spoke. He is not a spectator.

MR. W. ROWE: Oh, Mr. Speaker, there will be no lacking of sound and good policies. And it will not be done in this way, Mr. Speaker. Any policies that we have which vitally affect the people of a certain area we will make sure the people of that area are consulted fully, and the people of that area, Sir, will have a chance to have their ideas put across to the government. They will be invited to do so. They will be encouraged to do so. We will not do as the hon. minister has done, Sir, allow Bill 101 to die on the vine, give the impression that the thing is dead and gone and then a year later revive Bill 50 and ram it through the House and pretend to the people of this Province and to this urban region they have had a year to consult with the government, when Sir, most of them, most of the councillors have not seen this bill.

MR. NOLAN: I do not know if they officially have it yet, do they?

MR. W. ROWE: They probably do not officially have it yet.

MR. DINN: Did send them your copy? I sent them mine.

MR. NOLAN: I had it copied. But do not forget the minister's public statement; He was going to send it to them. Now I am asking you did he?

MR. W. ROWE: He did not at all. He did not.

MR. DINN: Why did you not send it to them?

MR. W. ROWE: He did send it to them. The only reason, Sir, councils would have it in Conception Bay South, councils would have it is because of the good graces of the hon. member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan). And a letter was written to the paper the other day in which that point was made. A councillor, a gentleman who signed his name, said, "I would not have known to this moment, Sir, if I had to depend on the government and the minister, I would not have known what the provisions of Bill 50

MR. W. ROWE: were. And," he said, "a friendly member which I" -

MR. N. WINDSOR: It was not a councillor, by the way.

MR. W. ROWE: It was not a councillor? Oh, I see. He goes around now checking, Sir, who writes letters and whether he is a councillor or not.

MR. DINN: (Inaudible) table in the House.

MR. W. ROWE: What is going on now, Sir? What is the hon. member, Sir, the PC Party black bookkeeper, is he? Who writes letters to the paper now? Who is a councillor? Who is this? Who is that? Is that what he is doing? He knows an awful lot about it, Sir.

MR. N. WINDSOR: I just want to get things straight (inaudible).

MR. W. ROWE: Oh, no. He will have an opportunity to speak, Sir, and we will see what a great piece of oratory we will get from the hon. member for Mount Pearl (Mr. N. Windsor) now in a moment.

AN HON. MEMBER: The Premier is gone. He is acting.

MR. W. ROWE: Oh, he is the hon. Premier today. Well, Sir, that explains why the intelligence on that side of the House has gone up from an IQ of fifty to fifty-seven, gone up.

Mr. Speaker, he should have sent the bill to all the councillors as I mentioned yesterday and we should have had briefing sessions and other interested groups and parties should have been able to get involved. And as I mentioned yesterday, Sir, to conclude this part, this general part of my few remarks here today, as I mentioned yesterday, Sir, the minister's attitude, whether anybody wants it or not they are going to get it, they are going to have it rammed down their throats, it is going to be rammed through the House. I do not care what anybody says, they are going to get it. "We know what is best for the people" -

MR. NEARY: Right.

MR. W. ROWE: - that attitude, Mr. Speaker, has now put the bill in this kind of a situation where even

MR. W. ROWE: if you started out in favour of Bill 50 and the provisions of Bill 50 you would have to, in all conscience and all principle, you would have to take a stand against it, Mr. Speaker, on principle because of the arrogant way the Bill is being jammed through this House. You would have to, Sir. The Minister has poisoned the atmosphere, has caused, I would say, the concept of regional government to be set back ten or fifteen years in this particular area. And the bill will go through, Sir. It will go through but it will be a hollow victory for the Minister and the Government because there will be so many people who the Minister has turned off, Sir, has poisoned, has polarized, has forced into a corner to take a position which they might not have taken if the thing was done reasonably and in a thoughtful, sensible and rational manner by the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Sir, he has made his bed now and he has to lie in it. He seems to welcome scraps. Sir, I do not know if he is trying to give out the impression that he is a fighter, or that he is not going to back down, or that he is brave and courageous, or what he is trying to do. Let him do that, Sir, on the football field or something.

We are talking about people here now who are going to be affected by Bill 50 and he should listen to the views and ideas of people in the region, the 200,000 people who are going to be affected by this bill.

Now, sir, let us get to the bill itself. I mentioned last night very briefly that the whole attitude and psychology of the bill is set out in section 3 which is the first section in part 1, "Purposes and Application of the Act", where it mentions that the purpose of this act is to provide a framework for regional government in a Northeast Avalon region in order to provide certain municipal services of a regional nature throughout

MR. W. ROWE: the region as delegated, as delegated, Mr. Speaker, not by the House of Assembly, not by the House of Assembly, not powers delegated to a regional council by the people's representatives, the House of Assembly, passed by way of an act which contains all the powers and provisions, Mr. Speaker. Not that. No, Mr. Speaker, the powers and the nature of this regional council will be such as are delegated to the regional council by the Government, by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, by the Cabinet, by the political Cabinet representing a small portion of the public opinion of this Province at the moment. They, Sir, will have the power and set the tone and call the tune under this act, and delegate the powers to this regional council.

MR. J. CARTER: You are against the (inaudible).

MR. W. ROWE: What is the hon. member saying? Would the Speaker care to give me an interpretation of what he is asking?

Mr. Speaker, the powers of a body, which is a powerful body and a body which can affect the lives and property rights and services and so on everywhere is such a huge area, two or three hundred thousand people, two hundred and fifty thousand people, should be set out in the bill, if that is what the hon. member is asking me, and not tucked away and subject to regulations to be promulgated by the Government in secret conclave, no debate or anything like that, Mr. Speaker, delegate all kinds of powers to this region which, in turn, a substantial portion of is actually appointed by the same Government, Mr. Speaker. If that is what he means, that I am against -

MR. NOLAN: He knows that.

MR. W. ROWE: - that kind of a procedure and that kind of a concept when it comes to the setting up of this regional council, yes, I am against it.

MR. J. CARTER: The Government can (inaudible).

MR. W. ROWE: Now, Mr. Speaker, moving on to other principles of the act, we come to section 4 which says that this act

MR. W. ROWE: applies throughout the geographic area governed by the regional council. The act only applies to that area which is governed by the regional council.

Then moving down to section 7, clause 7 of the bill, it says, "The boundaries of the region are to be as prescribed by order of the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council." Now, Mr. Speaker, if this is not the paramount, the apex in contempt for this House of Assembly, Sir, I would like to know what possibly it could be.

Here I am up debating a bill. Every member of this House will be up at least once, perhaps half a dozen times before this debate is over, Sir. And what are we debating? We are debating a regional government, Sir, and the Minister

MR. W. ROWE: has not even had the courtesy to let us know what the geographic area is that we are debating or concerning the area about which we are debating these incredible powers. Now the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) may think that is great, may think that is beautiful, enabling legislation. I think it is a contempt of this House of Assembly; I think it is a contempt of the people who may be concerned in the area, who do not know to this moment whether they are going to be included in this bill or not. Is Foxtrap included? Is Holyrood included? I understand that the hon. the Minister of Highways is going to have it removed for political purposes.

MR. J. CARTER: (Inaudible) ought to be allowed (inaudible).

MR. W. ROWE: What are you talking about?

Read the bill. Will he read the bill, Mr. Speaker?

MR. NOLAN: Where is the water coming from?

Who are you going to sell it to?

MR. W. ROWE: Really, do not show your lack of knowledge like that. He should not show his lack of knowledge, Mr. Speaker, in that way, because the people of St. John's North are going to be very disappointed when they learn, as they have to learn, that they have a member who does not know anything about the bill.

MR. RIDEOUT: The minister says they drew it up, the Tory members.

MR. W. ROWE: Yes, that is right. All the Tory members got together in a secret little meeting and drew up the bill. They must have left the hon. member out. Just as he was taken and flung out of the Cabinet, they must have thrown him out of that little inner caucus they had because he is too disruptive, asking idiotic questions

MR. W. ROWE: and supplying equally idiotic answers to his own rhetorical questions. That is the problem with that hon. member. But, Sir, he should really learn. He should learn that we are here debating a bill containing great powers, Mr. Speaker, and we do not even know what area the bill is going to cover. Does it extend to Avondale? Does it extend to Sunnyside? Is the cut-off point going to be Clarendville? What is it?

MR. NOLAN: The only clue we have is Northeast Avalon.

MR. W. ROWE: The Northeast Avalon. We do not know, Mr. Speaker, we are here debating a bill and we do not know the area to which the bill is going to be applied. Now if that is not the apex in arrogance and contempt, Mr. Speaker, there is no such thing, there is no possible way of being arrogant or contemptuous. No wonder Ray Fahey is leading this drive. A man - by the way, somebody mentioned that he was going to be a great Liberal candidate or something.

MR. NEARY: He was criticized, abused -

MR. W. ROWE: Sure he was a P.C. the last time I heard of him. Maybe he is now, I do not know. Who cares what politics or political party the man adheres to? Who cares? The fact is that he is leading a drive which has right on its side, which is a credible drive, which is a crusade which has merit and should be listened to.

MR. J. CARTER: Rubbish!

MR. W. ROWE: Rubbish, that is right, because you see, the utmost in Tory philosophy is to be contemptuous of the people. My colleagues are beginning to understand that. The people are the lowest form of life; Mr. Speaker,

MR. W. ROWE: as far as true Tory philosophy is concerned. The people are the lowest form of life. If only the hon. member did not have to go through that tiresome charade every four or five years of getting himself elected, that is what he says in his own mind. 'If only I could just be member as a result of birthright.'

MR. NOLAN: Only the ruling classes are fit to govern.

MR. W. ROWE: That is right. If only, Sir. Well, I have news for him. He won by 400 votes, I believe, last time. He is going to lose by 2,400 votes this time, Mr. Speaker, if he has the courage to run in St. John's North. Why? Because, Sir, he shows that he has no concern along with his colleagues for the views and the wishes and the feelings of the people that he seeks to represent, because if he did, Sir, he would not be making these asinine comments.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the Act applies to an area designated by the government whenever they see fit. They do not see fit to tell us what the area is, mind you, at the present time. It is going to be Northeast Avalon. They will probably rename the area from here to Cape Chidley Northeast Avalon for all I know, by Order in Council as well, or, Sir, it may only go ten miles outside the city of St. John's, I do not know.

MR. NOLAN: The real danger is, where is the next spot they are going to hit with so-called regional government?

MR. W. ROWE: Now, Sir, Section 5, which is another one of the major principles, Mr. Speaker, says, "except as is necessary for the regional council to exercise

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Tape 4651

EC - 4

MR. W. ROWE:

the powers granted to it
under or pursuant to this Act, nothing in this Act is to
abridge the powers

MR. W.N. ROWE:

granted to any municipality or board under the Local Government Act or any community under the Community Councils Act or the city of St. John's under the City of St. John's Act." That sounds great, Mr. Speaker, this looks as if this regional council will go into place and that the city of St. John's and the community councils and the Local Improvement Districts will not have any of their powers or rights removed from them, that is what it looks like on the surface, until, Sir, you read the first few words in that section 5, that Clause 5 (1) "except as is necessary for the regional council to exercise the powers granted to it under this act." In other words, Sir, all of the considerable powers granted to this local, this council, this urban council under this act plus such powers as may be given to it secretly. -

MR. J. CARTER:

There is nothing to that.

MR. W.N. ROWE:

- by the government, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, the Cabinet, Mr. Speaker, all those powers that may be secretly given to it which we will not know it has until it is proclaimed as having, no debate or anything on it. Mr. Speaker, until that time the fact of the matter is is that somebody has the right in the regional council of the government itself to decide what is necessary for the council to exercise its powers and then of course they can do whatever they want to, ride roughshod over any council in the Northeast Avalon area.

MR. J. CARTER:

Read clause (2).

MR. W.N. ROWE:

Sub-section 2 the hon. member wants me to read. Oh, that is the great body blow. "Nothing in this act is to be interpreted as amending any of the provisions of the Local Government Act, Community Council Act or as amending any regulation or by-law of a municipality as made by a municipality pursuant to the powers granted to it under any of these acts." So what, Mr. Speaker? Sure that is overridden. That is overridden by the one that precedes it. If the hon. member knew anything about the way

MR. W.N. ROWE: statutes are going to be interpreted if this urban regional council determines that something is necessary for it to exercise the powers granted to it under, pursuant to this act and puts something into effect, Mr. Speaker, and some council then had to go to court in order to claim that it had its act or its by-laws overridden by the regional council, Mr. Speaker, I would be very surprised if the community council would stand much of a chance against the regional council itself. So the hon. member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) should not console himself that in some way the councils are protected by that particular section. Otherwise what is the use of section one? What is the use of section one? If the section reads or is to be interpreted as he believes it should be, namely, that cities and communities and towns are not to be affected by anything in this act then would he kindly tell us what is the use of section one? And any judge, and I do not want to get in the legal argument on it, Mr. Speaker, but any judge has to in interpreting statutes has to give meaning to sections. He has to assume that the House of Assembly meant to pass them for some purpose and the purpose of passing that particular section 5 (1) is to give the urban, the council itself, the regional council overall power, overall power, Sir, and there is no doubt in my mind as to what would be declared to be supreme if, as and when a conflict occurs between the urban region, the urban council itself and, say, Outer Cove.

AN HON. MEMBER: Have a look at section 30.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Oh, yes I am getting to all that. Now, Mr. Speaker, section six, which contains another one of the important principles of the act, says, "There is hereby established a region to be known as the Northeast Avalon region for such purposes of local government throughout the region as are delegated to the regional council by the Lieutenant-Governor in council or set out in his act." Mr. Speaker, I would say that if everyone in this House put their heads together for a week or two trying to come up with ways and means to give this council, and for the government to have the power to give

June 20, 1978

Tape 4652

DW - 3

MR. W.N. ROWE: this council complete and utter
power over every individual and every council, you would not be
able to come up with a better method of doing it then is shown
in section 6 or clause 6 of this Bill. "There is hereby established
a region to be known as the Northeast Avalon region for such
purposes of local government

MR. W. ROWE: throughout the region as are delegated to the regional council by the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council or set out in this act." If the powers are not contained in the act for this regional council then the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council, the Tory Cabinet consisting of such luminaries as the member for Bonavista South (Mr. Morgan), for example - What would you trust him with, Mr. Speaker? What would you trust him with?

MR. NEARY: You would trust him with a beer tavern, I suppose.

MR. W. ROWE: I do not know.

MR. NEARY: A spruce budworm?

MR. W. ROWE: What would you trust him with? You would not trust him with power over your property and power over your civil rights and power over whether or not you get services. But, Sir, this act has given the regional council either through the act itself or through authority given to the Government, the Tory Government, to give this regional council absolute power in terms of municipal government in this area.

The member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall) knows that is true. And if the City of St. John's and the regional council were ever in conflict, then the regional council would be considered to be supreme in power and rights, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NOLAN: A sort of a municipal -

MR. W. ROWE: So that may be good or it may be bad, but let us at least call a spade a spade.

MR. S. NEARY: That is the defender of people's rights you are talking about over there, the hon. member for St. John's East.

MR. W. ROWE: Let us tell the truth to the people of St. John's and the regions, the areas, the suburban area and the rural area. Let us tell them the truth. Let us not try to pull gigantic red herrings over the whole thing. Let us tell them the

MR. W. ECHE:

truth. Is the Tory Cabinet afraid of the truth so they are going to ram this through hoping that nobody sees the truth? Well they will know the truth, Mr. Speaker. The people of the area will know the truth because, Sir, we are going to tell them the truth and their own councillors are going to tell them the truth and other persons are going to tell them the truth.

Now, Mr. Speaker, lest there be any doubt about the plan by this Government to give power that this Government itself wants to exercise, let us turn to clause 9 of the bill which says that the regional council, this great, democratic, regional council is to consist of a chairman and four councillors-at-large to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council - which is a fifty-cent way of saying Tory Cabinet. The P.C. Cabinet will have the right to appoint a chairman and four councillors-at-large. Five of the fifteen councillors in this council, Sir, will be appointed by the Government, the Government which has the right to delegate or withhold powers to the council also has the right to nominate, to name, five of the fifteen, one-third. So you say one-third, Mr. Speaker. That is not bad. Two-thirds are going to be democratically elected, are they? So, therefore, the people's rights are going to be protected. Some of the councillors in any event will be responsive to the people's needs rather than being merely the tool and mouthpiece of the Tory Government.

Unfortunately, Sir, there are two things to be said about that. The first regional council which will go on for a number of months after the bill is proclaimed by the Government, and they will choose the date of the proclamation when it becomes law, the first regional council, Sir, is to consist of the chairman and the four councillors appointed under the section I have just read, who are to act as the full regional council until the elected councillors take office and the first

June 26, 1978

Tape No. 4653

RT-3

MR. W. FOWE: regional council so appointed is deemed to be properly constituted notwithstanding the absence of the elected councillors.

MR. J. CARTER: You do not remember (Inaudible)

MR. W. FOWE: No, I do not remember, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NOLAN: This is 1978 boy.

MR. W. FOWE: I am probably in the hon. member's mind, which is

MR. W.N. ROWE: a tiny bit askew in my estimation, I am responsible for Confederation too. I was then in short pants and five years old.

MR. NEARY: What about the tidal wave? Were you responsible for that to that too?

MR. W.N. ROWE: The tidal wave? I was in utero, as a medical doctor would say, at that time, the time of the tidal wave so I dare say I had some responsibility. I may not even have been in utero. I may have been something else, as the hon. member says.

MR. F.B. ROWE: In contemplation.

MR. W.N. ROWE: I may not even have been contemplated but still responsibility is there, Sir. The hon. member has a different theology. It used to be unto the third generation, Sir, a man's sins would go on to the third generation. The hon. member's political theology is it goes back three generations. You go back. You are responsible, Sir, yourself.

AN HON. MEMBER: He thinks you were here before.

MR. W.N. ROWE: That is right. But, Sir, that point has to be made that there is going to be a period of time during which the five appointed councillors, including the chairman, constitute the full regional council and have all the powers under this act and is deemed to be constituted as the full regional council. That body, Mr. Speaker, will be the tool, and according to the public statements made by the chairman to be the willing tool and mouthpiece of this government. Now, Mr. Speaker, that is what is going on and the people should know that. Point number one about this famous council, one-third is to be appointed by the government. The next point that we have to remember about it, Mr. Speaker, is that a quorum of this council consists of a majority of the council. Now we assuming an election has taken place, we are assuming the appointed councillors are there and the other ten councillors are there as well who have been elected by various ways. So what is a quorum? A quorum, Mr. Speaker, is a majority of those, which is eight out of the fifteen. That quorum by a majority vote can decide all the questions which need be decided under the very great powers given to the council under this bill. Which means, Sir, that five out

MR. W.N. ROWE: of the eight can exercise all the powers if there is a quorum there of eight, five out of the eight can exercise all the powers of this act and it is therefore possible, Sir, in theory and I would say in practise it will be realized it is possible for the five appointed members, appointed by that hon. minister, and if one would not trust the hon. Minister of Tourism with too many of one's responsibilities I would say that the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs is not all that responsible as well.

MR. MORGAN: (Inaudible).

MR. W.N. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, would you mind telling that, I call him hon. because that is the procedure and the tradition, Sir, even though I may mean the opposite I call him hon. May I be protected from him and his discourtesies?

MR. SPEAKER: As all hon. members are aware, they have the right to speak without interruption.

MR. W.N. ROWE: That is right, Sir. As I said earlier, I welcome interruptions from some members. The hon. member for Exploits, for example, I would welcome that or the hon. member for Mount Pearl but not that hon. minister, Sir.

Mr. Speaker, so it is quite possible in practise for the decisions to be taken—first of all for the first six months they can all be taken by these appointed councillors who are the tools and mouthpiece perhaps of the government perhaps and certainly they are not responsive nor responsible to the elected people and, Sir, for the next time or time in memorial after that it is possible for five of those councillors when a quorum situation of eight exists for five the majority of that quorum to be these appointed people. So the whole point, without bringing it to extremes, is that

MR. W. ROWE:

there should not be any appointed councillors. Is the Speaker making menacing gestures at me or is it my colleague?

MR. SPEAKER: No, I am indicating to the hon. gentleman that he is coming close to drinking coffee in the Chamber.

MR. W. ROWE: Oh, I see. Okay.

Mr. Speaker, so it is not too far fetched and the whole idea of having appointed councillors is repulsive and repugnant, Mr. Speaker, in this day and age and it only shows once more that there has to be a feeling of contempt in the hon. minister and his government for the people who are to be served by this council, otherwise why would they not allow elected people to have all the powers under this act? Cannot trust them, that is the feeling. That is the attitude.

MR. F. ROWE: If they got an automatic majority for six months and then it could go a year and a half.

AN HON. MEMBER: Right, it could go a year and a half.

MR. W. ROWE: That is right, it could go a year and a half. That is absolutely correct. That is right. So, Mr. Speaker, there is a contempt for the people that is expressed in this bill mostly, contempt for the people. People do not know what they want, people do not know what is good for them according to this minister, and once we ram down their throats something which they do not know is good for them, once they have taken their medicine then they will not be permitted to administer their own affairs. We will do it for them by appointed people who could be party hacks. They could be good. But, Sir, whoever they are responsible to, as we will see when we come to the payment, whoever they are responsible to, Mr. Speaker, we do know this that they will not be responsible to the people in the area because they were not elected by them and they are under no pressure from people. They are responsible to the government and to the government alone.

Now, Mr. Speaker, why do I say that the appointed councillors may be more responsible to the government than to the people in the area? Well there is a little section here which is section 14 (1)

MR. W. ROWE:

which has a side note to it which says, "Remuneration." What it says is this, "The Lieutenant-Governor in Council," the Tory Cabinet "may authorize the regional council to pay its chairman, vice chairman and the other councillors such annual or other remuneration as may be contained in the authorization."

AN HON. MEMBER: It does not say how much though.

MR. W. ROWE: No, it does not say how much, Mr. Speaker, because the government will decide from time to time how much it is going to pay the chairman and how much it is going to pay the other councillors, for that matter, which is a bad situation. It is a wrong situation. I would say it removes a little bit of the responsibility and maybe a great bit of the responsibility of even the elected councillors to have the government of the Province as the authority which is going to say how much they are going to be paid or not paid. But aside from the elected councillors, I would assume that they would be more amenable to representations and pressures from the people they were elected to represent. But the appointed councillors, Mr. Speaker, the chairman and the other appointed councillors, Sir, are going to have the power of the purse held over their heads and the government will whip them into line if necessary by taking away an authorization or pushing ahead an authorization. Be good little boys now and we will up your remuneration or pay; take a line which is contrary to the government line, the P.C. Government line and we will down your remuneration.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is as brutally blunt as that. And people should remember that it is as brutally blunt as that. And further, Mr. Speaker, section 15 (1). If because for some reason of the poisoned atmosphere created by this minister and this government in the way they are bringing this act through the House, pushing this bill through the House, Sir, if section 15 should come into play, for example, "where in an election or by-election for the regional council no candidates or an insufficient number of candidates are nominated or fewer persons are elected as councillors then the number provided for in the act, then

MR. W. ROWE:

the minister may appoint such councillors as may be necessary to bring the number up to the number provided for in the act."

I do not care, Mr. Speaker, if it is the same as the man in the moon. I do not care, Mr. Speaker, if it is the same as regulations and promulgations put out by Adolph Hitler in 1939. We are debating this bill and whether this bill is satisfactory for the purposes or not. The hon. minister said yesterday that the Local Government Act contains so much junk and stuff that it was totally unacceptable. But, Sir, I am talking about more than criticizing this particular section in itself which if it stood by itself

MR. W. ROWE: would not be amenable to criticism or conducive to criticism. What I am saying, Sir, is that the cumulative effect of all these powers of the minister and the Lieutenant-Governor in Council with regard to remuneration, with regard to delegated legislation and the making of regulations, with regard to the appointment of the chairman, who, by the way, will be by far the most important official here, he will be the man who will lead the council, a man from whom the other councillors will undoubtedly take their lead, these councillors, these five who are to be appointed by the government, Sir. And the powers which the government can give the council and the powers to pay or not pay the council, all of these powers, Mr. Speaker, - and the people of the district concerned should know this - all of these powers give the regional council and the government of the Province itself - not this House, Mr. Speaker, where it could be debated and passed or not passed on its merits - but give the government, the Cabinet, the secret Cabinet and this council, Sir, complete and utter control over this area which we do not even know, is undefined, we do not know what the geographical area is, all we know at this moment is that there is some vague and nebulous area in people's minds. The hon. the member for Mount Pearl (Mr. N. Windsor) who presumably has a town which will be included in this area, cannot tell me what is going to be included in it.

MR. N. WINDSOR: Yes I can.

MR. W. ROWE: Well, how come he knows and I do not?

MR. N. WINDSOR: The minister told us yesterday.

MR. W. ROWE: He did not tell anybody yesterday! 'The minister told us yesterday!' Will the minister table the defined

MR. W. ROWE:

boundaries? Will he? Not

interested enough, Mr. Speaker. Too arrogant, too contemptuous of the people, he will not do it.

As if the minister expects us to take his word on it. Sure the Minister of Forestry told us he was going to give twenty-four hours notice of the time when he was going to start spraying the poison chemical, matacil, all over the Province. And who has heard of that, Mr. Speaker? Has the hon. the member for Conception Bay South heard one of these announcements?

MR. NOLAN:

No.

MR. W. ROWE:

No, I have seen advertising campaigns, the lowest form of advertising campaign designed to prop up a programme which cannot stand on its own two feet and on its own merits, paid political advertising. So what is the point? I mean, even if the minister did say it yesterday in an offhand manner, who can take that as Gospel truth? Nobody! Nobody, Sir!

Now, Mr. Speaker, as if that is not enough, as if the powers which I have already outlined as belonging to the minister - it might even be better if the Lieutenant-Governor in Council had some of these powers - but that minister has a great deal of power under this Act too, Sir, and as we have seen yesterday and the days that have gone by, he cannot be trusted, Mr. Speaker, this Minister of Municipal Affairs, to exercise these powers in a reasonable method or in a reasonable manner, because he is likely to get his back up; pride and honour and macho are likely to come into it. He is going to do it though the heavens may fall, will be his attitude. But this minister, Sir, has this further power in Section 17 of the Regional Government Act: "Notwithstanding any other provision of this or any other Act," Mr. Speaker, "where it appears to the minister that it is expedient to hold an election or a by-election,

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MR. W. ROWE: he may prescribe a day for the holding of the election or by-election and may appoint a returning officer to conduct it."

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. W. ROWE: Sure, there should be an election on a stated term. So the scenario that is painted, Mr. Speaker, is even more repugnant to common sense and to good

MR. W. ROWE: good principles of democratic municipal government. The minister not satisfied with appointing five hacks to do his bidding and the bidding of his own partisan government, finds that he is saddled, Mr. Speaker, with, say, four or five recalcitrant elected members that he does not like and will not do his bidding, so all he has to do is exercise this power. He does not have to go to the government to get the power, he does not have to come to this House to get the power; all he has to do, Mr. Speaker, when he deems it expedient - and expedient is the right word, politically expedient - all he has to do, Sir, is prescribe a day for the holding of an election and try to get some more putty-like or more amenable candidates elected in this urban region. And, Sir, that is perhaps one of the most repugnant sections of the act, and one which should be changed. There should be a set time for elections or otherwise, Sir, we will have the grave suspicion that the government, which is going to use the powers in this act, and the minister, who gives every indication that he is quite capable of it, Mr. Speaker, quite capable of abusing the powers of that act, quite capable of it, and who in their right minds would give that hon. minister that power, Sir? Nobody.

I mentioned earlier, Sir, section 21 and 23, mentioned the quorum that is necessary. It is a majority of the councillors and, as I said earlier, a majority of the majority which could be five councillors can decide all matters under this act.

Now, Mr. Speaker, not satisfied with the immense and enormous powers already given to the government and to the council under this act, what does section 30 say? Part three of the act is described, powers, entitled "powers", prescribed powers. Section 30 says that the government may by order, Mr. Speaker, not after debate or after a bill has been passed by this hon. House

MR. W. ROWE: after full public debate with the people having an opportunity to find out what is going on and to make representations, no Sir, the government may by order, which is a secret Cabinet order, and how secret these Cabinet orders can be was seen in the infamous Moores-Dobbin contract where a secret contract and a secret Order in Council was passed, Mr. Speaker, and never saw the light of day until we brought it up here a couple of months ago and got thrown out of the House for our pains, the only institution in the world where you are thrown out for telling the truth. How secret these orders can be, Sir, is seen from the infamous Moores-Dobbin contract, that attempted rip off of \$70 million of public money, which fortunately was thwarted, I hope, forever, although, Sir, I would not say we should let down our guard.

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

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order.

MR. PECKFORD: On a point of order.

MR. W. ROWE: Oh, the constitutional expert.

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

Leader of the Opposition was just heard to exclaim that this is the only institution in the world from which you get expelled for telling the truth. Now, Mr. Speaker, I have not had time to check any of the experts on the matter of the Standing Orders but it would seem to me that that is an awful way to characterize this institution and I suppose the Chair in some way, shape or form is also implicated in it. I should think that on reflection the hon. the Leader of the Opposition would not want to have that kind of statement which reflects so negatively, so badly upon this institution called Parliament, to have it stand permanently in the record. I would ask Your Honour to provide some guidance as to whether that kind of statement, casting that kind of reflection upon the House, should be allowed to stand.

MR. SPEAKER: To that point of order, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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MR. W. ROWE: It seems to the hon. minister this
and it seems to the hon. minister that -does the hon.
member have a

MR. W.N. ROWE:

point of order or does he not? You cannot ask the Chair questions and so on, so I say there is no point of order.

MR. PECKFORD:

I was trying to be fair to the hon. member.

MR. W.N. ROWE:

Oh, be fair! Let the hon. member look after himself. And the hon. minister should look to himself.

Mr. Speaker, I -

MR. SPEAKER:

On the matter, I assume that it was made as a point of order so I shall have to dispose of it.

MR. W.N. ROWE:

He called it a point of order, Sir, but it was clear after he had mumbled and stumbled along for five minutes or so that there was no point of order and that he was groping in the dark, and on a fishing expedition. There is no point of order, Sir. I said that this is the only institution where you are thrown out for telling the truth, and I would repeat that. I feel that I told the truth and I was thrown out, Sir, for, as Your Honour well knows, not because what I said was proved to be false, but because what I said was unparliamentary language and I refused to withdraw my unparliamentary language.

MR. PECKFORD:

That shows your tack.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. W.N. ROWE:

That is what I did, I refused to withdraw it and I have not withdrawn it to this day and I will not withdraw it, Sir, because it was the truth.

And, Sir, I was thrown out of this House for telling the truth.

MR. J. CARTER:

Would the member repeat what he said?

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. W.N. ROWE:

Any time, any place.

MR. SPEAKER:

I think, perhaps, I am in a position to deal with this now. The statement which the

MR. SPEAKER: hon. gentleman to my left took exception to and rose on a point of order was, if not verbatim very close to the allegation by the hon. gentleman to my right, the hon. Leader of the Opposition and that was, "This is the only institution in the world where a person is expelled for telling the truth."

As hon. members are aware, and there are references certainly in May to this, that it is part of the duty of the Chair to see that the parliamentary institution is not - not criticized, but undermined or referred to in such a way which would tend to bring it into disrepute. My interpretation, which is what I have to go on, is that the hon. gentleman's remarks were that of criticism of the government, or of government activity which one may or may not agree with. But it was in that way that I interpreted the remarks rather than in any other way.

MR. W.N. ROWE: And Your Honour was absolutely right. Because Your Honour knows that I and my colleagues on this side of the House have the utmost in respect for the Speaker of this House. Mr. Speaker, what we do not have the utmost in respect for is this group which happens to be opposite us here today.

MR. HOUSE: That is what you were thrown out for saying.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Because it was the government, Sir, in an attempt to cover up the - what? - the peccadilloes of their leader that used brute force to throw me and a dozen more of us out of the House of Assembly for telling the truth. They chose to do it, Mr. Speaker, and they will pay for it at the appropriate time. It was not Your Honour, Your Honour merely followed the rules of the House.

MR. PECKFORD: (Inaudible) yourself to France and deserted the whole system (inaudible) in Newfoundland. What did you do while you were away?

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

MR. W.N. ROWE: Your Honour, I do not know -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

There should not be interruptions.

MR. W.N. ROWE: No, Sir, there should not be because Your Honour is being grossly insulted by the member for Green Bay (Mr. Peckford). I assume he is referring to Your Honour when he says somebody left their district and went over and spent a year studying. Is that what he is saying? Because it is a gross insult to Your Honour if it is and I would ask Your Honour to withdraw it if he meant Your Honour. Or maybe he meant me, in which case Your Honour and I did exactly the same thing, in which case any insult to me is an insult to Your Honour.

MR. PECKFORD: There is strength in numbers.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Yes, there is strength in numbers.

The hon. member will find that when he gets about 400 votes the next time around.

MR. PECKFORD: No, I will not see that.

MR. W.N. ROWE: All right. Now, if the hon. Minister of Energy -

AN HON. MEMBER: The King of Holiday Inn (inaudible).

MR. W.N. ROWE: The King of Holiday Inn? He should go over again, Sir, with his unholy triumvirate.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. W.N. ROWE: Oh, you have not heard that story? You will, because it is all over the Province.

MR. PECKFORD: We heard some stories, too.

We will tell the hon. member soon.

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

MR. PECKFORD: We have stories to tell.

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

MR. W.N. ROWE: Tell a few stories.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

AN HON. MEMBER: Have we ever got stories.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

Hon. gentlemen -

MR. W.N. ROWE:

Tell a few.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

All hon. members, I wish -

MR. W.N. ROWE:

The hon. gentleman cannot

even look me in the eye.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

I would ask all hon. members to follow the requirements of the Chair that there not be interruptions. I think one has to use a certain amount of judgement and if I have reason to believe that these interruptions will lead to a deterioration of order, then I think it is not their volume which is the deciding factor but, if one wishes, the mood of the House, or however one wishes to describe it, and it is part of my duty to endeavour to prevent disorder before it occurs, a kind of preventive responsibility and I would ask hon. members now to cease interrupting.

MR. W.N. ROWE:

Thank you, Sir.

MR. W.N. ROWE: As I intimated earlier, I do not mind interruptions, Mr. Speaker, but when you get interruptions from that political basket case that passes as the Minister of Tourism I will not tolerate it, Sir.

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

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order.

MR. PECKFORD: The hon. Leader of the Opposition is completely out of order. I do not think there is anything in the bill under discussion in principle or in detail which relates to the Minister of Tourism and the comments by the Leader of the Opposition are completely and absolutely irrelevant.

MR. SPEAKER: I will point out obviously the principle of the bill before the House is one dealing with urban reorganization and municipal urban reorganization and all hon. members remarks should obviously be directed to that.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Thank you, Sir. Getting back to the immense and repugnant powers of this act, Mr. Speaker, any one of which, I have mentioned a dozen so far, any one of which should have the act thrown out holus-bolus and redrafted with new concepts and new ideas, Sir, but getting back to it, section 30 of the act says that the government may by order, by order, Mr. Speaker, that means a secret order like the Dobbin-Moores secret order, secret contract for a rip off of the public purse. Mr. Speaker, the regional council may have for the entire region or any portion of the area governed by the regional council powers in respect of and it goes down through the powers here, Mr. Speaker, operation and construction of regional, water supplies, operation of regional public transport systems, Sir, on and on and on, any other facility or services of a regional nature. Now, Sir, what I find repugnant about that is that this government itself can dream up the powers that this regional council may have and may give the regional council these powers without any debate, without any questions asked of the people of the province or the area concerned, no thought

MR. W.N. ROWE: for that, Mr. Speaker. The government may by secret order like the infamous Moores-Dobbin secret order to construct a \$70 million office building with \$20 million built in profit for the Premier's best friend, Craig Dobbin, like that secret order, Sir, they can pass secret orders in respect of this regional government and that I find repugnant, Sir. There should be some examination of powers which are passed over to regional councils, powers which may be exercised over councils or over individuals. There should be some scrutiny and some examination. Now the scrutiny and examination that would normally obtain would be that the people who are to exercise the powers are to be elected by the people in the area concerned but we do not have that protection in this case. We have a very substantial portion of the regional council which maybe the hand-picked instruments and tools and mouthpieces of this administration, Mr. Speaker, and that I find repugnant and I am sure my hon. colleagues find it repugnant as well.

Now, Mr. Speaker, just listen to this beaut, just listen to this, Mr. Speaker. Section 32 of this famous bill states that in an order made under the section, a secret order that is made under this section which I mentioned to you earlier, Sir, the government may authorize the regional council to acquire by agreement any of the property of a municipality within the region. What region? We do not know what region, Mr. Speaker. The government will tell us when it deigns to tell, condescends to tell us, they will tell us what region.

MR. NOLAN: They will not tell you. It will be designated and it will be described as it has in the past -

MR. NEARY: Published in the Newfoundland Gazette and nobody will -

MR. W.N. ROWE: That is the first time we will have heard of it. No discussion, no debate, no consultation of any kind.

MR. NEARY: How many ordinary people subscribe to the Newfoundland Gazette, I wonder?

MR. W.N. ROWE: But in any event, Sir, the council under an order, a

MR. W.N. ROWE: secret order made like the Moores-Dobbin order, for example, and we know how bad that one was, the government can by secret order authorize this regional council which consists in large measure of appointed people by this government, may authorize that council to acquire by agreement any of the property of a municipality within the non-existent region that nobody knows anything about. Now, Sir, 'by agreement—that sounds good, does it not? Everyone is going to be cozy, everyone is going to agree and so on, there are going to be no disputes except for a section 33 where the regional council is unable to conclude an agreement with the municipality whether it is the City of St. John's or the town of Holyrood

MR. W. ROWE:

or the town of Mount Pearl or Paradise or Conception Bay South, Portugal Cove headed up by a superb mayor who the minister yesterday tried to characterize in a partisan way. That is how - I was going to say scummy, Sir, but that is probably unparliamentary. That is how contemptible, contemptuous and arrogant this hon. minister is. This mayor, lady mayor who was elected by the people of the area, he tried to characterize here yesterday as being somehow partisan, having motivations which were politically partisan. That is what he is like, Sir.

AN HON. MEMBER: The same way with Fahey.

MR. W. ROWE: Fahey the same way.

MR. NEARY: What about the mayor of Mount Pearl? Where does he fit in all this?

MR. W. ROWE: Oh, he was part of the slate that was wiped out. He managed to get elected.

Now, Mr. Speaker, where the regional council is unable to conclude an agreement with the municipality, whichever municipality it may be, following the secret order given by the government, the government may authorize the regional council to acquire the property by notice. All right. If you cannot reach any agreement by the secret order, having being authorized by secret order, then the government may go further. It may give you another secret order to acquire the property by notice, not by agreement but by notice. Now following that order given to the regional council by the government to its hacks and so on, the regional council shall give a written notice to the municipality setting out the property to be acquired by it and thirty days after the sending of that notice the property set out in the notice vests, becomes the property, absolutely, Mr. Speaker, of the regional council. That is what is in the act, Sir.

Now surely the municipality, surely the city of St. John's or the town of Mount Pearl or some other town, Sir, is going to be compensated for this outright takeover of municipal property by notice - not by agreement, not by consultation or anything, but by

MR. W. ROWE:

notice given to the council. We hear about thirty days hence we the regional council constituted in large measure by P.C. Party government appointments are going to take over this piece of property which belonged to you and which the taxpayers in your town or community or city paid for. We are going to take it over. So naturally the municipality is going to be compensated for that, right?

AN HON. MEMBER: You would think so.

MR. W. ROWE: Would they not? They are going to be compensated for it, Sir. Wait a second though. Section 33 (3), "Where property is acquired under this section or section 32 no compensation is to be paid to the municipality and all the liabilities and obligations associated with the property shall be assumed by the regional council."

Now, Mr. Speaker, Your Honour represents a district in St. John's and the environs of St. John's and there are other hon. members and ministers who represent areas of St. John's. How in the name of justice can this government arrive at a situation where by unilateral action it will secretly give an order to the regional council consisting, as I say, largely of government appointees, give them an order to acquire property. It could be the whole water system of St. John's. It could be City Hall down there. The regional council will acquire the property. It could be the municipal park in Holyrood.

MR. NOLAN: Not Holyrood, that is sacred territory.

MR. W. ROWE: Oh, I see. By political interference that is removed from it, is it?

MR. NEARY: How about Bell Island? Is Bell Island in or out?

MR. W. ROWE: Is Bell Island in or out of this regional council?

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. NEARY: No boundaries.

MR. W. ROWE: There are no boundaries. Where has the minister been? Nobody knows. We are up here talking about a regional council area which does not even exist and which nobody knows.

MR. NOLAN: But we know Holyrood will not be in.

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MR. W. ROWE: Holyrood is going to be excluded. In the same way that the Minister of Health by a blatant misuse of political power in respect of his own district excepted.

MR. W. POWE: took his district out of this poison spray programme and provided an additional buffer zone. That kind of blatant misuse of political power, Mr. Speaker, we will surely see it exercised with regard to this regional council act.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. W. POWE: Everybody knows we are going to see that. We are only to see discriminations of the worst order. We are going to see a refusal to exempt the water supply for St. George's from the spray programme of this poisonous chemical, matacil. We are going to see a refusal to exempt that water supply and we are going to see the water supply for the town of Gander exempted unilaterally by the Minister of Health whose district it is. After every Minister in the Government had gotten up and said and said, "No change", the Premier said, "No change whatsoever" -

MR. S. NEARY: Spray the Liberals but do not spray the Tories.

MR. W. POWE: How can you trust the Government, Mr. Speaker? How can you trust them?

Discriminatory, politically partisan in all its actions, scandal-ridden! How can you trust them? You would not trust them, as I said yesterday, Mr. Speaker, with a two-seater.

MR. S. NEARY: The minister of cover-ups.

MR. W. POWE: Yesterday I was more trusting with regard to the Government. I would not have trusted them with a three-seater yesterday, Sir. Today, after reading the act again last night and this morning and after seeing what happened in Gander with the matacil poison spray programme and after reflecting again on the eight or ten vicious scandals which would have caused any self-respecting Government to have resigned in disgrace -

MR. S. NEARY: And the Minister is sitting there as brazen as you ever saw.

MR. W. POWE: Oh, the Minister never reads a report about suspected arson or anything like that. Oh, no, Mr. Speaker. I turn on the radio the other day and I hear about a building burning down in St. Lawrence and the first thing I hear is the C.I.D., or the R.C.M.P., or whoever was investigating it, suspect arson. That is the first thing I hear, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER (COLLINS): Order, please!

The hon. member will realize we are discussing the principle of this particular bill and other matters might be alluded to in a glancing fashion but not gone into in any great degree.

Hon. member.

MR. W. ROWE: Yes, Sir, that is right. But what I am trying to do, as Your Honour appreciates, is show that this Government should not be trusted with these wide-ranging, enormous powers contained in this Bill 50 because, Sir, they are guilty of discrimination, I would say, Sir, with regard to the exercise of powers as we have seen in Gander. They are guilty of cover-up in some cases and disclosure in other cases, depending on their whims or the whims of the Minister of Justice who conveniently does not read some reports and reads others, or the R.C.M.P. on the direction from the Minister of Justice. If they are not under direction from the Minister of Justice let him tell us that they are running wild and running rampant. I would assume that they are under the direction of the Minister of Justice when it comes to fires being investigated and so on. The R.C.M.P., or the Police, or the Fire Department, yesterday did not hesitate to say that arson was suspected down in the Minister's own district of St. Lawrence. Well what about the Elizabeth Towers fire, Mr. Speaker, where hundreds of people's lives were at risk?

MR. S. NEARY: You can see how incompetent they are.

MR. A. HICKMAN: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (COLLINS): Point of order.

MR. A. HICKMAN: It was ruled that the hon. gentleman from Twillingate (Mr. W. Rowe) -

MR. S. NEARY: You cannot take it.

MR. A. HICKMAN: Take it? I can take it.

MR. S. NEARY: Sit down, boy, and take it like a man.

MR. A. HICKMAN: The hon. gentleman has been awfully touchy in the last few days. If ever I want to see evidence of people not being able to take it is the hon. gentleman. He is so jumpy.

MR. S. NEARY: Sit down and take it like a man.

MR. A. HICKMAN: This is totally and absolutely out of order.

MR. SPEAKER (COLLINS): Order, please!

MR. A. HICKMAN: I would love to defend - I have no hesitancy in defending my ministry as Minister of Justice. None at all. I have not read the reports and I have checked and I do not think other ministers did either including the hon. Leader of the Opposition when he was acting minister.

MR. W. ROWE: That is wrong. If we are going to get into that, Sir, that is wrong. It is untrue. Now what I was sitting down there for and what was he up there for a moment ago, Sir? Was it on a point of order, or what? Was it a speech, or what did he do?

MR. S. NEARY: Political -

MR. W. ROWE: Is Your Honour going to rule on it, or what?

MR. SPEAKER (COLLINS): Order, please!

Again one comes up against the rule of relevance and in discussing this bill the rule of relevancy would require that any arguments be related to the subjects. I would think that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition is going to relate his remarks to the subject of this issue.

MR. W. ROWE: As I said earlier,

MR. W. ROWE: I would not trust this government, Sir, with one of the most minor sections of that act, talk about some of the more major and important and serious sections giving wide ranging powers, and the reason I would not do it, Sir, is because the government consists of the likes of the member for Bonavista South (Mr. Morgan) for example. I would not trust that, Sir, with anything.

MR. MORGAN: I do not -

MR. W. ROWE: And, Mr. Speaker, the government has shown itself to be capable of covering up certain unpleasant realities, and the government has shown itself to have itself deeply immersed in various scandals going throughout the Province. Another minister implicated yesterday, in sworn testimony. Sir, poor old Davis over there in BC was taken and flung out. Sir, for a minor indiscretion.

MR. FLIGHT: Talking about \$200.

MR. W. ROWE: Not this government. The Premier is probably not even aware of the fact today, God knows where he is!

MR. NEARY: He is non compos mentis wherever he is.

MR. W. ROWE: God know where he is but he is probably unaware and certainly if he was aware he would be unconcerned I am sure, about the fact that one of his ministers was implicated in sworn testimony before a royal commission of enquiry.

AN HON. MEMBER: Two now. That is the second.

MR. W. ROWE: That is the second minister ow. And there will be more probably. But, Sir, the point I am making, and I believe it is relevant, is that you would not trust this government, Mr. Speaker. There are individuals in the government whom I have great respect for.

MR. CALLAN: That is true.

MR. W. ROWE: And there are members in the backbenches on the other side whom I have great respect for.

MR. CALLAN: Disappointed in but respect for.

MR. W. ROWE: Oh, disappointed in the fact that they do not appear to have the courage of their own convictions and so on.

MR. NEARY: They have no ethics.

MR. W. ROWE: Well, ethics is a strong word. I am thinking more in terms of they would rather hew to the party line than stand up for the principles they believe in.

MR. CALLAN: Like the member for St. John's East.

MR. W. ROWE: Yes, right. He would be a prime example.

MR. CALLAN: Kilbride.

MR. W. ROWE: He would be an example. Kilbride is another example.

MR. FLIGHT: Harbour Grace.

MR. W. ROWE: But Mr. Speaker, collectively as a government -

MR. NEARY: Exploits.

MR. W. ROWE: - as a government, Mr. Speaker, you would not trust them. Your Honour knows that. You would not trust them with the powers in this act, because you know they are going to be used in a way which will give rise to other scandals. You know they are going to be used in a way which is discriminatory. You know there is going to be political partisanship. You know that Tory hacks are going to be appointed left right and centre, wherever they can be jammed in, especially now that the government knows it is on the rocks and it is going down hill and it is going to bail out and need to poke in people wherever they can. You know that, Sir. So apart altogether from the offensiveness and the repugnant nature of some of these sections, Mr. Speaker, the question which also has to be asked; besides the manner and method of introducing this legislation is would you trust this government with these wide ranging powers over people's rights and properties, and investment and so on, and municipalities rights and property that they have accumulated over the years and the answer to that question, Mr. Speaker, is a resounding no. You would not trust

MR. W. ROWE: them. You would not trust them. You cannot trust them. Experience shows that this government is incapable or undeserving of trust when it comes to these matters. We know that.

Where the property of any municipality is acquired by secret order, given by the government to this council, Sir, where the property of any municipality, no matter how expensive or how valuable the property, no matter, Sir, about all these things, no compensation will go from this regional council to that municipality. That is great, Sir. That is excellent. The provisions relating to expropriation do not apply to the acquiring of property from a municipality. Under that particular section, Sir, there is provision for compensation and for a board of assessors and so on to be set up. No, Sir, just reach out and grab it, unilaterally take the property, vest it in the regional council and the municipality so affected and the taxpayers of the municipalities so affected, Sir, can kick and scream all they like. It makes no difference. Because legally if we pass this bill we are giving this government and that minister over there, look at him, giving him a blunt weapon, Sir,

MR. W. ROWE: a bludgeon, incredible power over people's property rights such as, Sir, you would not give to the person that you respected most in the world, not to talk about this particular government. You would not give it to that hon. minister over there who showed himself yesterday to be on the verge of hysteria if not actually past that point, a minister screaming.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, do the government have enough powers yet or does the regional council have enough powers yet? No, Mr. Speaker, not yet. Section 34 pokes in another little thing called 'regulations', one of the several occasions where that might occur where an order is made under Section 30, that is the secret order made by the government giving the regional council power to do certain things, take over property and run water and sewer systems and so on - just take them over and run them and so on. Where an order is made by the government to do that, the regional council may, subject to the approval of that same minister over there, Mr. Speaker, whom you would not trust with a teddy bear, that minister has the power to make regulations that are necessary to operate, protect and control the regional facilities. And, Mr. Speaker, listen to this, again, by secret Order in Council similar to the Moores/Dobbin rip off order, the government may - the minister may, not even the government - the minister can get down there, squirrel himself away in his office, he may approve the levying of user charges on a municipality for regional services provided to it by the regional council. See what I mean, Mr. Speaker? The minister will actually go out publicly and he will say, 'There will be no increases in taxation to any individual or to any municipality as a

MR. W. ROWE: result of this Act.' He will say that, Mr. Speaker. I characterize that as untrue. There is a better word for it, a shorter word for it. I characterize it as untrue because it is unparliamentary to say what it really is. Everybody knows what it really is. The fact of the matter is that this regional council will charge, having got approval from that hon. minister who has shown himself capable of doing anything and everything, the regional council will charge a user charge to a municipality and that municipality has to come up with that money and then they will be forced to raise taxes or to deprive people in the municipality of various facilities that they might have been promised beforehand. No talk about consultation or anything like that. No, the minister, secretly, and the council consisting of a number of his buddies and friends whom he has seen appointed to the council will charge this user charge. It does not say how much the user charge will be or whether there is any way that the thing can be arbitrated or anything like that. No, Mr. Speaker, just lay on the user charge, the user charge which the Minister of Transportation and some other hon. ministers concerning whom it is beneath my dignity to even grace by mentioning, have come out publicly and stated are not proper user charges. Ministers have come out and stated that it is not right to have user charges for services with regard to, for example, railways and boats and this sort of thing. No user charges, Mr. Speaker, yet here is this government in a typical hypocritical move, the thing that they have condemned in Ottawa, which Ottawa has not implemented and will not, but which they have seen fit for political purposes to condemn, this government is busily implementing in its own legislation, Sir, a user

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MR. W. ROWE: charge on a municipality for regional services provided to it. I am not saying that a municipality or people who have the use of public services should not in some way contribute .

MR. W.N. ROWE: to the payment of those services that would seem to be a reasonable think to require. What I am saying, Sir, is that this once more is a blunt weapon, a bludgeon in the hands of this minister which will allow councils, democratically elected by their people-which will force, rather, allow, which will force councils democratically elected by the people to charge additional taxes and rates and everything to meet the cost of paying user charges enforced on those municipalities and forced on those municipalities unilaterally, Mr. Speaker, not by consultation, unilaterally forced on them by this regional council and by the minister concerned.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the minister should tell the people that. He should not keep that from the people. He should not let the people wallow around in deception, self-deception or otherwise. He should not come out and say that there will be no further expenses or no expenses on the municipalities or people as a result of this act. He should tell the people the truth -

MR. NOLAN: Or the member for St. John's North.

MR. W.N. ROWE: - not untruths. Tell them the truth and if the truth - or as the Tory political philosophy when you are doing which they determine to be in the best interest of the people without consulting the people, the thing to do, Sir, is to tell them lies -

MR. S. NEARY: They want the regional council to do the dirty work.

MR. W.N. ROWE: What you do is you tell the people lies, the same philosophy which used to prevail with regard to children before some one got the idea that perhaps you should tell children the truth too that you tell the lies, "take this medicine, it is going to taste nice" or hide it.

MR. S. NEARY: Or if you do not behave yourself, the member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall) will take you away.

MR. W.N. ROWE: The 'Boogie Man' theory of discipline.

MR. SIMMONS: The Boogie man. They are coming to take him away.

MR. W.N. ROWE: The member for St. John's East will take you away. I have never seen a child who was not goodened up immediately with that threat, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member for St. John's East is coming to take you away. Mr. Speaker, but the point is this that the Tory philosophy appears to be treat the electorate as people used to, in a misguided way, treat children.

MR. SIMMONS: What a character.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Tell them lies to try to get the children to do things. Tell them lies. Tell them, "no, this castor oil tastes good." Tell them that.

MR. S. NEARY: Hold your nose and open your mouth and force it down.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Force it down. Tell them lies.

The Tory philosophy seems to be tell the people lies tell them there will be no taxes, Mr. Speaker, as a result of this bill.

MR. SIMMONS: C.O. Marshall, castor oil Marshall.

MR. W. N. ROWE: Boogie man.

MR. SIMMONS: Boogie man, Marshall.

MR. W.N. ROWE: B.M. Bill Marshall, Boogie Man.

MR. SIMMONS: The childish meeting a child.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, the point - Oh, look at the member for St. John's East back from a good day practicing law, going to lounge around the House now for a half an hour.

MR. S. NEARY: Slumming for a half an hour or so.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Lounge around the House. The office closed there about quarter after five, I suppose.

MR. SIMMONS: He has come down from the mountains, come down from the mountains for a few minutes.

MR. W.N. ROWE: "Newfoundland Minister Quits over Building Rental." "William Marshall said Monday he quit the Newfoundland

MR. W.N. ROWE: Cabinet in a dispute with Premier Moores over an agreement by the government to pay \$900,000 annually for rental of business - "Well, what a turnaround!"

MR. SIMMONS: What else did he support?

MR. W.N. ROWE: And he supported the disreputable, notorious, infamous Moores/Dobbin rip-off Order in Council and contract.

MR. STRACHAN: The building that was not there.

MR. FLIGHT: The building was not there.

MR. STRACHAN: The building was not there.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Could not see it. Everything is all right, Sir; the fact that this Order in Council was passed and the contract was signed by the Premier in the Premier's own name, own handwriting, that is all abrogated by the fact that they never got around to executing their scheme to rip-off. Luckily they were thwarted, Mr. Speaker. But, Mr. Speaker the Tory philosophy should change.

MR. MORGAN: (Inaudible)

MR. SIMMONS: The Beer Barn burps again.

MR. W.N. ROWE: It should not be, Mr. Speaker, tell the people the 200,000 people in the urban areas concerned lies, which is the present Tory philosophy apparently telling them that there is going to be no taxes and no increases in monies to be paid by municipalities or individuals. We should not tell them this Tory philosophy should change, Sir, it should not be a philosophy of the big lie.

MR. W. ROWE:

It should be a philosophy of telling the people the truth. And if people do not want to live with the brutal reality of this bill or some other bill and therefore revolt the government and make the government know what the situation is, then I would suspect, Sir, that the government may be on a sticky wicket and perhaps should rethink the bill and bring in something which may be more acceptable. But no, Mr. Speaker, the Tory philosophy besides being one of tell the people lies, tell them that castor oil tastes good to get it down. Remember Sir, you only tell the people that once before they realize that the jig is up and they will not believe the government any more. The credibility of the government is lost. Tell them the truth, Sir. Tell them that taxes will go up. Tell them that municipalities will be forced to pay more money. Tell them that individuals will be forced to pay more taxes and municipalities will be forced to pay money to the regional council and that the government will perhaps have to pay money out as well to sustain another level of bureaucracy. And if another level of bureaucracy is not to be paid for by the government, it will have to be paid for by the people concerned there by way of increased taxes and user charges.

Why does not the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) and the member for Mount Pearl's Arena (Mr. N. Windsor) and the member for St. John's East Extern (Mr. Hickey), why do they not tell the people that and then see if the people want it? Tell the people the truth about this bill.

AN HON. MEMBER: We are telling the truth.

MR. W. ROWE: Ah, yes, Mr. Speaker. They are telling them the truth all right.

MR. HICKEY: I am surprised at (inaudible).

MR. W. ROWE: I am suggesting that the hon. minister and his colleagues should tell the people the truth.

MR. HICKEY: I am telling my constituents the truth.

MR. W. ROWE: Are you?

MR. SIMMONS: The whole truth? The whole truth?

MR. W. ROWE: If the truth ever comes out about the hon. member he will be -

MR. NEARY: Torbay, Flatrock, Pouch Cove, Portugal Cove, Torbay, Flatrock, Pouch Cove, they all should be told the truth.

MR. W. ROWE: They should be told the truth and the truth is that there is going to be an increase in taxes or taxes are going to be imposed where they are not now. There is going to be an increase in taxes and that municipalities are going to be paying user charges under section 34 as a result of approval by this government, by that hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs. They are going to be paying user charges for regional services provided through it by the regional council. That is the truth.

MR. HICKEY: (Inaudible) told them that in municipalities (inaudible) taxes (inaudible).

MR. FLIGHT: Nothing in some cases.

MR. W. ROWE: Yes, that is right. But the hon. minister has said that there will be no increase in taxes by the municipalities concerned or by the regional council as a result of this bill. Well that is not true. No, Sir, that is not true, MR. Speaker. That is a falsehood and the minister should tell the people the truth.

MR. N. WINDSOR: Well, back it up with facts (inaudible).

MR. W. ROWE: Listen to that, The Mount Pearl Arena, Sir, we will hear the facts on that now later on.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. W. ROWE: Oh the hon. member for -

MR. SIMMONS: More of a promise than a threat I assure you.

MR. W. ROWE: Yes, that is right, Sir. Rather a fact more than a promise.

AN HON. MEMBER: There is a lot of hot air.

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

MR. W. ROWE: The Tory philosophy of lie to the people for their own good, Sir, should be abandoned in favour of a more progressive

MR. W. ROWE:

philosophy of government . It should be, Sir.

Now, Mr. Speaker, moving on to another subject, and I am sure my hon. colleagues will raise these points again in order to make sure there is proper - Mr. Speaker, may I have the protection of the Chair. There seems to be harrassment from what passes as an hon. minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I thank the hon. the Leader of the Opposition for drawing to the Chair's attention the behaviour of his colleague, the member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir.

AN HON. MEMBER: And the Minister of Tourism.

MR. HICKMAN: (Inaudible) definition.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, to that point of order. Certainly, Mr. Speaker, I am always grateful when my colleague draws Mr. Speaker's attention to my usual brilliant performance in this House. I was actually distracted by the member for Bonavista South (Mr. Morgan) and I was drawing to his attention something that his colleague from Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) said about him being publicity hungry but I realize it is not the place to do it and I apologize to the House and I will do it elsewhere. I am sorry.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

I do not think that I will be required to undertake any research on this point or to reserve a decision. Hon. members should not interrupt and should not converse back and forth when somebody else is speaking. I am not speaking now about interrupting the person who is speaking but carrying on an independant conversation while someone else is speaking.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

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

MR. W.N. ROWE: section 41 of the act refers to a right of entry that the regional council has. "Whenever it appears necessary in the eyes of the regional council the chairman or an employee of the regional council may enter upon public or private land at reasonable times and they may enter structures upon the land."

Enter structures upon public or private land, Mr. Speaker! Mr. Speaker, do you understand what I am saying? This council is given the power through its chairman to allow the chairman, or any employee of the regional council authorized by the chairman, to enter upon public or private land and enter structures, structures, Sir, being a private house -

AN HON. MEMBER: Is that something new?

MR. W.N. ROWE: No, it is not something new. Hitler used to do it, Mussolini used to do it, Stalin used to do it, Mr. Speaker. There is nothing new about it. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, it is one of the oldest -

AN HON. MEMBER: Attila the Hun.

MR. W.N. ROWE: That is right, Attila the Hun, the man whom the hon. member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) admires the political philosophy of. As a matter of fact, he makes Attila the Hun look left of centre in the political spectrum.

AN HON. MEMBER: Is that in the Local Government Act?

MR. W.N. ROWE: I do not care if it is in the Local Government Act, or Hitler's acts, or Mussolini's acts, or Stalin's Proclamation, Sir, or Attila the Hun's, or St. John's North's proclamations. I do not care what it is in. What I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is that this is an offensive, repugnant power to lay in the hands of a council, particularly a council a great portion of which, a substantial portion of which is appointed by this government, by this particular P.C. administration. That is what I am saying. It is a

MR. W.N. ROWE: repugnant feature to have.
Right of entry to construct
in section 42. "The employees of the regional council,"
Mr. Speaker, "The employees of the regional council may
enter upon private lands for the purpose of carrying
our or effect work" and so on, break up, dig, excavate
pass and repass over, convey material over, lay down
pipes, remove, alter, change works, all upon private land.
The employees, Mr. Speaker, can just wander in and do
that.

I do not care whether Attila
the Hun made a reform in the law or not. Maybe Attila
the Hun said, "From now on when employees do that they
are not allowed to carry off wives and jewels and all
that kind of thing, all they are allowed to do is just
desecrate the place." There may have been a reform.

MR. NOLAN: Burn her down.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, what I am saying
is that it is a repugnant feature and I am sure Your Honour
as a man learned in the law and learned in jurisprudential
concepts -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. W.N. ROWE: I am not calling Your Honour a
jurisprude, but merely learned in jurisprudential concepts.
I am saying that Your Honour knows, as does any reasonable
man know, or woman know, that there are certain things which
people should not have the unilateral right to do and one
of them is for a gang of employees of the regional council
to wander in on your land or my land at their own whim and
start breaking up, digging up, excavating, opening up the
private land to carry out a job that they may deem necessary.
They should not have the power.

MR. NEARY: He says because it is in the
Local Government Act it has to be in there. He was going
to change that.

MR. W.N. ROWE: The Local Government Act he has already said is one of the worse pieces of legislation in the Province.

MR. NOLAN: So he should have changed it first.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. W.N. ROWE: Oh, Mr. Speaker. Now, Sir, let us have another look at Tory philosophy. We are talking about private lands there and the rights of the council and their employees.

MR. NEARY: Yes, and he will turn around now and say that it is in the Local Government Act because we put it there, just watch!

MR. W.N. ROWE: Do you think he will do that?

MR. DINN: No, I will not do that.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Anyway, Mr. Speaker, I am sure they will do it. I am sure he will do it, Sir.

What I am saying, Sir, is that here we have the regional council with this power with regard to private land and when we come to public land what do we hear? "The regional council shall not enter upon, take up or in any way interfere with any main or secondary highway for the purpose of laying down or repairing work beneath the surface of the highway without the consent in writing of the Minister of Transportation and Communications."

MR. NOLAN: Right.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Now, Sir, that is a reasonable requirement. But, Sir, the essence of Tory philosophy is that you cannot do anything with regard to public land unless land owned by themselves and so on unless you have consent in writing but you can run roughshod over private land.

MR. NOLAN: Right.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Rampage, Mr. Speaker, tear it up, dig it up, do whatever you want to, unilaterally, no permission required.

MR. NEARY: You can do that now over the
(Inaudible).

MR. W.N. ROWE: Well, that makes it good.

MR. DINN: (Inaudible) get the water
systems in.

MR. W.N. ROWE: But there are ways and means
of doing these things.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. DINN: Did you look at the plant?

MR. F.B. ROWE: Did I look at the plant? I
have been looking at it for seven years.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Sure, there are ways and means
of doing it.

MR. NEARY: You had no problem in Rose
Blanche.

MR. W.N. ROWE: LaScie had a lovely water system
put in down there, as the hon. member knows, about twenty-
five years ago.

MR. W. POPE: People co-operate. The regional council can do all kinds of things, Sir. I do not know if there are any ecological freaks in the House today; there may be some other kinds, environmentalists or ecologists, I do not know. But this regional council has the right to divert watercourses, Mr. Speaker, unilaterally, may fill up watercourses. What is a watercourse? Does that include a brook or a river?

AN HON. MEMBER: It might be a golf course.

AN HON. MEMBER: A swamp.

MR. W. POPE: A golf course. Now the Premier is very familiar. Wet golf course.

Mr. Speaker, the regional council has that kind of power. I am not so sure that they should have that kind of unilateral power anymore.

Now, Mr. Speaker, section 51 is the greatest irony and the greatest piece of hypocrisy- 58, rather - Section 58 is the greatest piece of hypocrisy in this whole bill. It refers to the holding of plebiscites"Subject to the approval of the minister the regional council may by order authorize the holding of a plebiscite in the region for the purpose of determining the views of the electors in the region on any matter relating to local government in the region." Now, Mr. Speaker, if the Minister believes that this is a good piece of legislation and that the concepts as envisaged in this legislation are good and proper, and need to be brought in, why does he not avail himself of the opportunity to test public opinion by way of a plebiscite?

MR. J. NOLAN: Keep it under the local government act.

MR. W. POPE: We have a provision here for a plebiscite for the people to speak, for the people to indicate what they want by way of regional government, if any, and the Minister has put the provision in the bill, but he refuses, Mr. Speaker, refuses to allow the exercise of that provision in the setting up of the regional.

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MR. W. ROWE: government in the first place. Now, Mr. Speaker, how would you characterize that? Would you characterize that, Sir, as hypocrisy? You would not. How would you characterize it? The hon. Minister - I would say, would you characterize it

MR. W.N. ROWE:

as a semblance of political cowardice, not by the minister because he is no coward but I mean as a government, Sir, political cowardice. They are afraid to put this to the test of popular opinion because they are afraid the people will say no. Is that the problem? Frightened, scared -

AN HON. MEMBER: A leadership convention through a plebisite.

MR. W.N. ROWE: A leadership convention through a plebisite, Mr. Speaker, or a general election through a plebisite. There may be two members elected over there, I do not know. The polls would indicate we are being kind.

MR. DINN: I will run in St. John's, not

MR. W.N. ROWE: Well, a corner boy would run in St. John's.

MR. STRACHAN: A townie! Knows a lot about Labrador too!

MR. W.N. ROWE: Like the hon. member for St. John's Centre, we will take him out, blindfold him, twist him around the overpass a couple of times and then take the blindfold off and he would be three weeks getting back here, three weeks getting back to his district, trying to find his way.

MR. STRACHAN: Knows a lot about Labrador, been there once, with a plane coming behind to carry his suitcase.

MR. A.J. MURPHY: I know as much about it as you fellows.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Pardon? The hon. member for St. John's Centre, is he standing up or not? St. John's Centre, is he standing up? Is he standing? But you are going to retire. The hon. member said he was going to retire from the scene. He blew his own political platform. The last time it was give me one more chance because I need to get another term for a pension. I mean, now that platform is gone.

MR. A.J. MURPHY: I did not run away from St. John's West to -

MR. W.N. ROWE: Oh yes, and we saw what happened in Twillingate, did we not? We saw what happened in Twillingate.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! The hon. gentlemen on both sides should not interrupt and should keep the debate on the subject at hand.

MR. W.N. ROWE: That is right, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. W.N. ROWE: We certainly should, and Twillingate was an example of plebiscite, a plebiscite was held in Twillingate, Mr. Speaker, not long ago, December, and as I said earlier the government was like a wandering troop of confidence men exposing their tainted wares and quack medicines to what they thought to be a gullible public in Twillingate district - New World Island and Twillingate Island. And, Sir, they got the back of the hand; the people of the district were fed up with them. Now are they afraid that this is going to happen with a plebisite in the urban region under this bill? I would say they are, Mr. Speaker. They are frightened to death that the people of that area will indicate to this government what it would do in an election if it was called, give the government the back of the hand.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. W.N. ROWE: Listen to him, silly -

MR. STRACHAN: Thinks he is clever, Sir.

MR. W.N. ROWE: That is really clever, Sir. That is really clever. Mr. Speaker, there should be a plebiscite held in the urban region if the minister ever and the government ever gets around to defining what the region is and let the people know that. It would be nice if they told the people whether they are in the region or not. That would be good. That would be helpful.

Mr. Speaker, we need a plebscite now and we should not have this irony, this hypocrisy of putting the plebscite in the act and prohibiting and keeping the people from deciding for themselves whether they want the form of regional government which is in this Bill 50. That is hypocritical, Sir. It is hypocritical and shows again the contempt which this minister and the government has for the will of the people and for popular opinion generally. I can understand it, Sir, but that does not make it right and proper.

MR. W. ROWE: Now, Sir, it being five to six I will say one or two other matters and then resume the debate again tonight. Section 82 I think is wrong as well and these are important principles, Sir. They are not matters which should have been left to a committee or anything because they are important principles of the bill, especially as they give the attitude of the government, the government which thinks it can buy its way into the hearts and minds of the people of the Province, as they tried down in Twillingate district. And here we have a situation where the regional council shall fix the fees to be paid to the members of the Board of Assessors which is set up in order to try to make sure that people are reasonably compensated when their land is taken from them by way of expropriation.

Now, Sir, under the bill the person whose land is expropriated has the right to nominate an assessor as does the regional council and then they get together and nominate a chairman. But the regional council fixes the fees to be paid to the members of the Board of Assessors and may at any time enter into an agreement with the members for the payment to them of a fixed amount for their fees.

MR. HICKMAN: - other councils on the -

MR. W. ROWE: Yes, that is right and as we said earlier, Attila the Hun did this and Hitler did that and we can do something else.

MR. HICKMAN: No. Under the Local Government Act, and the Whelan Commission Report -

MR. W. ROWE: What I am saying, Sir, is that there is a problem with this kind of thing. Well the Local Government Act was an act which the minister himself characterized as the worst piece of legislation in the Province and had to be changed.

MR. HICKMAN: I did not say that at all.

MR. W. ROWE: Well what did he say?

MR. DINN: I said that there were revisions in it.

MR. W. ROWE: Sure they are working on it now to try to bring it in as a half decent piece of legislation, because it is such a poor piece of legislation now.

MR. DINN: More autonomy of the local council.

MR. NOLAN: More autonomy?

MR. HICKMAN: The implementation of the Whelan Commission Report. Is that not what it is?

MR. W. ROWE: Sir, the problem is that if you have the regional council which is expropriating land from private individuals, the land they take from municipalities they do not even bother paying for, there is no problem there. They have gotten rid of that problem, Sir, with one flourish of the pen. You take property from a municipal council and you do not even bother paying for it so you do not need a board of assessors. But if you take property or land away from an individual, a private individual, then you must set up a board of assessors who will determine whether the price offered is right or not and they will in fact set the price for the land. They will appraise the land.

MR. HICKMAN: Will we call it six o'clock?

MR. W. ROWE: We will call it Christmas, Sir, if the hon. member wants to. But, Sir, just to finish this point, the point is that again there is a grave danger that assessors whose fees are fixed by a regional council may, Sir, in fact feel somewhat beholden to the regional councils. So I throw this out as a genuine suggestion to the government, whether it exists in the Expropriation Act, the Local Government Act, the Town Council Act, the City of St. John's Act is irrelevant. All that points out is that the error has been compounded and followed from act to act. What they should do is change that and come up with another way to make sure that assessors are in fact independent of the regional council which seeks to pay the lowest possible price for land which is expropriated or property expropriated.

MR. W. ROWE: expropriated.

Mr. Speaker, if the hon. House Leader - there being two minutes left, if he is willing to call it six o'clock I move the adjournment of the debate.

MR. HICKMAN: Carry on, boy. I will call it six o'clock when it -

MR. W. ROWE: Okay. That is all right, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. W. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I am only suggesting what has been done a thousand times before in the House.

MR. HICKMAN: Right. That is right.

MR. RIDEOUT: Call it six o'clock, boy.

MR. HICKMAN: If the hon. gentleman will move the adjournment of the debate and sit down I am sure, Mr. Speaker, will then say, "I now call it six of the clock."

MR. MORGAN: He does not know the difference.

AN HON. MEMBER: No, he does not.

MR. W. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, by leave of the House Your Honour cannot call it six o'clock unless by leave of the House. That is clear. Everyone in the House must agree. If there is one person who is against it then - but why move the adjournment of the debate unless I know that there is going to be leave given.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is right.

MR. W. ROWE: The Speaker to call it six o'clock. The hon. House Leader, Sir, should really try to get a grip on, control of his side of the House and not allow by default -

AN HON. MEMBER: Sit down.

MR. W. ROWE: - procedures to fall into the hands of the minister, or the member for Green Bay (Mr. Peckford). He is having a fool made of himself. Sir, if the hon. House Leader will indicate whether leave will be given on his side. Okay?

AN HON. MEMBER: He could not decide upon the -

June 20, 1978

Tape No. 4669

NM - 4

MR. W. ROWE: Well, leave will be given, will it?

MR. HICKMAN: Yes.

MR. W. ROWE: I move the adjournment.

MR. HICKMAN: The hon. Leader of the Opposition moved
the adjournment of the debate.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Actually I believe it is now six o'clock.
I leave the Chair until eight this evening.

I N D E X

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

TABLED

JUNE 20, 1978

JUNE 20 1978

ANSWER TO QUESTION NO. 106 ASKED BY THE MEMBER FOR LAPOILE DIRECTED TO THE HONOURABLE THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS APPEARING ON ORDER PAPER OF JUNE 7TH, 1978.

Mr. Speaker, in answer to Question No. 106 I would like to supply the House with the following information:

In preparation of the 1977-78 budget estimates, officials of the Department of Forestry and Agriculture contacted the Air Services Division of the Department of Transportation and Communications in order to obtain an estimate of the cost of purchasing two additional Canso water bombers to be added to the Province's existing fleet. The Air Services Division was deemed to have the necessary technical expertise and experience in this area and had been responsible for the maintenance and operation of the existing water bomber fleet. At that time Air Services Division of the Department of Transportation and Communications advised the officials of the Department of Forestry and Agriculture that their estimate of the cost of purchasing, converting to water bomber configuration and renovations of each aircraft to precise specifications to ensure compatibility with the existing water bomber fleet would be in the vicinity of \$900,000. This then was the figure used by Forestry and Agriculture in preparing its estimate at that time.

Following approval of the Provincial Government and the Management Committee of the Forestry Subsidiary Agreement to have the cost of the purchase of the aircraft cost-shared under the DREE Forestry Subsidiary Agreement, Forestry and Agriculture submitted a request to the Government Purchasing Agency to tender the supply of the two water bombers. Tenders were advertised in five local and two mainland papers. The closing date of the tender was July 28, 1977.

A public tender opening was held on July 29, 1977.

.....

Only one tender was received and that was Field Aviation of Toronto and they placed a bid in the amount of \$1,093,000. The fact that Field Aviation was the only bidder was not surprising since this company was fully aware of the standards required by the Province and, in fact, was the only firm in Canada able to undertake conversion to water bombers. I understand that Field Aviation has indeed got the patent for Canada on the conversion process.

Since the amount of the tender had exceeded budget estimates and in view of the fact that it would take several months to obtain both Provincial and Federal approval for additional funds, it was decided then that the following action would be taken:

- (i) The purchase, conversion and refurbishing of one Canso as specified in the tender call.
- (ii) The purchase and conversion to water-bombing Only of the additional Canso as per items 13 and 14 of the tender specifications.

This much (i) and (ii) above to be funded from the 1977-78 budget allocation.

- (iii) To obtain an option from Field Aviation for the refurbishment of the second Canso in a contract for the remaining amount of funds to be confirmed in the fiscal year 1978-79. This would permit the extra time to obtain Provincial and Federal approval to have the extra funds covered under the DREE Forestry Subsidiary Agreement. Both the Provincial Government and Field Aviation were in agreement on these items.

One of the Canso bombers has been received by the Department of Forestry and Agriculture as per the terms of the agreement, and I have been informed that it is in servicable condition.

The Department of Forestry and Agriculture has been authorized by Minute of Council dated March 16, 1978 to proceed with the completion of the remaining contract to refurbish the second Canso. It is expected that this second aircraft will be ready for this current year's protection activities.

I attach the Public Notice "Invitation to Tender" over the signature of E.E. Rowe, Director of Purchases, Government Purchasing Agency; the report of the Public Tender opening with the signature of those people who were present: Government Purchasing Authority officials, the Department of Transportation and Communications' representative, Mr. D.B. Simmons, and Mr. E.P. Pearcey of Air Services, and a representative of Field Aviation. I also attach copies of the tenders received from Field Aviation and a copy of the specifications from the Department of Forestry and Agriculture which was sent to the Government Purchasing Agency, signed by the Deputy Minister of Forestry and Agriculture, and copy of correspondence from the Deputy Minister of Forestry and Agriculture to the Secretary of Treasury Board covering the funding of the aircraft and a copy of the specifications for the refurbishing and conversion of the aircraft.

I have no hesitation in tabling these documents, Mr. Speaker, as I have checked thoroughly with the officials of Forestry and Agriculture, with Intergovernmental Affairs, with Transportation and Communications, with Treasury Board and the senior officials of all these Government departments who were involved, together with the Joint Management Committee under the DREE Subsidiary Agreement and they have all assured me that the proceedings were entirely proper and correct in every detail. I might say that the members of the Management Committee of the Subsidiary Agreement Joint Federal/Provincial

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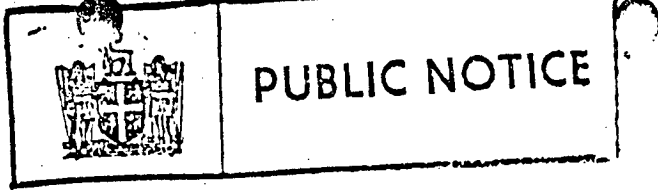
who also acted as the Tender Board were:

- Mr. J.A. Brennan, Forestry and Agriculture
- Mr. A.M. Davis, Dept. of Regional Economic Expansion
- Mr. John Fitzgerald, Intergovernmental Affairs
- Dr. W.J. Carroll, Canadian Forestry Service
- Mr. Roy Forward, Secretary of the Committee and also an official of the Department of Forestry and Agriculture

This board also consulted with other officials with technical knowledge of the proposed contract. They were:

- Mr. Lloyd Leland, Chief Inspector, Air Services Division
- Mr. E.P. Pearcey, Director of Air Services
- Mr. J.A. Doyle, Director of Forest Protection

The recommendation made to the Director of the Government Purchasing Agency, through the Deputy Minister of Forestry and Agriculture was to award the contract to Field Aviation in the manner outlined.



INVITATION TO TENDER

Tenders are invited for the supply of 2 Canso (PBY) aircraft in Waterbomber configuration. Prices quoted to be F.S.T. exempt, and F.O.B. Air Services Division, Department of Transportation and Communications, Hangar #3, St. John's Airport, Newfoundland. Delivery required not later than March 31, 1978. Specifications can be obtained by contacting E. P. Pearcey at the above address, telephone number (709) 754-0670.

Tenders in sealed envelopes and marked "Tender for Canso Aircraft, Tender No. F. & A. 276, Closing Date July 28, 1977", addressed to the Government Purchasing Agency, Ayre's Home Centre, Pippy Place, St. John's, will be received up to 4:00 p.m., Newfoundland Daylight Savings Time, July 28, 1977, and will be publicly opened 11:00 a.m., July 29, 1977, at the Government Purchasing Agency, Ayre's Home Centre, Pippy Place, St. John's.

Tenders will be accepted for either both or separately. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

E. E. ROWE
DIRECTOR OF PURCHASES
GOVT. PURCHASING AGENCY

GOVERNMENT PURCHASING AGENCY

PUBLIC TENDER OPENING

DATE: 1277-07-29
EON. NO. T+C 276
TENDER DUE DATE: 28 July 77

P.A. OFFICIALS: J. Conway
Nevens

FIRMS TENDERING

DEPT OF TRANS. & COMM.
UNITED AIRCRAFT
AIR SERVICES
Field Aviation T

REPRESENTATIVE

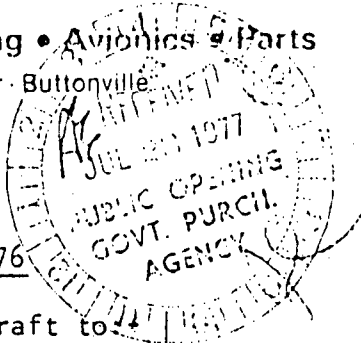
D. B. SIMMONS
T. L. MARTIN
F. D. PEARSON, DIR



FIELD AVIATION COMPANY LIMITED

Toronto International Airport P.O. Box 6023 Toronto A.M.F. Ont. L5P 1B9
Telephone: (416) 676-9030 Telex: 06-968530

Aircraft Sales • Service • Engineering • Avionics • Parts
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GDT/TOR
27 Jul.77

TENDER F & A 276

Supply of Canso Aircraft to

Air Services Division
Department of Transportation & Communications
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Aircraft "A"

Make:	Consolidated Vultee PBV-5A
Total airframe time:	5,112 hours
Engines (R1830-92):	Not to exceed 820 hours per side since last overhaul
Propellers (HS23E50-473/ 6477A-0):	Left 1,071 hours T.S.O. Right 852 hours T.S.O.

(All times are quoted f.a.f. Calgary following aircraft overhaul and conversion.)

1. The aircraft will be overhauled, converted and certified to the standards and in accordance with the specification dated 30th June 1977, a copy of which is attached, with the exception of Item 39 (seats) which cannot now be certified. This aircraft has the following seat configuration which is offered in lieu of Item 39:-

Sta 2 - 4	:	4 Double Payloader Seats
Sta 5 - 6	:	2 Double Payloader Seats 2 Single Seats
Sta 6 - 7	:	2 Bench Type Seats (3 man).


2. The avionics installation specified will carry a full twelve-month warranty f.o.b. Calgary or manufacturer's plant.
3. Please refer to attached letter GDT/jib/3386 dated 27th July 1977 for further details.

FOR THE SUM OF: \$535,000 (Canadian funds)

f.a.f. Calgary, Alberta, excluding all Federal
and Provincial taxes.

FIELD AVIATION COMPANY LIMITED

By



G. D. Teele, President.

Enclosure



FIELD AVIATION COMPANY LIMITED

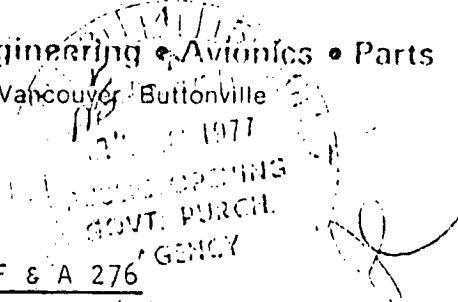
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GDT/TOR

27 Jul.77

TENDER F & A 276

Supply of Canso Aircraft to:-

Air Services Division
Department of Transportation & Communications
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Aircraft "B"

Make: Consolidated Vultee PBY-5A

Total airframe time: 11,350 hours

Engines (R1830-92): Not to exceed 420 hours per side
since last overhaul

Propellers: Not to exceed 1,720 hours per side
since last overhaul

(All times are quoted f.a.f. Calgary following aircraft overhaul
and conversion).

1. The aircraft will be overhauled, converted and certified to the standards and in accordance with the specification dated 30th June 1977, a copy of which is attached, with the exception of Item 39 (seats) which cannot now be certified. This aircraft has the following seat configuration which is offered in lieu of Item 39:-

Sta 2 - 4 : Bench seats for ten passengers

Sta 5 - 6 : Payloader seats for eight passengers.

2. The avionics installation specified will carry a full twelve-month warranty f.o.b. Calgary or manufacturer's plant.

3. This aircraft is offered with an S100 Janitrol heater already installed aft of Station 7 to which ducting will be provided to the cockpit to meet the requirements of Specification Item 8. Alternatively a Janitrol S200 heater installation can be provided in the nose of the hull for a net increase in price of \$10,000.

4. Please refer to attached letter GDT/jib/3386 dated 27th July 1977 for further details.

FOR THE SUM OF: \$558,000 (Canadian funds)

f.a.f. Calgary, Alberta, excluding all Federal
and Provincial taxes.

FIELD AVIATION COMPANY LIMITED

By 

G. D. Teele, President.

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND AGRICULTURE

GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND
AND LABRADOR

CONFEDERATION BLDG.
ST. JOHN'S

August 9, 1977

Mr. V. Young,
Secretary,
Treasury Board.

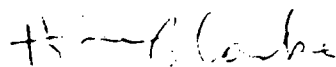
Subject: Purchase of 2 Canso Water Bombers

The Forestry Subsidiary Agreement has provided for the purchase of two additional Cansos through an amendment approved this spring by the Federal Minister, DREE. Unfortunately, the only bid received was from Field Aviation for \$1,093,000 and is \$193,000 in excess of the funds budget and requested in the amended agreement (\$900,000).

However, in the Department's approved estimates, only \$700,000 is allocated for purchase of the additional Cansos (although \$760,000 appears in 1203-04-04, \$60,000 was for estimated carry-over cost of refurbishing an existing Canso. This carry-over cost was actually \$83,200 and the \$23,200 shortfall was taken from purchase cost of \$700,000). The reason for the fact that the cost of \$900,000 was not budgeted in the provincial estimates is \$200,000 was expected to be spent in 1976-77 and the remainder of \$700,000 in 1977-78. No progress was made in 1976-77 and by the time that this fact became clear it was too late to request adjustment in the 1977-78 budget.

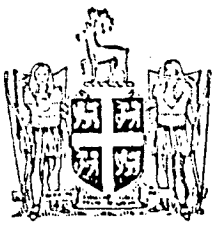
The attached letter to the Government Purchasing Agency outlines our recommendation on the action to be taken.

Treasury Board Authority is requested to transfer the necessary funds to take this action. This is estimated at approximately \$250,000 - \$300,000 depending on the outcome of the negotiations between General Purchasing Agency and Field Aviation. Surplus funds are available in subhead 1203-03-04 (Capital Roads) and the transfer is requested to subhead 1203-04-04 (Capital Water Bomber Fleet). Both of these sub-heads are cost shared 90% - 10% under the subsidiary agreement.



H. M. CLARKE,
Deputy Minister.

JAB:jrb.



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND AGRICULTURE

GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND
AND LABRADOR

CONFEDERATION BLDG.
ST. JOHN'S

August 9, 1977

Mr. E.E. Rowe,
Director of Purchases,
Government Purchasing Agency.

Re: Tender F & A 276
Acquisition of 2 Canso Water Bombers

The above tender has been discussed and evaluated by the Management Committee of the Forestry Subsidiary Agreement. There are a number of problems with awarding this contract which should be noted:-

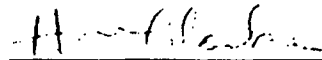
1. The estimated cost of this contract was \$900,000 based on discussions held last year with the Director of Air Services, Mr. E. Pearcey. This was the amount requested of the Federal Minister of Regional Economic Expansion when funds were reallocated within the Forestry Agreement last year. Since the tender is for \$1,093,000, it may take several months to obtain the Federal Ministers' approval for the additional funds.
2. Last fall, when the Provincial estimates were being prepared, it was anticipated that \$200,000 of the estimated contract would have been spent in the fiscal year 1976-77, and the remaining amount of \$700,000 would be required in 1977-78. Consequently, only \$700,000 is now provided in the Forestry subhead 1203-04-04.

In light of the two above problems, the following action is recommended:

1. Government Purchasing Agency, in consultation with Air Services Division of Transportation and Communications and the Forestry Branch of Forestry and Agriculture commence immediate negotiations with Field Aviation, the only bidder for the supply of 2 Cansos. These negotiations should be designed to obtain a new contract price for:-
 - (a) the purchase, conversion and refurbishing of one Canso as specified in the tender call.
 - (b) the purchase and conversion to water bomber only of additional Canso as recommended to the specifications of Air Services. It may also be useful to try and obtain an option from Field Aviation for the refurbishing of the second Canso but a contract be confirmed in the fiscal year 1978-79. This will permit time for the

Management Committee to recommend to the Federal Minister additional funding in the Agreement to complete the refurbishing. The advantage of an option will be to prevent serious escalation of the cost of refurbishing.

- (c) An extension of the August 19 specified by Field Aviation should be requested.
2. This Department will request Treasury Board authority to proceed as outlined and to request the additional funds above to \$700,000 (estimated at additional \$250,000).



H. M. CLARKE,
Deputy Minister.

JAB:jrb.

June 30, 1977

Two aircraft are required to comply with the following:

1. DDT Aircraft Type Approval 24 issue 8. (Ref US CAA Listings 2-548 and TC 785.)
2. Nose turret removed and nose modified to semi-clipper or full clipper bow configuration.
3. Rear gun blisters removed and area reskinned, a hinged cargo door to be installed on the port side at the rear cargo compartment, an escape hatch on the stbd side of the rear cargo compartment and a hinged loading door on the port side of the forward cargo compartment.
4. Engine controls to be relocated from the tower to the cockpit. Mixture control to be located at top forward face of bulkhead no. 2.
5. Aileron trim control to be relocated below instrument panel.
6. Fuel booster crossfeed system to be installed.
7. Individual undercarriage wheel selector system to be installed.
8. Combustion type heater to be installed for cockpit heat.
9. Electrically operated cowl flap controls to be installed.
10. Electrically operated carburetor heat control to be installed.
11. Overhead escape hatches for both pilot and co-pilot to be installed.
12. Fuel strainers to be located in tower for easy access, with drain pan and external drainage provision.
13. Aerial tanker conversion to be done per FACL 4562B.
14. Hull stiffeners to be installed per FACL J82147 or equivalent.
15. Empennage to be modified per CVAC 28T150000.
16. Lower wing center section skins sta. 5 to sta. 11 to be replaced.
17. Fittings to be removed and flush patches installed in lower forward and aft outer wing skins, sta. 11 to sta. 12.
18. Fuel Dump Valves to be removed and flush blanking plates installed.
19. Wing tanks to be cleaned and resealed with PRC 1422 and EC776.

20. All obsolete wiring, lugs, plumbing, brackets and attaching hardware including hot wing de-icing system to be removed.
21. Wing trailing edges to be metallized using .025 2024T3 Alclad sheet and AN470AD rivets. Upper and lower inspection panels to be installed.
22. Centre section trailing edge ribs, nos. 2 to 6 inclusive, to be reinforced to obviate cracks due to vibration.
23. Control surfaces to be covered with Razorback fabric, doped to color.
24. All electrical wiring to be of good quality, free of deterioration.
25. All flexible hoses to be new.
26. Steel undercarriage attach points to be free of corrosion and newly cadmium plated.
27. Wing and stabilizer attach fittings to be inspected by x-ray or eddy current and certified free of corrosion and damage.
28. Airframe to be free of corrosion and significant damage.
29. Aircraft exterior to be cleaned and painted with ENDURA polyurethane in Government of Newfoundland colours.
30. Aircraft interior to be cleaned, degreased, loose paint removed and repainted with gray lacquer.
31. Instrument panels to be standardized in accordance with FAR Part 25 and Nfld. Government Air Service layout. Center portion of instrument panel to be modified for easy-removal. Panels to be installed with new shock mounts. Post lights P/N A8970B-2-322, blue/white, to be installed. The vacuum operated directional gyros are to be replaced by installing ID250 RM Indicators.
32. Direct reading engine tri-gauges to be replaced with autosyn dual pressure indication system for fuel and oil pressure and a dual indicator for oil temperature.
33. Standardized FACI Communications jack boxes to be installed and shock mounted. Three Foxtronic isolation amplifiers to be used.
34. Electrically operated windshield wipers to be installed.
35. One King KR85 ADF System to be installed with KI225-01 indicator interconnected to the Sperry RMI System.
36. Sperry C14A-43 RMI System to be installed with ID250 Indicator's.

37. Two King KX170B Nav/Comm Systems to be installed complete with RCA MI592127 Nav/Comm Antenna and RCA 592131 Dual Coupler. Course Selector Indicator KI201C to be installed on co-pilot's side and KI214 ILS Indicator to be installed on pilot's side.
38. Nose door indicating flags to be installed.
39. Side facing bush seats to be installed as follows: One three place seat on starboard side of front cargo compartment between stations 3 and 4. Two four place seats, one on each side of rear cargo compartment between stations 5 and 6.
40. Aircraft hull to be free of water leaks.
41. Aircraft to be ready for delivery to go into service on March 31, 1978.

VOL. 3

NO. 97

PRELIMINARY
UNEDITED
TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

FOR THE PERIOD:

8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 1978

The House resumed at 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER(Collins): Order, please!

MR. W.N. ROWE: The adjourned debate, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. W.N. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I have said most of the things I want to say at this stage, on the bill. We will have another opportunity perhaps in second reading - who knows? - to speak again if any amendments might be offered by way of amendment to the motion that the bill be now read a second time. And certainly during Committee stage on the bill we will all have an opportunity to go over it clause by clause.

Mr. Speaker, let me just conclude, basically, by reiterating what has been said already, here and in another forum as well, namely, that nobody can reasonably be against a concept of regional management, management of regional services and facilities, nobody can be against the concept of a proper management of regional facilities but, Mr. Speaker, there are three problems wrong with Bill 50. One, is the contents of the bill itself whereby anti-democratic procedures are used and powers are arrogated unto himself by the minister and by the government which can be passed on and will be delegated to the regional council. Also, the anti-democratic nature of some of the provisions, Sir, a substantial portion being appointed rather than elected and the council itself will continue on for six months, maybe a year and-a-half, merely consisting of these five appointed councillors including the chairman. Those types of things, Sir, in the content of the bill itself make it repugnant to members on this side of the House and, I am sure, members on the other side of the House too, if the truth were known.

MR. W.N. ROWE: And, Sir, as I said earlier the concept, a reasonable concept of regional government is not translated into action or reasonable action, or reasonable laws in this particular bill, it is a bill which twists a good concept, Sir, perverts, as I said earlier, a good concept into something which is highly dangerous, in my view, a monstrosity flung together, apparently, according to the minister, by a few Tory M.H.A.'s getting together and concocting it.

He is talking about all the consultation he had with his own members, he named them all in the backroom. My hon. friend I am sure did not get an invitation.

MR. DINN: He never, never asked.

MR. W.N. ROWE: What is this asked, Mr. Speaker?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. W.N. ROWE: Ah, do not be so foolish.

MR. DINN: The invitation was open to everyone but he was not there.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Invitation open to everyone. What about the councillors, Mr. Speaker, in the outlying communities? What were they supposed to do, dance attendance on this arrogant, contemptuous minister, Mr. Speaker? Hang around his office waiting to tell him what to put in his bill? Or should there have been some effort made by the minister and the government to gather information, get people involved in it? That is what should have been done.

But the contents of this bill, Sir, are repugnant to any standard of regional government which is acceptable to the people of the Province, the people of St. John's, the people in the communities. Mr. Speaker, that is problem number one.

Problem number two, Sir, is the method, the way that this bill is being rammed through

MR. W.N. ROWE: the House. And it is no good for the minister to stand up and say, Oh well, we withdrew one last year and put this one in its place and we have had a year to study it. Ridiculous, Sir! The minister and the government should have gotten together, as I said earlier, with people who are interested in this and asked them for their own comments and consult with them and get some ideas from them. Otherwise, Mr. Speaker, how could there be any reasonable input by other people? No, Sir, it was drafted up in secrecy, in haste, by the

MR. W. ROWE: look of it, with bad provisions taken over from the Local Government Act and just jammed into this bill without any thought being given to the fact that they might have been bad clauses or bad provisions from the very beginning when they were in the Local Government Act, so that is the other problem, Sir. First the contents of the bills, render it a repellent document, a repugnant document, the method in which this government is trying to ram it through, Sir, is also repugnant to many people interested in municipal and regional government in the area concerned and Sir, finally number three, Sir, the powers which this bill puts in the hands of this government and that minister, Sir, which might be acceptable in some cases and under some governments, but are totally unacceptable when you deal with this government which we have before us here today. Totally unacceptable, Sir, totally unacceptable. Because, Sir, it is a government which has shown itself not to be trustworthy when it comes to the exercise of power, not to be trustworthy when it comes to keeping its commitments. It is a government, Sir, which is scandal ridden, scandal ridden, Mr. Speaker, a government concerning which there are now a half dozen enquiries of one kind and another, commissions of enquiry -

MR. NEARY: Not enough judges in Newfoundland to handle them all.

MR. FLIGHT: A new one every day.

MR. W. ROWE: If the judges, Sir, were all to enquire into what was going on under this government and what has gone on and what is going on, justice would come to a standstill. You would have to appoint another twenty-five judges.

And, Mr. Speaker, a minister, Sir, who has shown himself, displayed himself to be not amenable to reason, not interested in consulting, not interested in the give and take of healthy debate either here or elsewhere, Sir, none of those things, but a minister, Sir, whose only interest,

MR. W. ROWE: as far as I can make out, is showing that he is right, proving he is right, raming it through, a matter of pride, not afraid of anything, going to ram this through now, Sir. It is the wrong attitude to take. And if the government had any shred of decency left in this regard, in this major piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, this major concept, what it would do is first of all withdraw this piece of legislation and call upon the councillors in the area and other people who may be interested to give them the benefit of their experience and their advice and so on, defer it to the Fall of the year, a reasonable request by many people, and in the meantime, Mr. Speaker, in the meantime some of the members opposite should look at some of the repugnant sections which I refer to. I do not expect that the government will because it is a partisan government, Sir, it is a government which dotes on being very partisan, not interested in the collective wisdom of this House of Assembly. They are a partisan government, Sir, purely partisan. I do not expect them to ask for any input from this side in a sort of a private way, you know briefs and so on like that, our input will be by way of public debate. But Sir, certainly they should appeal to and encourage other interested councillors and members of the public to look at some of these sections, and principles that have been enunciated and which I have shown I believe to be totally wrong, a wrong way of doing things with regional government and try to get some sense and rationality put back into this concept of regional government.

Maybe he will like that. Maybe that is his philosophy of government. Bring the government down. Make a name for himself, Sir, in political history.

AN HON. MEMBER: That would be one good service.

MR. W. ROWE: His blundering and his getting his back up and his lack of conciliation and his lack of consultation, Sir, brings the government down. Maybe that is what he wants his little nitch in history to be.

AN HON. MEMBER: To be a hero.

MR. W. ROWE: Mind you that is right. Anybody who brings this government down, Mr. Speaker, anyone who breaks the strangle hold the Premier has over the members by threatening them with an election in which they know they will be wiped out, anyone who can break that strangle hold of power would be a hero to the Newfoundland and Labrador people. There is no doubt about that. Maybe that is the little nitch in history, the footnote in history that the Minister of Municipal Affairs wants

MR. W. N. ROWE:

A little footnote, Sir.

MR. NEARY:

Escaping all of these scandals, boy -

MR. W. N. ROWE:

Who is that?

AN HON. MEMBER:

Doody.

MR. W. N. ROWE:

Oh yes! Well, he is an honourable, honest fellow.

MR. NEARY:

He gives straight honest answers.

MR. W. N. ROWE:

Honourable and honest man.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. W. N. ROWE:

Mr. Speaker, we intend, Sir, to debate this matter strongly and as long as it takes in order to try to beat some sense into the minister's head and some of his colleagues' heads concerning this piece of legislation. Everybody here expects to have at least one, there may be two opportunities to speak on second reading. We intend to dig in on it when the Committee meets to go over it clause by clause because we think that it is a bad piece of legislation. It should not go through. It is the second major piece of legislation which has originated with this government this session. We have been here four or five months, Sir, this is the second major piece of legislation. The rest of it either originated outside and was brought in by the government more or less as a conduit pipe or a messenger or, Mr. Speaker, pure window dressing and useless legislation designed merely by the government to drive up the number on the Order Paper.

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible).

MR. W. N. ROWE:

Because we were embarrassing them, Mr. Speaker, by saying that there were only ten or fifteen pieces of legislation now they have got all of the ministers making amendments to The Dog Act, and amendments to The Garbage Collection Act, and amendments to this and amendments to that, Mr. Speaker, to drive up the number of bills on the Order Paper. And there have been only two, Mr. Speaker, two major pieces of legislation which have originated with this government.

MR. NEARY:

The Protection of Animals, the Conversion to Metric, Change in Name.

MR. W. N. ROWE: The first one was The Occupational Health and Safety Act, which the Minister of Energy emasculated, Mr. Speaker, and rendered nearly useless because he did not have the concern or the energy or the ability or something to make sure that mines were included in it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Next to useless.

MR. W. N. ROWE: Rendered it useless.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. W. N. ROWE: Bring it in in the one hand and disembowel it with the other. Fire in one hand, Mr. Speaker, water in the other, that is this government - that is the Occupational Health and Safety. Now the government had an opportunity to redeem itself, Sir, by bringing in another piece of legislation embodying a grand concept for this Province, an novel concept, and a grand concept, Sir, and that is the concept of regional government.

And what does it bring in, Sir? A botched piece of legislation. I went over, I suppose, thirty or forty sections today

AN HON. MEMBER: That is right.

MR. W. N. ROWE: - each one of which embodies a principle, and each one of which, Sir, on its own merits, each one, not all of them together, but each one of which is enough to make anybody take that legislation and fling it to one side, and say that it is botched and useless and wrong, as far as the contents are concerned and wrong as far as the method of implementation is concerned, and wrong, Sir, because this government is the government which has the powers under the bill and this government cannot be trusted with these great powers.

Mr. Speaker -

AN HON. MEMBER: "Ank" is getting the poison ready to squirt at you.

MR. W. N. ROWE: He is getting ready to jump up is he?

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. W. N. ROWE: Well I shall await this with bated breath.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. W. N. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, it can be truly said that this bill is not a bill to be lightly put aside, Sir, it is a bill which should be flung aside with great force because, Sir, it is a bill which is not right, it is a bill which does not embody the good concept of regional government, it is a bill, Sir, which every member of this House, in its present form, every member of this House, Sir, should vote against and call upon the government -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. W. N. ROWE: It is not that minister because I think he has poisoned the atmosphere to too great an extent, but some other minister of this House, Sir, should be commissioned by the government, some other minister of the government should be commissioned by the government, by the Premier to draft up a sensible piece of legislation which does bring into effect a regional form of government, Sir, which is not anti-democratic, which is in fact democratic, a form of government, Sir, which does not hide away the powers which

MR. W.N. ROWE: Can be delegated by the government to this regional council a proportion of which, or a substantial portion of which will be appointed by the government in any event, Sir.

I ask the government if they are truly concerned about regional government and regional council, Sir, to withdraw this legislation, defer it until the Fall of the year, or the Spring of next year for that matter, and then bring in a decent piece of legislation which embodies a good concept. Thank you, Sir.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, this is a very important piece of legislation, probably one of the most important pieces of legislation to come before the House this session and much needs to be said about it, much has needed to be said about it. I regret to say that after listening to the hon. Leader of the Opposition for two and-a-half hours, that the same amount needs to be said about it now as needed to be said about it when it first began.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL: I feel, Mr. Speaker, that I would have preferred, really, to have heard first the comments to be made by the member for St. John's West (Dr. Kitchen) in connection with this because I feel that the hon. member for St. John's West, whom I know will have done his homework and will have at least read the act, will certainly make references to the report on the basis of which the act is drawn and the other reports which were so conspicuously absent in the Leader of the Opposition's speech.

MR. MARSHALL: As a matter of fact I have no doubt that perhaps unfortunately, because of other circumstances, if the member for St. John's West does follow me I shall not be able to be here because of other commitments. I very much would like to hear what the hon. member has said because I think he certainly will come to grips with the matter. Certainly I would feel that the hon. member, having had experience before in another party, must be roundly embarrassed with the performance of his leader. To quote sayings I have heard him say before, I can sum it up in one of his most immortal phrases that I used to hear from time to time when he wanted to put disapproval on something, 'Too foolish! Too foolish for words!

MR. J. CARTER: That is right!

MR. MARSHALL: And that really sums up the speech of the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. J. CARTER: Too foolish to talk about.

MR. MARSHALL: On this bill, Mr. Speaker, there is one thing that we know, that there appears to be general unanimous consent in pretty well all quarters that we need regional government in the Northeast Avalon area. The question is not whether or not we need regional government but there is a difference of opinion as to the form which it takes as represented by this bill and the need for more opportunity of various groups to assess the provisions of the bill. Those, as far as I can understand, are the two main objections emanating from outside this House. And I address myself to the objections coming from outside the House because as yet I have heard nothing of substance coming from within against the bill itself.

Now, the first thing that we have heard a lot of is that there has not been enough opportunity and that the government is attempting to ram this bill down the throats of the people concerned. Has there been enough

MR. MARSHALL: opportunity? And more importantly, Mr. Speaker, has this bill on regional government received the careful consideration that it deserves? I say yes, I say, resoundingly, yes it has. This government is not trying to ram this down the throats of anyone. The M.H.A's concerned in this particular region I feel have been certainly conscientious of their responsibilities. Because we have had probably twelve to fifteen meeting that I can recall offhand with all of the members from the St. John's area, the member for Ferryland (Mr. Power) - well, I leave with the exception, the member for St. John's West (Dr. Kitchen). The member for St. John's West was not elected for a large part of the period of time and then afterwards - it comes as no surprise that he was not included in it because he represents another party and this is a government measure but fine - we would have been quite happy to have discussed the provisions of this with the member for St. John's West as we will be now. As I say,

MR. MARSHALL: I look forward to, as I know his intelligence will come to grips with the provisions of this bill, in a way that, I say, was lacking in the previous speaker. But I want to emphasize that the MHAs in the area, with the exception of St. John's West (Dr. Kitchen), and not being critical of him because of other circumstances, from Ferryland (Mr. Power), from Harbour Main - Bell Island (Mr. Doody), have met ten or fifteen times and considered and weighed very carefully the provisions that we now find before us. The bill itself is important, there is no doubt, and it is evident, that services are needed in this area on a regional basis. It was evident years ago. It was patently evident last year and the year before and in 1972 and in 1971. It became most evident with respect to the need for water supplies some years ago. And we all remember, it is very easy for us after the crisis has passed to minimize that particular crisis, but in 1970 and '71 we had a water shortage here during the Summer. Prior to that time reports had been commissioned which showed that there could be an urgent situation at any time approaching the St. John's area. This shortage was evident and there was a survey done and I believe it was Proctor and Redfern was it not? The minister indicates, Proctor and Redfern and I believe that was commissioned by the previous administration in their last days, Proctor and Redfern, and it came in and the Leader of the Opposition referred to it last night, and he said yes they had seen the need for the water services but there was no money and perhaps there was no money. But let us not forget the fact, and let the people from the St. John's area not forget the fact that in those days there was plenty of money for the areas, which the hon. gentlemen who then formed the government wished to grease for political purposes, where they saw that they had a possible chance of retaining the government, but the area

MR. MARSHALL: of St. John's, which has been pretty well neglected since the days of John Cabot and badly neglected in that particular period of time, did not get a look in because they knew that they could pick up no political returns as a result of it, and that is the reason why the thing was not acted on.

And I remember full well when this government came to power, amongst the many crises that were descending around its head and there were many, and it crippled this government for a long period of time, and it still has a very adverse effect on its workings, but amongst one of the major crises that we had was this business of the water supply and the government had to move on it. And the government did move on it.

The first step it took was to commission this study, a study by the way - now unfortunately I was not in for all the learned speech by the Leader of the Opposition, but when I was here, and I was here for a good part of it, I did not hear too much reference to this particular report right here, the Henley Report which, as I say, is the whole basis of this bill - so we commissioned this report under the chairmanship of Mr. Alec Henley - I do not think anyone would doubt he is one of the foremost authorities on municipal affairs in this Province - and he went into it and he did a study, he and his commissioners, Mr. Justice Morgan and Professor Andrews, for a long period of time. We are talking now, I am addressing myself, Mr. Speaker, to the fact there was not enough information given to the public. That particular commission before it made its finding had hearings all over the region everywhere. They were going on month after month after month. Representations were invited. Representations were made.

MR. MARSHALL: Then after the report came in their findings were thoroughly discussed by all areas. Their findings were particularly discussed at a seminar given by the Newfoundland Federation of Municipalities which everybody had the opportunity to attend and there was not a thorough, an intelligent discussion of that report. Subsequently, as a result of considering all of these matters, Bill 101, which is really this Bill 50, found itself on the Table of this House last year. Now we are talking, Mr. Speaker,

MR. W. MARSHALL:

I remind you about a lack of consultation, about a government attempting to ram it down throats, we are talking about a government that had to act in 1972 because of the inaction of the previous government on a very critical matter, we are talking about commission hearings being held, we are talking about the representations after the findings were made and inquiries had been made. Now we come to Bill 101 which found itself on the table of this House and it promptly met the objections, certain objections, not just but mainly vocal objections from the city of St. John's but equally vocal from the M.H.A.'s who represented the city area. There were two or three major aspects of that bill with which everybody disagreed, and the first one was that the bill imposed double taxation, it gave the regional council the right to tax the persons in St. John's and Mount Pearl and Wedgewood Park, etc. and it also gave the regional council - now when we are talking about regional government we are talking about a new concept and we are talking about the evolution of it. In our opinion that regional government could not evolve with a double taxation system, so that had to be altered.

Another problem in that Bill 101 was the fact that there were coincidental powers. The Regional Council had the right to make regulations in the same area as a municipality and we saw that this could lead to a jungle.

Now these were the views that were strongly expressed by the city of St. John's, they were strongly expressed by the M.H.A.'s and that was the reason why this government did not go ahead with the bill last year, it withdrew it for further consideration - now we are talking about the government that is now supposed to be ramming things down people's throats - it withdrew it for further consideration and, as I say, over the past twelve months the M.H.A.'s in the St. John's region have had many meetings. As a matter of fact we meet quite regularly and for a period of twelve to fifteen meetings I would say Bill 101 formed the sole topic of discussion on the agenda. That is of course -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. W. MARSHALL: Our meetings amongst ourselves -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. W. MARSHALL: Amongst the elected members.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. W. MARSHALL: We came to the conclusion after weighing all this, Mr. Speaker, after weighing all the provisions of Bill 101 we came - there are no absolutes in this world, there is no everything is black and everything is white and this is all right and that is all wrong, what comes up you take alternatives that are available to you and you have to consider them and you have to weigh them and you have to make your consensus as to what is the best mode of procedure amongst one, two, three or many alternatives and that is exactly what the M.H.A.'s did under the capable leadership of the Minister of Municipal Affairs who was also, of course, the member for Pleasantville (Mr. Dinn).

Now my point in doing this is to say that our opinion was not made carelessly. We were well cognizant of the fact of our responsibilities and quite prepared to equate them with that which we were attempting to do and we have. The result is we find this Bill 50 now before the Legislature not being rammed down anybody's throat. I say that we do not presume today that this bill is absolute perfection but it happens to be one in this clime and this time, after having been weighed, that we consider to be the best compromise and the most appropriate instrument to bring in as a form of regional government which everyone considers to be necessary at the present time. It does not mean that this is going to be the regional government from now to the year 2020. It may not be the regional government in 1979 or 1980. I say that the M.H.A.'s and the government are quite prepared to listen to all reasonable representations that are made from time to time. And after all there is such a thing as amendments and I have no doubt there will be many

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MR. W. MARSHALL: amendments to this bill from time to
time and I am quite sure that we will all be prepared to

MR. MARSHALL:

listen to the representations that are made and amendments will find themselves in in due course but, in the meantime, we have to have a Regional Government. We have a water supply system out there in the Bay Bulls area which has cost \$35 million, which is not going to cost, as the minister has indicated, the citizens of the area themselves a cent in the sense that it is tagged to them directly but it is going to come from the federal government and from the provincial government coffers. So you are getting sort of like a Cadillac car, if you wish, for nothing and now we have to operate it but in order to operate that area we have to have, obviously, some organized form and that is a Regional Government.

Now I am aware that this bill cannot be presumed to suit, as I say, everyone. It will go far enough for those people who have read the Henley Report and who feel that the Henley Report being, as it is, a very careful weighing of the situation after hearing all sides and coming up with what they feel is the most ideal in the theoretical, if you like, way of implementing Regional Government. There are items in this bill that will not satisfy them. For instance, the Henley Report recommends that the Regional Government be given complete powers with respect to taxation. Now maybe if you sat down and you were beginning something from the beginning of time and you were starting to create a new body of people that had not been used to other areas and other ways of organizing their affairs maybe you could do this but at this time and this climate - and this is what politicians are for - we judged that the people are not ready for that particular type of taxation and we did not wish to bring it in and we do not think for many, many years, if at all, it belongs in, so these people will not think it goes far enough. I know the city council has objections to it. I have to say that we did listen very carefully to what the city council has said throughout this whole area and we have given, I do not say given, we have heard what the council has said with respect to the double taxation and the coincidental powers and other matters and we have made the alterations in Bill 50 but I say to the council too that the council cannot necessarily have all that it wants. For

MR. MARSHALL:

instance, it wants an expanded city but we cannot expand the city of St. John's. It is not proper to impose a form of government on people when they are not willing or ready or able to accept it. Those who talk about democracy and ramming things down the throats of persons should well consider this particular aspect. Now this, I say, is the best and most feasible form of Regional Government that we can find at the present time but I emphasize it does not preclude the possibility of amendment, it does not mean that this government is God in the manger and is not going to listen to anybody any more, it does not mean that this government will not make changes but it surely means that this government is going to exercise the responsibilities for which it is elected and bring in a Regional Government that everyone agrees is necessary which it assesses to be reasonable, after very carefully weighing and considering all of the factors and after giving the populous of the area ample time and ample opportunity to come in and make their representation. So this business of ramming it down the throats does not really, as far as I am concerned, wash at all.

I have to express, Mr. Speaker, a certain concern if I may, and this might be slightly diverging, but a certain concern over the atmosphere which has developed as a result of this regional bill because I feel that this atmosphere can affect the operations of a very good instrument of government, i.e., the Regional Government itself.

Surely we can have differences of opinion amongst different people in this Province when they represent, whether they are elected M.H.A.s or councillors or organizations or what have you, without the necessity of clamouring that M.H.A.'s should resign or they will not be elected again or without us making sorties I have no desire to make any sorties against the Municipal Council, the members of the St. John's Municipal Council with whom we have all attempted and will in the future do our utmost to co-operate

MR. MARSHALL:

with in the mutual efforts of bringing good government to the St. John's area. I may have a different viewpoint from certain people on the council with respect to this, but surely we can do this and at least maintain a mutual respect. The same thing has really concerned me about the militancy, I have to say, of the Northeastern Communities group that is there. And particularly, you know, you have a difference of opinion. And I am not saying - you know, I am delighted that these people have a difference of opinion. This is what makes a healthy situation, but you do not have a difference of opinion and you do not have to get militant about it in such a way as I regret to say the people from St. Thomas' did the other day. Now there was a picture in the paper the other day - you talk about in this Province vandalism and you talk about law and order, and the other day I saw a picture in the paper of elected members of the St. Thomas' council down cutting down a sign of the St. John's Metropolitan Area. Now make no wonder there is vandalism and I say the hon. the Minister of Justice is not in his seat tonight - well quite frankly where that type of recourse is made to expressing a contrary opinion, I think appropriate action should be taken because you cannot tolerate this type of thing.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL:

Now, you know, at the same time I am glad to hear these contrary views. I will get to some of these in a moment, and we will take these into consideration. But I do not know whether it is - I think it is the zeal of the chairman - and the chairman, I know, is a very well intentioned person, Mr. Fahey, who is very concerned about the situation and I do not derogate in any way his sincerity or his concerns, but I do suggest this, that, you know, we get letters - like I got a letter today addressed to the hon. the Minister of Municipal Affairs along the lines that 'We demand that you as Minister of Municipal Affairs immediately defer any further reading of Bill No. 50 and we demand that you respond to our demand for deferment. Now you know, everybody has his rights as I say, but as an elected member I am not going to myself, and I know the minister is not going to respond to that type of letter. I am elected as the member for St. John's East, as the member for St. John's West (Dr. Kitchen) is and the other

MR. MARSHALL: members for St. John's, and having spent many hours considering this bill you do what you think is the best thing in the best interest of the citizens of the area and it is our responsibility in this House of Assembly, not just on the government side, but in this House of Assembly, and I am sure that we are all quite capable of acquitting that responsibility and no government worth its salt is going to bend down to that type of demand, what have you. As I say, I am not derogating; it is not my intention to -

MR. NEARY: Where does that (inaudible) letter?

MR. MARSHALL: That letter was written - I got it today in my home. It came from the Chairman of the Association of Northeast Avalon Communities.

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible)

MR. MARSHALL: Yes, with a c.c. from the MHAs concerned. Now look, let us get something straight.

How ever long this government exists -

AN HON. MEMBER: Not even signed, look.

MR. MARSHALL: However long the government may exist -

AN HON. MEMBER: Forty-eight hours.

MR. MARSHALL: Well, whether it be forty-eight hours or forty-eight years or how ever long it is, it is the government, and this government, I would suggest, is not going to go down to demands of that nature. The members on this side of the House and that side of the House and the persons who are elected are elected for a certain purpose and we will determine ourselves how to acquit our responsibilities and we will ultimately answer to our electorate with respect to it. I think there is far too much in this Province of this type of thing and I also say it is very unfortunate that the only way that anybody can seem to get the press or public attention in this Province is if he is 'agin' something, if he is criticising or if he is carping about something. And this is the reason why in many respects we do not get the well-informed and unemotional opinion passed from time to time that is necessary. I am still smarting myself when I see in our

MR. W. MARSHALL: papers and I exempt the electronic media for this they covered it, but when they cover, the press, you know, column after column after column of foolish points of privilege and what have you and ignore to this day the fact that we owe \$100 million more as a result of the revaluation of the Canadian currency and our borrowings and sortie into the West German market. And that is the type of thing we are getting. We are getting it because it is more popular to report the type of thing that is carping criticism and this is the way that people get before the press.

Now, this bill has been called and I do not know the hon. gentleman in the gallery and ladies and maybe there are some people from the Northeast Avalon area I do not know, but from the human cry that I had heard I would have expected the galleries would be filled the past two days with the deep concern about the regional government bill.

MR. S. NEARY: They are too busy trying to earn a living.

MR. W. MARSHALL: And they have not been - we should note that they have not been present here. The only ones that I have really seen here present, funnily enough, are the councillors, the mayor and the councillors from the town of Mount Pearl, which has expressed itself for the bill, and I think myself that speaks allegiance.

But, as I say in closing on that aspect of it, it is not my intent to be overcritical about the persons who are raising these concerns because we are glad to see concerns raised from time to time but just let us get our ground rules straight as to what the situation is and to whether or not we are going to respond to demands, to whether or not persons can really express opinions as they ought to be able to express them without getting into a dog-fight over the situation.

Now, let us consider the form of the bill in the few moments that I have left. There seems to me, as I say, there were, do not forget, there were major objections to this bill because Bill 50 was Bill 101. If this Bill 50 had read Bill 101 when it had been brought into the House - it really is essentially

MR. W. MARSHALL: the same bill with different terms. Removed from it, as I say, has been the double powers and the double taxation. Now, what we are left with are certain objections and one or two of the major ones I would like to deal with. The first one is the matter of the appointed members. This seems to be a matter of concern to a lot of people and this concern is not really the Province or isolated, shall we say, to those people who are expressed opponents of the bill. I mean, I think everyone is concerned with the aspect of the fact that we have a Chairman and four councillors at large to be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. The first thing I would like to point out is that this constitutes really - so we do not get into the area the member for Twillingate (Mr. W.N. Rowe) was on about the government controlling the appointed members and this is the purpose of the situation, the fact of the matter is that recommendation 8 -

MR. S. NEARY: It is not the Bible.

MR. W. MARSHALL: No, no it is not the Bible. I am not stating it is the Bible but neither am I stating that the words of the Leader of the Opposition are the Holy Writ either. The fact of the matter is your Leader of the Opposition got up and he did not even refer to the Henley Report, the basis, the study into Regional Government.

Now recommendation 8 said the St. John's Regional Council, this was the recommendation, have a total membership of fifteen members to be computed as follows and it says, lo and behold, a Chairman and four members at large appointed by the provincial government. What we have here in the bill we find, lo and behold, a Chairman and four councillors at large to be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. Then the recommendations go on to say, "Six members of the enlarged city council to be appointed by that council and one member from each of four regions."

Now, we did not accept the other recommendations in the interest of this democracy to which we have referred from time to time because we did not think it appropriate for members to be appointed by the St. John's council. Instead, we reduced that number to four

Mr. Marshall: and we provided that they be appointed in accordance with The St. John's Municipal Elections Act, so they are elected.

The point I want to make is that after due consideration it was the Henley Report that recommended these five people be appointed by the government. Now this is not an ideal situation. You do not just, as the hon. member said, it is not the Bible. Why is it being done? This is a new concept involving regional government and it is necessary, as in any new organization of this kind, it is going to go through growing pains, as it were. And the Provincial Government has a responsibility of seeing that this particular Council, Regional Government works to the best of its ability, so it has got to see that certain expertise, if you like, is there, appointed, to guide the situation.

Now this is in the early stages, and this is what we think after having weighed the situation. But all of us also think, and I should not be saying all of us, but I think there is unanimous agreement amongst the M.H.A.s, and I would like this to be noted down that we do not think that this should continue on forever, this situation of the government appointing the Chairman and four councillors. We do not think it should go on forever. As a matter of fact, we think it should end as soon as feasible and as soon as possible. And unless my ears deceive me the hon. the Minister of Municipal Affairs when he got up, in his very capable speech in introducing this bill, indicated that that exactly was going to be the situation, that as soon as possible and as soon as feasible all of the councillors and the Chairman would be elected.

So let us not get on with this business, "oh the government, the government is doing it for this purpose." As I say it matches the recommendation in the Henley Commission. It is a matter that has formed a lot of concern at these meetings that were attended by all of the St. John's members, and it is one after weighing all of the factors, and heaven knows we may be wrong, certainly we may be wrong, but after weighing the situation we feel for the present it is

Mr. Marshall: the best route to go, and that is the way she is going to go until as soon as possible we see the way open and the way clear to have them elected, and as soon as this can feasibly be done I know it will be done.

The other one that has caused a great deal of concern we have heard is non-compensation for assets. Now the Leader of the Opposition did refer to this and this is Section 33 (3), "Where property is required under this section or Section 32, that no compensation is to be paid to the municipality and all liabilities and obligations associated with the property shall be assumed by the regional council." Now this has caused a great hue and cry. And I have heard the council say, Oh this is wrong. I have seen what I thought to be an utterly ludicrous. - I will not refer to the opinion itself, but I was privy to an opinion that went to council that I thought was utterly ludicrous about expropriation without compensation. Because again this represents, you know, it is all very well to get up and say, this should not be, but let us address ourselves to the reason why it is there and then attack the reasoning instead of just blanket saying that it should not be.

On pages 123 and 124, and on to page 125 the Commission deals with the matter of compensation for transfer of assets and liabilities. And I want to quote from it. "The division of functions between regional and local government as outlined in the previous subsection will of necessity result in the regional government assuming control. If it is to be able to discharge its functions properly of certain existing facilities that are at present administered by existing municipalities. For example, insofar as the Windsor Lake, Petty Harbour, Long Pond watersheds may become part of the regional water supply system, control of and title to this facility may be removed from the city and invested in the regional council." That has not been done, Windsor Lake has not been done at this time and not in the foreseeable future. But the Commission gave considerable thought to the question of possible compensation to a municipality for the transfer of a valuable asset. Because of the

Mr. Marshall: importance of this matter, and because the issue was raised at the public hearings the Commission felt that a review of the position taken by the consultants is relevant here, and it concludes "After careful consideration of the issues involved including strong representations of the City of St. John's on the point, the Commission accepts the position of the consultants as a proper

MR. MARSHALL: one to follow which is that there should be no compensation." Now, that is the situation. And why should there not be? We have heard a great hue and cry about compulsory expropriation. The basic reason I see, Mr. Speaker, is that these people who are talking about it look at these facilities as being belonging to the St. John's council. Well it does not belong to the St. John's council or the Mount Pearl council or the Wedgewood Park or what have you, it belongs to the citizens of St. John's. Or if it is Mount Pearl, it belongs to the citizens of Mount Pearl. So what in the name of heavens do you do? If you charge for these assets what happens? Say for instance, a major asset - and I will not name one asset because then the next thing it will be in the press that the government is going to take that asset - but say a major asset is taken from the City of St. John's that is worth \$5 million or \$6 million by the regional council, how is it to be paid for?

I have heard statements made that the government is trying to pass the buck. To whom do they pass the buck? Who gets the buck ultimately? It is the citizens who get the buck and pay the buck as well. That is what happens. So what happens if the regional council has to pay \$6 million to the City of St. John's? What it would have to do first of all, it would have to - it has no powers of taxation, by the way, in the City of St. John's area - it would have to, if it had a large asset like that and had to pay, it would have to have the right to tax and it would tax the citizens of St. John's. so the citizens of St. John's would pay twice. And what would happen to the \$6 million? The \$6 million would go into the coffers of the City of St. John's and be used for debt redemption or be used for recreation facilities or what have you, but it would not be the government that would

MR. MARSHALL: it is going to affect the financing power of the City of St. John's, balderdash! The City of St. John's does not finance itself as a result of sewer mains and water mains underneath the street. What the City of St. John's does, it finances itself on the basis of its taxation power. And this bill has very carefully seen that its taxation powers are not affected, therefore, neither are its financing powers in anyway affected.

When we come to taxation we have heard it stated, and I say this again, by a man whose opinion I respect but I differ with him on it, that we are passing the buck, that we want to pass the buck on to the regional council for what the Province has to do with respect to the Ruby Line and with respect to Robin Hood Bay and with respect to the water systems. Well let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, that that is not a startling revelation. It is stated in a rather crass

MR. MARSHALL: manner, but every local government is there for the purpose, if you want, of passing the buck, because the theory of local government is the nearer you get the provision of services to the citizens concerned, to the local government that is, the better the service rendered, and the more responsible the citizens become with respect to it. So that is no real revelation of any need.

Now there are many benefits also of this regional government that this bill, and this is why I feel this bill has to be brought in now, and if there are changes that have to be made they should be considered. They may not go through here. As I say I regret I am not going to be here to hear what the member for St. John's West (Dr. Kitchen) says because I know he will have very sensible comments to make and really he should have been the lead off speaker, although I do not think the leaders of the Opposition, all three of them, would agree.

The point is I would like to hear what the hon. member says because this is a beneficial bill and changes can be made. We are not dogmatic and we will consider them. But there must be regional government in this Province because it is the only vehicle around. There is a very crying need now, there are services of a regional nature that just cannot remain in a state of limbo, that no responsible government can allow to remain in a state of limbo.

The Bay Bulls water system is certainly one of them, the most evident, but the other is the regional dump. The hon. member talked about, you know, in sort of a half jocular fashion, the member for Twillingate (Mr. W. Rowe) talked about the parade of rats and what have you but it is a fact that the Robin Hood Bay has a dump that is used not just by the City of St. John's but by Mount Pearl and by Wedgewood Park and by a lot of other people and consequently and under-

MR. MARSHALL: standably the City of St. John's has not been inclined to take the full responsibility that is necessary with respect to it and you cannot blame them. I am not chastising them. Why should they provide services for citizens of the other area? And we need a regional government for the purpose of looking after facilities of this nature. We also need, as a crying concern in my district, attention being paid to the pollution problem that has occurred. It is a provincial, municipal and national disgrace that that harbour down there has refuse pumped out of it every second of the day. And anyone who wants to get down in the Royal Trust Building, where the hon. members who are so free to give me free advertising from time to time say I spend most of my time, then all you have to do is look at the refuse being pumped out. And represent an area like the Battery down there and hear about fishermen who have been fishing out of the harbour for centuries now unable to wash out their boats, not even able to wash out their boats because of the pollution in the harbour. Go down to Quidi Vidi Village, down the Gut and you will see pollution.

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible)

MR. MARSHALL: You have Quidi Vidi itself and you have Rennie's River coming up. You had a report by the working group of the environment done years ago which pointed to the reasons for pollution but nothing was done about it because it transcended various jurisdictions or what have you and this is what I see this regional government is all about.

No, Mr. Speaker, this bill, as far as I am concerned, is the best job that we can do for the present. Not one that is going to remain forever and a day, one that will be considered. The government will consider reasonably any changes to be made in the future but in the

MR. MARSHALL: meantime I certainly hope the government is going to govern and is going to bring in the regional government which is sorely needed. And this is what, as I say, is the main thing; all the concern about this bill is not the bill itself but the form and there has been very little said about the form, that is the various sections of the bill itself, the import of the bill. The only thing that I have heard of any worth - now there have been others which I have not even dealt with, other members can deal with them, they are, you know, the expropriation proceedings and what have you and granted some of those expropriation proceedings may be too harsh, but they are the same expropriation proceedings that are in other acts which does not justify it I know and which perhaps we ought to, as a Legislature, consider not

Mr. Marshall: just a Regional Government Bill in this case but the Local Government Act and the St. John's Act and The Expropriation Act and all the other great powers that had been conferred on civil servants that we have spoke of from time to time. But that is not something that is particular to this and germane to this Bill. As I say the only objections I have heard to the substance of it that have any real weight are the five elected persons, the lack of compensation and the taxation provisions. But I do believe that this is best for the present. It is a bill that is being put forward after a great deal of weighing and assessing by the members. We will listen to contrary views, and we will listen to them with respect for those voicing them, but I hope that the respect can be mutual and reciprocal because then we can come along and we can perhaps afford an even better bill than we have. But in the meantime, Mr. Speaker, we got to let her go because we have considered it for five years and we are now today acquitting a responsibility, yet another responsibility that was left by the previous administration.

So as I say I whole-heartedly support the bill with the reservation that we will, I know, be making changes in the future.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. J. NOLAN: Mr. Speaker, I have listened with great interest to my hon. friend for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall), and his dissertation on the state of municipal bliss. However, it is not to be found in the bill unless we are talking about a different one altogether. I thought we would get some very fine criticisms of the bill, frankly, from the member for St. John's East. It is too bad this bill, the whole thing started off wrong in the first place. What happened was this, there has been so many references to the Henley Commission, and the Henley Commission went around to various municipalities and they discussed one form or another of regional government for the area asking people's opinion. They taped many, if not all of the sessions, as I recall and I attended some of them.

Mr. Nolan: It has been suggested that there has been no reference or little reference by the Leader of the Opposition into the Henley Commission. But why should he? What are we here in the House discussing? This bill. And I submit that no member in this House, not the minister, not the Leader of the Opposition, not the member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall), - how can you talk about a bill that is going to have either beneficial or, I submit, very serious effects on 165,000 people without having the bill in front of you? Would the hon. member or the hon. Leader of the Opposition go into court like that?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, no.

MR. NOLAN: In the name of all that is holy, how can you?

This business, first of all the minister started off - well first of all the first mistake, I suppose, was appointing him to the position of minister in the first place. That is item one.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

AN HON. MEMBER: A good minister.

MR. NOLAN: A good minister! I see. I would like to know your definition of good.

AN HON. MEMBER: Judging by himself.

MR. NOLAN: But we have seen that in education.

But he started off - what was his first? What was his first utterances to introduce this bill? Think for a moment. Just think about it for a second. What was the first tirade he went into?

AN HON. MEMBER: Who?

MR. NOLAN: The Minister of Municipal Affairs.

AN HON. MEMBER: Green.

MR. NOLAN: Ashamed of Newfoundland. Ashamed of Newfoundland.

That is it.

MR. DOODY: Ashamed of visiting the people because of you -

MR. NEARY: That is not what he said at all.

MR. NOLAN: Check the Hansard and you will find it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NOLAN: Provision in the bill. The hon. minister is the one that did it. I am merely quoting what he said. If the hon. gentleman is so upset by this why did he not rise and object then?

AN HON. MEMBER: Now! Now!

MR. NOLAN: No, not a peep out of him. No explanation of the bill by the minister that I can recall. No explanation of the various sections in this bill at all.

What was the minister's stance on this? It was one of stubbornness and arrogance the like of which I have rarely seen or heard or read about in any Legislative Chamber in the world possibly with the exception of Uganda.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NOLAN: I mean, you know.

MR. NOLAN: It is a sort of a municipal Amin. It is a scandal to watch it here. It started off wrong, pitifully, and it is to bad, it is to bad. There is a good case to be made for Regional Government and there are any number of variations that one can study whether it be in Ontario or lots of the other provinces, in the United States or in Europe. There are many fine examples which I believe we could cull together and interpret and arrange to suit our own local needs. But, no. Here we have a bill that we are asked to discuss - and by the way this bill was brought in as I recall on May 31st, up to that point, to the best of my knowledge, no one knew the contents of the bill. No one, not a single soul. Then we have the supreme insult, men and women who are elected in councils around the periphery of St. John's and in the city itself who, to the best of my knowledge, do not have the courtesy of the bill being delivered to them with an accompanying letter from the minister to this date. - one hundred and sixty five thousand people ignored in that fashion. Is there anyone on the other side of the House who supports this?

AN HON. MEMBER:

Shame.

MR. NOLAN:

So what did we do? We took the bill, xeroxed it and in my own particular case I sent it out to the municipalities concerned and I am sure hon. members did the same thing. What did the minister say? We did not have enough bills. We hope to have them put through the printers and when we get them they will be sent out to the respective municipalities and those interested.

MR. NEARY:

(Inaudible) sent around.

MR. NOLAN:

Well this is what happened. I am not lying or exaggerating. I am telling the truth as I know it. This is a frightening indictment; this is not the way - look, in the St. John's area and the periphery of St. John's, in the Northeast Avalon, so-called, you have municipalities for the most part, with the exception of St. John's, that are not entirely ancient. Conception Bay South only in the last few years, relatively speaking, was incorporated, Paradise the same way, St. Thomas just the other day, Portugal Cove just the other day.

AN HON. MEMBER:

A great mayor.

MR. NOLAN:

Yes a very fine mayor. And a fine mayor down in St. Phillips I might add, their Mayor Tucker. And so we go-all of these communities were only incorporated recently, very, very recently. There is no history of local government there. In fact anybody who knows anything at all, even a casual observer of the municipal scene around the city of St. John's, can only come to one conclusion and that is that they were amongst the last people in this Province to accept any form of incorporation. Look at the history, the further away from St. John's you go, excluding St. John's, Windsor, in through St. Anthony, Labrador, Grand Falls, Corner Brook, anywhere at all practically you will find that they have had municipal government of one form or another for a great number of years in most instances. But look, what is the longest one - I cannot think of it and I should have looked it up, I suppose -

AN HON. MEMBER:

Windsor is the oldest.

MR. NOLAN:

I know Windsor is but I am thinking about in the region outside St. John's. I will bet you there is not one twenty years old. Is there?

AN HON. MEMBER:

Mount Pearl.

MR. NOLAN:

Mount pearl .

AN HON. MEMBER:

The rest of them are about two years old.

MR. NOLAN:

Well Conception Bay South maybe ten or more, if that. Is it ten?

MR. DOODY:

That one would be about nine years old.

MR. NOLAN:

Nine years old. And then you have -

MR. DOODY:

Wabana is older than that.

MR. NOLAN:

Wabana is older. But all I am saying is, if there was any place in this world knowing the fact that they have not been directly involved in governing their own affairs municipally, if there is any group in the world who should have been nurtured, encouraged, informed and so on it was these people. They are just getting going administering their

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MR. NOLAN: affairs in the various municipalities. And what do we hear from the minister? - not only for these people around the periphery of St. John's as I mentioned but also for all the citizens of St. John's and the mayor and councillors of St. John's, - here it is, it is going in, we are going to do this and we are going to do that whether you like it or not. That is what we heard. That is in the Hansard. There is the attitude of the minister. Is this conciliation? Is this negotiation? Is this sitting down with men and women, your peers, your equals and attempting to outline to them the best way possible, the best kind of regional type government that could be beneficial? not only from an administrative point of view but

MR. NOLAN: also for the residents, the citizens, the ones who do not have a copy of this bill tonight, many of whom, perhaps, if they did, with some of the legalistic jargon, would not know exactly what it means anyway? And I suggest that is true of many of us here in this House, those of us without legal training and so on. This is wrong. It is a wrong approach to take and I will bet my life on it the gentlemen opposite who support this will live to regret it. Believe me, this is not the way to bring in any kind of a bill no matter what it is, but particularly a major bill of such enormous proportions as this contains for 165,000 people. They are not sheep. You just cannot have it. It just cannot be done. Brought in here on May 31st - all of us here are supposed to analyse the bills and come up with arguments, recommendations and so on and expected - obviously we are being made to appear, according to the minister, as though we are a bunch of municipal illiterates, stunned, stupid because we cannot go along with certain things, many things in this bill. We cannot do it. If I were the strongest proponent of regional government in this Province, the strongest in our caucus and the strongest of any member opposite, I would not vote for this bill. I would not because I cannot in conscience do it.

Three weeks ago we had the bill. The old city of St. John's did not have the courtesy - they had briefs, they had recommendations. We hear the minister saying how there was consultation. Do not consult with me on anything unless you are going to consult with this bill. That is all I am interested in because this is the proposed law of the land. I do not want the good wordings and good wishes of the minister or anybody opposite, I want to know what is in this bill. This is all we are dealing with. Is there anything else that is relevant? Nonsense! Absolute and utter nonsense! In the name of God what has come over this House? Look at some of the powers in here that the hon. the Leader of the Opposition referred to. I mean, there are powers in here, for example, that you would not give to the police, would you? I mean, I do not want any municipal authority, I do not care what you call them, out peeping in through keyholes in Conception Bay South, walking into

MR. NOLAN: houses whenever they bloody well feel like it. I feel and I have always felt that we are over-governed in this Province anyway in many respects, but that is the politician's fault. We permit ourselves to fall into the traps of the planners and all the rest of them. But what has happened? We have reneged on our responsibility. We did not do what we said we would do or tried to do when we were elected. We have abdicated our responsibility. And I do not have to tell ministers opposite who had some considerable experience that there is a degree of arrogance in certain areas within the bureaucracy that is absolutely frightening, because remember on behalf of some of them the attitude is - and I have heard it, make no mistake about it, and there are ministers opposite who have heard it as well - the attitude of some of these characters is, 'So what! He does not like it!' meaning the minister. 'We have seen him come and we have seen him go.' And they are right. They are here until they are sixty-five. You are here until the next election - game over or you are back in again, one of the two. So that is the way it is. The bureaucracy was not elected to govern this Province. No way! And we have nobody to blame but ourselves. Name calling, criticism, useless criticism, will serve no purpose because those oftentimes who have the power are sitting down in their offices spread out all over the city or wherever they are, laughing at you. And it is time you learned, I will tell you that.

The minister has stated that he has discussed this bill with any number of people. Would you be good enough to name one up to the time this bill was presented? - one mayor, one councillor.

MR. DINN: What is that?

MR. NOLAN: Just name one person that this was discussed with before presentation in the House.

MR. DINN: One.

MR. NOLAN: Who?

MR. DINN: One is the present mayor of the council.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NOLAN: Oh, well, we do not want to disturb you.

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SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible)

Will I bring in

some help?

MR. NOLAN:

No, just sit where you are.

AN HON. MEMBER:

There was nobody.

MRS. McISAAC:

Not much (inaudible)

MR. NOLAN:

Was there anybody that you are aware of?

AN HON. MEMBER:

The master plan.

MR. NOLAN: Right. The master plan. But the minister's attitude is such that if he brought down the Ten Commandments you would have to send them back for amendments. You would have to. I mean he would make you dislike anything. He behaved like a complete madman shouting and screaming at members. We even had one minister opposite go into verbal abuse as asides, which no doubt are recorded in Hansard, that Mr. Fahey, who had the unmitigated gall to inflict himself into a situation whereby there were certain municipalities concerned who were concerned about their future and so on and whether you agree with the gentleman or not the fact is he did have the right to do it.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is a citizens right.

MR. NOLAN: He is a citizen of the region. And what were we told. I do not know if the hon. member was here, what did we have bawled at us across the House, "Oh, he is the next Liberal candidate." And to the best of my knowledge, and it is really none of my business, I believe maybe the man is a very ardent supporter of the PC Party. What an insult then.

MR. NEARY: He was.

MR. NOLAN: Worse again.

AN HON. MEMBER: He saw the light.

MR. FLIGHT: Another supporter gone.

MR. NOLAN: There are a number of communities, Mr. Speaker, any number of communities who believe that there is a need for municipal co-operation and to some degree administration. There has to be some kind of formal type administration but this is not the way to do it, this bill. And again the method of presentation is so far off the mark that I am afraid the minister's approach to the whole thing will do untold harm to regional government.

MR. NOLAN: Now before I go on let me make a brief reference to something that was mentioned here in the House and that is in regard to Mr. O'Dea who is the Chairman. The chairman of the group I have known personally for many years. -

MR. NEARY: A fine gentleman.

MR. NOLAN: - both in business, in his many, many involvements in community efforts, I believe President of the Federation of Manufacturers at one time, and also in addition to that in many other ways. I have no objection to Mr. O'Dea personally. In fact I have had considerable dealings with him on some of the outlandish bloody laws we have, like a husband and wife not permitted to build unless on five acres of land. I mean they do not want the Ponderosa, they only want a building lot. It is hard to believe. I mean people who listen to these things must think that I am crazy, that these are not the laws of this land, but they are. They are the regulations. But, Mr. O'Dea I am sorry to say, for some reason got sucked into getting involved in a public controversy. And that is unfortunate because he then enters the political arena, and I am not sure that was his intention. If it was at the bidding of the minister, the minister wronged him seriously in my opinion, if it was not then I cannot imagine what encouraged him to make the statement in the press that he did attempting to defend this bill. I cannot imagine it for one minute. And I believe that he was wrong in that respect. And also I am afraid that he may have made himself suspect to those who already have had problems with the Metro Board of which he is Chairman, many, many problems. Again, of course, you have an all appointed body. This was set up originally on an interim basis and in fact there were plans being discussed in 1971 to change it altogether but the gentlemen opposite decided to continue with the appointed body and that is their affair and at least the affairs of the

MR. NOLAN: people who are being governed by this all appointed body.

Now we are told the Federation of Municipalities is in favour of regional government. That is what we are told. Well now, first of all, the Federation of Municipalities do not run the affairs of the people in the area concerned.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. NOLAN: They do not. They do not.

AN HON. MEMBER: Whatever area that is.

MR. NOLAN: Not only that but I understand the Federation of Municipalities is against the appointments - I may be wrong - against the appointments of the chairman and four members.

MR. NEARY: They are.

MR. NOLAN: They are. But the Federation is a government funded organization, let us not forget that. Substantial amounts, I do not know the exact amount, my friend the former minister may know how much money goes into the Federation each year.

MR. PECKFORD: I do not know what their total budget is, they transfer around \$30,000 to \$35,000.

MR. NOLAN: Yes.

MR. PECKFORD: Their budget is around perhaps \$70,000 or \$80,000.

MR. NOLAN: Right.

MR. PECKFORD: Plus they get get fees.

MR. NOLAN: So you may have a third or half their money that they have that comes directly from the government.

AN HON. MEMBER: They just got an increase.

MR. NOLAN: We are told that the bill was brought in, the old bill that is, and because of the objections, in some aspects, by the St. John's caucus, it was deferred. Well now we are told on allegedly good authority that the City of St. John's

MR. NOLAN: had again the unmitigated gall to speak out publicly, the mayor and others, against this bill. And I also understand that there was to be a meeting of members of the House of Assembly, originally I believe just the members on the other side, because you cannot mix with the political heathens over here,

MR. NOLAN: but that was cancelled, that was called off because the council, imagine the elected people, had the nerve to speak out against the wishes of the benevolent municipal dictator. Imagine!

From what I can understand in checking around, no one had a copy of this bill, and therefore there is no way in God's world you can discuss the laws of this land unless you have it before you. And I submit the people elected, and otherwise appointed, did not have it and therefore any sitting down - it is not worth anymore than myself and the member for St. John's West (Dr. Kitchen) sitting down and philosophising about a great expanded Metro Board. It is only worth that, for the two of us to exchange ideas and nothing more.

"Regional government was not sprung on anyone," it said in the news in 1978. Not sprung on anyone? It has been in the making for well over a year but again I am interested only in Bill 50. Some of the communities represented the federation meetings are not opposing the bill, Kilbride, Mount Pearl and Torbay. To the best of my knowledge Torbay has opposed it, or portions of it - I mean these are statements from the minister.

There is no justification that I can see for putting in Bill 50 right now. You are supposed to be concerned with a bigger, bigger government and I am telling you that people are afraid of their lives of government right now, the way that it is being -

MR. NEARY: \$30,000.

MR. NOLAN: \$30,000 for the Federation of Municipalities.

We have heard a great deal about the so-called services to be provided under regional government. We

MR. NOLAN: are told that down the road it may provide transportation, and I would like to see that one very carefully because even the City of St. John's, in providing their service I believe out to Mount Pearl and within the city itself, has some very serious financial difficulties, very serious financial difficulties. They are going to provide garbage collection. Now I do not know what the minister has in mind, if we had a great dissertation in a pied piper fashion on the state of the rats down in his area, well that is fine, but let us not forget that this government made an attempt and backed off to put the dump out on Ruby Line or just in that area. Remember that? Now which community are you going to favour next I wonder or are you going to put an incinerator or whatever it is down there in Robin Hood Bay as it is presently situated?

Now the other service, of course, is water. We have not been told to this moment in this bill what we are talking about in terms of dollars. The hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall) went off into a great dissertation on the fact that there is not going to be any additional taxation. I mean that is not true. If that hon. member were over here and we were over there and we said that he would go right out of his skull, he would be trying to get a parade going outside the building and wringing his hands. I can see it now. I have seen it in fact. But the fact is this, the regional government as I see it, as it is presently envisaged in this bill, and mark my words, will develop into, as sure as you are born, a municipal hydro. And listen well because that is what is going to happen, a municipal hydro, I can see it now.

MR. W. ROWE: A monster.

MR. NOLAN: The people in the communities - ah ha, but it will not be the government, oh no, not at all.

MR. WHITE: They will be bringing in a regulatory body - regional council.

MR. NOLAN: That is right. Regulatory body, correct, and with what powers? Holy Hannah what powers! What is going to happen with water and with the other services that we have been told about here? You are going to say to the councils, "Here, here is your bill, pay." What are the councils going to do? They are going to go to the people in the community and tax them. Where else are they going to go? Not to the minister, that is for sure. That is your worry my friends. You are elected out there.

This is a monstrous bill.

AN HON. MEMBER: Everybody else has to pay for their water services.

MR. NOLAN: I see. Well what we would like to do, I mean I hate to be presumptuous but we are bold enough over here to believe that if you are going to have that situation at least you can elect all the people on the board. I am sorry to be revolutionary but that is what I believe.

MR. PECKFORD: That is not an argument.

MR. NOLAN: That is not an argument? I would rather have it in the hands of elected officials on that board

Mr. Nolan: than in the hands of the minister and the Executive Council because those appointed and the Chairman are being paid and depend for their livelihood, possibly, on the minister.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. NOLAN: I guess perhaps for the same reason why you did not abolish Hogan's Pond in the November election.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is right.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. NOLAN: Would you like to continue?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NOLAN: The member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall) and others have stated this is not municipal Ethiopia. This bill can be changed down the road. We can bring in amendments. We can do this, we can do that, we can do the other thing.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. NOLAN: Why not demonstrate good faith now here in this session of the House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NOLAN: Make the changes now. Right now. Not a year from now. Because I will tell you something right here and now -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. NOLAN: No, the hon. minister I will tell, anyone else I would suggest. The fact is that right now is the time when you must have all elected members on this Board otherwise, it will never fly. No way. You have within this bill provision for four members, five in fact who will be appointed. You have six months and possibly a year and-a-half and in that time the minister and the Executive Council and those appointed can bring in what they darn well like, and the Minister of Education knows it. It is just shameful to see this kind of thing happening particularly in view of some of the nonsense about democracy that we have heard and freedom of speech and freedom of this from some members on the opposite side for so many years.

Mr. Nolan: Now it said and stated that the hon. minister will - he has the power in the bill but he will not necessarily use it - he will not move in and expropriate people's property without compensation, take it away from the municipalities. He will not do that. He will not do this. He will not do that. But why does he want the power? Why? Is he power mad?

Here is the situation, this bill is much too, too strong to convince anybody that you need this kind of power now. This is an expanded Metro Board, and nothing more. An expanded Metro Board. And the frustrations within the area with certain aspects of Metro Board are horrendous, and it is time, as the minister indicated, that it was looked at. The minister also states that it will not interfere where you have councils presently. But here is what this bill does under the Local Government Act: Those who are elected are in a position where they have certain authority within the community in which they are elected: Well what does Bill 50 do? Bill 50 has that enormous power over all communities incorporated or not, not just one community but every single community in the Northeast Avalon, every single one, all within the pages of this bill.

Now the word of the minister about his good intentions are not good enough. I am not disputing, I am not questioning the honour of the hon. minister, but what I am saying is this, that if you do not need the power do not have it in here in this bill. Do not have it there. How can people believe you and trust you? This is going to effect so many lives, so many lives that it is criminal to let this bill go through the House as it is presently outlined. Absolutely vicious. And no one in their right mind can vote for this bill. No one. It is just shocking.

The minister's word as I said is just not good enough on this.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NOLAN: His position

MR. NOLAN: is indefinite. You go to the Henley Commission. What does the Henley Commission say? In the name of God! We heard the member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall) talking about it.

MR. WHITE: That is what this bill says.

MR. NOLAN: The Henley Commission said - let me give you a few examples. Taking Mount Pearl into the city of St. John's - I have not heard the member for Mount Pearl arena jumping up and down about that one.

AN HON. MEMBER: No.

MR. NOLAN: The Henley Commission says take Paradise - I do not have to read it, I have read it - take Paradise, cut it in half, put half into St. John's or Mount Pearl and the other half in Conception Bay South.

AN HON. MEMBER: Well that would be better.

MR. NOLAN: That is what it said.

AN HON. MEMBER: They may as well put it in the (inaudible)

MR. NOLAN: That is right. That is what the Henley Commission said. But unfortunately, as in so many instances, they quote the Henley Commission when it suits their purposes.

AN HON. MEMBER: Right.

MR. NOLAN: And when it does not they ignore it.

MR. DOODY: Have they (inaudible)

MR. NOLAN: I do not know. Has he said anything?

MR. DOODY: It was not very favourable.

MR. NOLAN: Yes, well, even Mr. Henley, himself is not jumping up and down with joy in the streets, I understand, as a result of this bill. So there you go. There is Mr. Henley for you.

AN HON. MEMBER: Fire him.

MR. NOLAN: Are you going to fire him?

AN HON. MEMBER: No.

MR. NOLAN: No.

AN HON. MEMBER: You will have to appoint him to the board if he is that good.

MR. NOLAN: Now here is another little thing. And the people have no control, you see. This is it. Basically this is it. They have no control over this - none over the regional government.

MR. DINN: (Inaudible)

MR. MURPHY: (Inaudible)

MR. NOLAN: The first six months. Is the minister disputing it?

MR. MURPHY: (Inaudible)

MR. NOLAN: Tell me, how much is the regional government going to cost per year? - former Minister of Finance.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NOLAN: How about the build-up in bureaucracy that you are going to have? I understand the Metro board hired twenty engineers recently, someone told me. Now they are going to be into the regional government, and that is only the beginning. How about the paraphernalia that is going to be involved in this massive bureaucratic build-up? This is going to be another Newfoundland Hydro but a municipal hydro I am telling you. We want some answers.

MR. DOODY: Maybe we should run a regional water service without any (inaudible)

a hundred million dollars

(inaudible)

MR. NOLAN: Well, how is it running now?

MR. DOODY: Some of these people you just mentioned are being -

MR. NOLAN: Well, what is it, gravity feed?

MR. DOODY: That is eighteen times this week he used that phrase. Has he learned that recently?

MR. NOLAN: I have never used it before.

MR. DOODY: Gravity feed?

MR. NOLAN: Never.

MR. DOODY: I will check that.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NOLAN: The minister, I mean, when I knew him as a boy and we knocked around together his memory was a little more retentive. He seems to be slipping.

AN HON. MEMBER: Eight -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. NOLAN: Right.

MR. DOODY: Gravity -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NOLAN: The three largest municipalities in Newfoundland, to the best of my knowledge, are St. John's, Corner Brook possibly, and I believe Conception Bay South is the third largest municipality in this Province.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is.

MR. NOLAN: It is. Now then, Corner Brook is not directly involved, but I caution members who do not have any kind of a gut feeling perhaps because they may not be directly involved in this particular region to beware, because this is the first step, this is the municipal juggernaut that is going to be unleashed around this Province before it is all over, I guarantee you, by a bunch of municipal madmen, because they have to be.

MR. W. ROWE: Mad planners.

MR. NOLAN: That is right.

MR. W. ROWE: Mad planners (inaudible)

MR. NOLAN: This bill now is going to be rather than something to encourage and help people to understand any benefits that might come about as a result of regional co-operation and so on, will do the exact reverse. It is as simple as that. That is what is going to happen. In fact this has been a retrograde step in the worst possible order that you could dream about. It is like Mission Impossible to bring this bill in. People are scared about it right now, very much upset, and for good reason. Now then, let me get back to the municipalities. As I mentioned, the three largest municipalities are St. John's, Corner Brook and Conception Bay South. Corner Brook is not directly involved obviously in the Northeast Avalon, so what does that leave? - St. John's and Conception Bay South.

MR. NOLAN:

Now then, St. John's has publicly in the papers, through the press and so on expressed their opposition to this bill.

AN HON. MEMBER:

That is right.

MR. NOLAN:

Conception Bay South in a letter to the minister have come out flat against this bill - flat against it! Are you going to ignore the two largest municipalities in the Province who happen to be in this certain geographical area, whatever that geographical area is? Because again we are not told, not in this bill. It is a scandal to behold what is happening here. Shocking! And it could have been done so much easier,

MR. NOLAN: so much simpler by consultation, by working on a bill back and forth with the different municipalities pointing out the advantages, People are interested in what advantage it is going to be to them. Do you think they care a tinker's dam about the fact that you are going to have five people appointed and ten elected? They are not worried about that right now what they want to know is what is this going to do for or against me? That is what they want to know. Is that unusual?

MR. S. NEARY: How much is it going to cost?

MR. NOLAN: How much is it going to cost? How much is the water going to cost? What is this about garbage collection? What is that going to cost? Is it going to cost me anymore than I am paying? Nothing wrong with the services I have now in some areas. In many areas they are happy with it, problems in other areas. It is true. But you have to admit the day is gone when you can merely bring this in and decide that you are the pungence of the people, that you know better than 165,000 people. All the knowledge on municipal government on the needs, hopes and asperations of the people concerned are strictly within the mind of the Minister of Municipal Affairs as indoctrinated by Ma Bell. You know, it is crazy!

AN HON. MEMBER: I told you that.

MR. NOLAN: Yes, I remember your message. So here we are. We have in the Northeast Avalon region, as best we can ascertain, as best we can determine, because we are not told - there are no boudaries outlined to us. The boudaries are going to be determined by the Executive Council -

AN HON. MEMBER: Could go to Terra Nova.

MR. NOLAN: Could go to Terra Nova: That is right! I mean, there could be moose affected by this there probably are in fact for all I know. You are talking about about three hundred miles of territory. And right now you have objections from people of the area and because of the remoteness, the people they feel more and more that they are being pushed away from government. This is a sort of municipal insulation. Once again another body, another corporation, another high

MR. NOLAN: priced and extravagant group to keep people from the minister's door.

MR. S. NEARY: That is right.

MR. NOLAN: This is what it is. Phone about a tax problem. "Do not talk to me, I did not impose it. Here, talk to your municipal council, talk to the regional board, talk to the metro board, talk to anybody but me." So here we have a situation where 165,000 people and you have - I have some notes here on elected representatives in the area which are rather interesting, I thought, if I can find it.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. NOLAN: Yes, I believe it is. I believe it is.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. NOLAN: Yes, I do not know where it is now. Oh, yes, I think I have it. No, I do not. But you have two federal M.P.'s, you have about fourteen M.H.A.'s, then you have to consider all the councillors that are involved and then the people themselves who, it is rumoured, have some rights allegedly. And not one of them, not one of them had a copy of the bill, Mr. Speaker.

MR. F. WHITE: The number represented is the same as the number of thousands which is 147.

MR. NOLAN: Is that a fact?

MR. F. WHITE: Yes.

MR. NOLAN: 147,000. So there we go. How does a bill relate to the total cost of the Bay Bulls water supply? I wonder if the former Minister of Finance would make a note of that? Maybe he might be good enough to enlighten us sometime or get his colleague to do it. How does it relate to the cost of servicing the debt in relation to the water system? What would the taxpayers have to pay for water when the Regional Government is in place? Give us a cost projection, please! What is the city presently paying for water, by the way, about 55 cents for a thousand gallons - or is that erroneous?

MR. NOLAN:

So what you are going to have, Mr. Speaker, with this Regional Government you are going to have a highly centralized type of government for both tier one and tier two, that is what you are doing. So can you imagine the difficulties for someone as far away, for example, out in my district as Seal Cove, what they will have in receiving any satisfaction at all from Regional Government. The vastness of the area in my opinion will make it extremely difficult for people to get anything done. And unless you are out there in that municipal wilderness you do not know, you just do not know. I suggest to you it is going to be much worse than the present, worse than the present situation where people can put pressure at least on the local councillor who have a stake in the area. It is nothing, as I said, but an expanded Metro. Bill 50 could result in an increased impersonalization of human relationship

MR. NOLAN: throughout the Northeast Avalon. You can write it down in your book, it is as simple as that. A complex structure like this-and it is complex - do not think everyone out there understands it because they have not been given a chance to anyway.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. NOLAN: That is right. Here we have now federal government, provincial government, municipal governments in the area, Metro Board - remove that, regional governments, school tax authorities, I mean people are being beaten to death by governments of one form or another. What the people want you to do is what you were elected to do and get off their backs. That is all they are asking. Leave them alone, let them live peacefully and quite and modestly, if they wish, with their families and friends, and get the bureaucrats off their backs, paying them high salaries. Incidentally, could we have now from the former Minister of Finance how much is being paid to the chairman of the new Regional Government or the Metro Board and how much money will be paid to the members that are to be appointed? Could we have that information?

AN HON. MEMBER: How much has already been promised?

MR. NOLAN: How much has been promised? Will the members who are presently on the Metro Board be now the appointees to the Regional Government? Are they going to be moved? Are they going to move the bodies from one fancy office to another? There is real apprehension over the enormous powers granted the minister in this bill. Other than the ordinary housekeeping responsibilities that are now exercised in many instances by the Metro Board, the new Regional Government has no authority, not a bit, to do anything without the prior approval of the minister. It says here in this bill. They cannot order a piece of stationery without the approval of the minister and if he decides to make life rough for them, if he decides to make life rough he can do it. They are completely under his thumb. They must have the approval of the minister. Now you have this power plus the power to appoint, as I say, and you have one very, very serious situation. Now the minister's present authority as I said - what should have happened, I suppose, if you wanted to do things cleanly and properly so that you

MR. NOLAN: would give good local government to people in the Province.

we should be here tonight considering the Local Government Act and the changes in amendments that you would bring in under the Local Government Act. That is where we should have started and then you go on to Regional Government, but only with consultation by sitting down and realizing that everyone who is elected in the various municipalities are not stupid, they are not pawns for the minister, we are not a bunch of municipal gofers. They ran honestly, independently to try to do something because they lived within the community and they saw certain needs, they talked to their neighbours, they felt - some of them school teachers, office workers, labourers, equipment operators and so on, they ran because they thought they could do a good job. What this does will make them municipally impotent. They could be destroyed by the power that the minister has here because he can be calling the shots. Here is the service, here is what you will pay. We cannot pay it. Well, you must pay. So they have one choice, resign or tax the people directly. There is no other way out for them and there is no councillor in the Northeast Avalon who should not have spoken out about this bill if he read it at all, if he had a chance to read it, every single one. I am only sorry that more individuals who perhaps are already so harassed by the many problems that they have with the cost of living, the cost of fuel, the cost of energy, the cost of clothing, the cost of everything just to keep body and soul together - not luxuries, I am talking about basic necessities, education and so on - that they cannot get tangled up perhaps in this. I remember pleading with people on the air doing programmes when the School Tax Authority was coming in, I remember saying to them that you had ninety days, I believe it was, to make representation to the minister but unfortunately it is when the thing is in place, when you start getting the bills in the mail, when you cannot get a permit to build, when you have basic services that you are being charged extravagant costs for because of the bureaucratic build-up, then they complain and complain bitterly and with good reason because they felt that their affairs were in the hands of trusted, responsible people that they elected and sent to the House of Assembly. And when they find

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MR. NOLAN:

out and some of them, later than sooner I
am sorry to say, when they find out what the contents of this bill will
mean to them they will

MR. NOLAN: detest the day that they voted for some people in this House of Assembly. They will resent the fact that they have been betrayed by a government into whom they placed their hopes, trust and faith. That is what they did.

MR. R. MOORES: That is the story of this government's -

MR. NOLAN: We are asked to trust the minister. We are asked to trust the minister and the Executive Council here and the powers that are given under this bill.

I asked the Premier of this Province three years ago in this House would he set up a committee of the House to look into the additional office space for the Civil Service in this Province. He said yes, it seems like a good idea. And by so doing, he said, that will perhaps alleviate and avoid a situation that we had earlier, when you had the kerfuffle about the Dobbin affair, and the minister, now the member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall), resigned.

This is practically, not exactly, what the Premier of the Province said to me. But you ask him that question today and see the reply you get. Ask him. And you want me to trust them. Not likely. I will be the last one on the Northeast Avalon if necessary but I will never go along with this bill. I mean Delsey looks good compared to this. It is shocking. The gall of people to bring it in and expect us to vote for it. And that is a fact, it is not going to have any amendments, no changes. We are going to get into committee on this and we are going to stand fast unless the government opposite, particularly the minister, presents a more reasonable, sympathetic, passionate

MR. NOLAN: understanding of the needs and the hopes of the people, 165,000 of them who are now being municipally jackbooted and I do not like it and I am not the only one.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Consumer Affairs and the Environment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MURPHY: Mr. Speaker, it is just a pity the galleries were not full tonight to see the exhibition just put on by the man who just spoke.

AN HON. MEMBER: The jelly fish.

MR. MURPHY: The dramatics, the gestures. I could almost say now that for the sake of this bill, to see it not stopped, open the window and let me jump now. I think it would be a terrible thing to do.

I have listened to this debate.

I have listened to all the uproar, cramming something down someone's throat. God help us almighty! How stupid do they think the people in the St. John's regional area are? I have represented a St. John's district since 1962, 1962. I was alarmed when I heard the rumour going around that there was great, great objection to this bill. I said to my wife, "Stand by. I think I will put in four more telephone lines." Did I receive 10,000 calls? Did I receive 5,000? 1,000? 100?

MR. NEARY: It is just as well to get a quorum in, Mr. Speaker. A quorum call.

MR. SPEAKER (DR. COLLINS): Order, please! I think there has been a quorum call.

Call in the members.

MR. SPEAKER: (DR. COLLINS): Order, please! I would ask the Law Clerk to count the House.

I am informed a quorum is present.

The hon. the Minister of Provincial Affairs and the Environment.

MR. A. MURPHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As I was saying, I did not receive 10,000, 5,000, 500, 100. I did not receive one call in this great protest against this dicatorial attitude of our Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, I am not going to say too much I think there has been a lot of gas that is being released on this and many other bills during this past three months. But I would like first of all, Sir, to say how proud I am of the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MURPHY: In my opinion, Sir, he ranks among the leaders in this House with two or three other of our younger members very sincere, very conscientious in the efforts that he is putting forth into the department and a very weighty department that he has been given the responsibility for. You know, after being so many years in this House you are sort of inclined to sit back, Sir, when a debate is taking place and you try to evaluate what is sincerity and what is government, what is being said to try to impress the people in the press gallery, and what is being said by other people because they feel within themselves this is what I should be doing. I hate like heck to be personal, Sir, in this hon. House because when I did join this House first sixteen years ago I felt so proud, Sir, to be a member of this House, the dignity that went with it; this past few years, perhaps I should not say I am ashamed to be here, but the attitude of members of this hon. House, particularly, Sir, to the Chair has been most unfortunate as far as I am concerned.

Perhaps one of the worst exhibitions I have seen was today when we had distinguished visitors in the gallery here, and the act that was put on by the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) and the Leader of the Opposition.

AN HON. MEMBER: What has this got to do with Bill 50?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MURPHY: I am just wondering, Sir, what this House is all about?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MURPHY: The greatest letdown that I have had in taking part in this debate was the Leader of the Opposition, Sir, the attitude he has taken. A young man, I think he has got everything that any young man should want in this life, -

AN HON. MEMBER: Go on now say the rest of it.

MR. MURPHY: - and he has come here -

AN HON. MEMBER: Say it all, boy!

MR. MURPHY: - and reduced, in my opinion, Sir, the standard of debate in this House to a very, very low grade.

Mr. Murphy: To get back, Sir, to this bill, Bill 50, as I said earlier how proud I felt when the hon. Minister for Municipal Affairs introduced this bill, a bill that I know he has burnt many midnight hours to try to put into shape. We hear the guff and the propaganda outside, cramming this down our throats, who do these people think they are, these Hitlers. Anybody who has been in this House for sixteen years, Sir, has an idea of what Hitlers were like. When I sat on that side of the House, Sir, and saw a certain gentleman cracked his finger here, and everybody genuflected and said, 'Yes, master, what is your wish?' And these same people today, Sir, do not really appreciate what someone is trying to do for them in a very democratic way.

This Bill 50, Sir, was introduced, as the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall), and I would like to pay tribute to him, Sir, the dignity with which he approached the subject. No theatricals, no great put on, he just addressed the subject that we are debating here tonight. A bill, Sir, that in my opinion, will be one of the greatest steps forward as far as municipal affairs are concerned in this Province, bringing people together, Sir. There is an old saying, Sir, many hands make less work, two heads are better than one. And I believe this is the idea of this Regional Government Bill.

The minister pointed out very carefully, I think, he spoke for something like two hours, to try to tell people what was in the bill. He had the usual hoots and boos and calls from the other side of the House here but that has become an everyday occurrence here now. He explained that there are, I think, three basic problems facing all areas, not only the regional area of St. John's which we call the Northeast Avalon Urban Region, but all this Province, Unless we can all get together on a regional basis we will not be able to enjoy many of the things that are enjoyed by other parts of this great Dominion of Canada. As far as I am concerned the Department of the Environment is one matter that takes the great amount of time and effort. At the present time now we have five regional areas that I have been

Mr. Murphy: working on very closely with the same minister to try to cure some of the problems that are existing. When the hon. gentleman spoke about the rats parading from Robin Hood Bay down across the White Hills he was greeted with howls and jeers. The Leader of the Opposition, his ladies committee in Carter's Cove presented two beautiful rats in a cage to my environment officer in Grand Falls only last Thursday or Friday where they were picketing their dump. So if we laughed, the hon. minister was being sort of melodramatic, I do not think that is a fact because the hon. gentleman's district proves the same point. And unless something is done pretty soon with the dump situation there is going to be a lot of disease spread and a lot of complaints emanate from the different areas.

We are working on an area in New World Islands, I think, some fourteen districts. The hon. member for St. George's (Mrs. McIsaac) the other day asked me about her area of Woodville in the Codroy Valley. We are trying to go reach them as soon as we get out of this House, Sometime in October or November I hope to visit some of these places and meet with these committees and see what we can do.

As far as Bill 50 is concerned, Sir, every insinuation is being put forward -double taxation, triple taxation, quadruple taxation. The minister gets up, he explains there will be no double taxation, there will be a user pay charge, possibly, in the case of water, waste disposal. Garbage is being collected now, people are paying for it anyhow. But 160,000 or 165,000 people, I believe, Sir, will be in this region. I think working together would benefit. I am a St. John's man, we are very proud of being St. John's men. But if the St. John's City Councillors are up in arms in this I do not think they reflect the attitude of

MR. MURPHY: the people because I am sure that the MHAs would be getting the same feed-back that these people are getting. We do not want to fall out with our contemporaries here in the City of St. John's but, you know, territorial demands have caused many wars in the world and I think possibly that is one of the little things that are worrying the City of St. John's- not the city, but the council. They are elected to do a job the same as I was elected to do a job. I do mine to the best of my ability. Mine is one hundred per cent actually municipal. Perhaps one of the most regressive steps that any council has taken, if we are talking about that, if I may get a little close to home, is a notice put into my door today that garbage will be collected only one day a week in the City of St. John's, one day a week. Can you imagine people through the Summer with five, six, seven, eight, nine bags of garbage piled up in their back porch?

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. MURPHY: Well, you put out a bag of garbage every couple of days so you are going to have three or four bags of garbage. Right? That is what I am saying. How about people with big families? It is going to be the same. There is going to be a lot of garbage to put out.

But that is one of the problems we face. Robin Hood Bay perhaps is a disgrace. Has the hon. gentleman got a question or are you just muttering as usual?

MR. CALLAN: Is it not terrible that St. John's only has one garbage collection a week?

MR. MURPHY: It is terrible. It is a tragedy. Fifty years ago we had at least two a week, if not three.

AN HON. MEMBER: I have never lived in a place like that. I lived in one place that did not have any.

MR. MURPHY:

Possibly you did not, my son. I am not arguing that. The City of St. John's, where we pay our taxes, has doubled the past four or five years. If we do not get that service it is going to be pretty darn bad.

But anyhow, Mr. Speaker, on this Bill 50, in my opinion, as I said, I think it is going to be a great step forward. This will be the first of many, I hope. There are many regions being looked at in this Province as far as this bill is concerned. We have had this bill that occupies the Opposition for the past few days, spreading the rumours, double taxation. I have heard a gentleman on Open-line with the minister the other morning and I was so proud of the commentator at the time, Mr. Jamieson, whom I do not think by any means can be called a biased PC, who advised the gentleman calling in and trying to criticize the minister that he had not done his homework; he warned him that it was purely a political gimmick he was pulling and that he requested him not to use his programme for political purposes.

This is one of the examples of what is happening in this Province today with the type of Opposition we have today. Their greatest weapon today is the petition, where over two hours of this House's time is taken up presenting petitions, everybody speaks on them. Perhaps the greatest joke of the season was the petition presented by the member for St. George's (Mrs. MacIssac) a few weeks ago praying that the Minister of the Environment would remove a dump at Woodville. She pleaded with me. Nine members got up and supported it. It took fifty minutes for that petition, when I was informed after all this that the dump had been removed three months before. Imagine if there had been a dump there how long it would have taken. Just imagine.

MR. MURPHY:

What is the subject for tomorrow?

What is the petition for tomorrow to keep her going for two and a half hours? The spray programme, poisoning people, spraying of poison.

MR. WHITE:

Talk about Bill 50. Come on,

talk about Bill 50.

MR. MURPHY:

I was just a little bit upset

today when I heard the hon. member talk about his children going off camping, would it be dangerous for them to be sprayed? Fate is a pretty grim thing, you know, and I heard on the radio at six o'clock that thirty children had to be rushed to hospital out of a city swimming pool because chlorine gas escaped, where we all feel it is safe to send our children.

Here we have been assured by the highest medical authorities in this Province that there is no health hazard whatever in the spray that is taking place, but does that suit the Opposition? Not at all.

MR. MURPHY: The hon. minister has assured this hon. House there will be no taxes, no double taxation.

The hon. member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan), 'I believe him but wait, we will regret ever doing this. We will regret ever doing this, putting through this regional bill. He is telling the truth but, you know, I have my doubts.'

Mr. Speaker, bill 50; as I say, I believe in my own opinion- and I represent a great number of people - that it will benefit St. John's, all the people of St. John's, and what is more, it will benefit the people outside the city of St. John's who, I think, are going to be the gainers in this thing. They are the ones who are going to get the most benefit from it, not within the city of St. John's where we have pretty well everything we need. We have the water and sewerage, we have the water pipes, we have everything that was paid for a hundred years ago by our grandfathers, our fathers and ourselves.

I remember here in this hon. House six or seven years ago, and I think the hon. Speaker at the present time was here, when the then hon. member for Conception Bay South - we had two actually; Mr. Justice Mahoney and hon. P.J. Lewis - and the story of -

MR. NOLAN: Holyrood?

MR. MURPHY: No, Long Pond, Manuels, I believe. Right?

- the cesspool that existed there when in the months of July and August everything was coming up through the ground and in wells, and not a thing could be done about it at that time. Now, the hon. minister in all his sincerity is trying to do - I am not saying he is responsible for laying the water pipes in Conception Bay South, but anyone who lives in that area

MR. MURPHY: as I do Summertime are amazed at the great advances that have been made in that area, around Topsail and all up through. It is an education, if people want to see what is happening in the immediate area of St. John's and region, to go out and drive up some of these roads and see some of the beautiful homes going up now that services are being brought there.

The minister cannot take all the credit for it, it is not his money. Someone paid for it and in this connection I think that \$35 million came for the - Bay Bull Big Pond, I think, was \$35 million. He has assured everybody in the area, whether it is New Town, Mount Pearl, wherever it is, that none of the capital cost will be collected back. Am I right on that, Mr. Speaker?

MR. DINN: No payment.

MR. MURPHY: So, let us put that to rest. As far as using the water is concerned, I believe again he quoted something like twenty-five cents for 1,000 gallons and the park is paying sixty cents - am I right? - on that, Sir, over here to the St. John's council.

So all I would like to put out to all the members, there is one thing I regret and I say this very fervently, when I look at my hon. colleague from St. John's West, I am just sorry that at the time the hon. member was not sitting in at the seven or eight or nine meetings that we did have on this thing.

True, as the member for St. John's East has pointed out, it was, if you like, a political thing with nine or ten - what was it? - eleven of us P.C.'s sat in there and the hon. member perhaps, was just as much a part of St. John's region although he sat on that side of the House instead of this side. I am sure that with sitting down with us - and we had seven

MR. MURPHY: meetings, we had seven meetings.

MR. NEARY: Was he invited?

MR. MURPHY: I doubt if he was invited, really. I doubt if he was. But I say this, when you look sometimes - and it has been said, and it has been said on the opposite side too - political shades should not make that much difference in issues that affect so many of our people.

Now, I am not saying let us do away with the party system, which would be a stupid thing to say in this age, because as you say, we have to have it, but I do not believe it anyhow, to be quite frank. But anyone who looks at this bill has to say that it is the first step towards regional government as such in many areas of Newfoundland. My own feeling is this that we have come a long, long way with many of the benefits. Perhaps we came a little bit too far too fast or too quickly. Perhaps we did. Perhaps we are all in over our heads. The Province,

Mr. Murphy: every council, I presume, is in just about as far as they can go now for monies. That is a sign of the way we are living today. You know, we do not want something tomorrow, next week like our fathers did; we want it yesterday or the day before. The first thing when we get a job, you know, we do not want a suit of clothes like most of us want, we want to get a 1978 motor car. Right? As I say, this is a sign of the times. I suggest, as someone said, we are enjoying a champagne diet on a spruce bee income, and that is what is happening in many cases in my opinion.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill because, as I said, I have been at it since - what? It is over a year now, I think, since last June or last May when the bill was first introduced, 101? We have been talking back and forth between ourselves about the bill, and it can do nothing but good, Mr. Speaker, for the area concerned in this. And instead of being a disaster, I will say when all the political smokescreen is removed and the people get into what is happening here I will say that within a year or so that all the people concerned, the whole 165,000 will enjoy a far better standard of services. Possibly some people will say they are promising this and promising that, but I have great faith in the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs. And again, I would like to congratulate him for the job he is doing.

But quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, if we are to look at what is in this bill and consider the benefits that will accrue to all of the people in the area, Sir, I cannot see anybody that can vote against it except for purely political purposes. So I have very much pleasure, Sir, in supporting second reading of this bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Amen.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. F. ROWE: He is not had for a trio.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, we have heard from two ministers and one member member thus far. Sir, the member for St. John's Centre's (Mr. Murphy) speech, if I spent, Sir, the next forty-five minutes talking about the massage parlours on Yonge Street, Toronto, I would be as relevant as the member for St. John's Centre was in talking to this bill, Sir.

The member for St. John's Centre came on with an emotional tirade-it lacked only violins. That was the sum and substance of his speech, Sir. Hardly any reference whatsoever to the bill except that he supported it.

Sir, the member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall), a lawyer and a gentleman, I would have hoped to stand in his place tonight and given us a reasonably analytical look at the pros and cons of the bill for the establishment of the Northeast Avalon Urban Region. But, Sir, instead we only heard the same old thing references back to the previous administration, the usual attack on the Leader of the Opposition. And saying, Sir, he makes this bold statement that this government is not trying to ram the bill down the throats of the people. He kept repeating it, "It is all we hear from the Opposition, Mr. Speaker," he said, "is that the Opposition are claiming that we are trying to shove this bill down the throats of the people."

Well, Sir, the only thing I can remind the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall), who is not in his seat to hear any rebuttal, was not in his seat to hear arguments before he made his speech, I will remind the member in his absence, he might read Hansard, of a phrase uttered by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, I will go back, "The member for St. John's East Extern (Mr. Hickey) says, "All we hear from the Opposition, we are trying to shove the bill down the throats of the people. And the member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall) says, "That is not so". Well, Sir, what does this mean?

MR. F. ROWE: The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing when he was speaking said we will do it one way or the other, we will put this bill through one way or the other. Now, Sir, what is that if it is not shoving the bill down the people's throats? And before, Sir, by the way, anybody had an opportunity to see this bill. Now they can make all kinds of references they want to to the various studies that have been conducted, they can make all the references they want to to the Henley report, but the fact of the matter, Sir, is that to my knowledge, with the possible exception of the St. John's council - I think they might have received it at about the same time that the House of Assembly did. Am I correct there?

AN HON. MEMBER: No -

MR. F. ROWE: They did not even receive it.

AN HON. MEMBER: - a draft.

MR. F. ROWE: The city council of St. John's received a draft. But, Sir, to my knowledge no unincorporated community, no local improvement district, no council or incorporated community -

MR. DINN: How can you have an unincorporated community?

MR. F. ROWE: That is the typical reaction from a St. John's member, Sir, when he never heard of an unincorporated community. For the member's benefit Green's Harbour and New Harbour, the second and third largest communities in the district of Bay de Verde, are unincorporated. Now, Sir, I do not want the hon. member to distract me from the point that I was making. Sir, the point is that since this bill has been brought the House - and I believe we only saw it for a few days before we went into second reading - various communities in the region, whatever the region represents, were ringing up looking for copies of the bill, they were told by the minister that the printers could not get it out in time. Anybody with any elementary knowledge of the printing process knows that the setting up of the type is the difficult thing. Once you start running through the press, whether you run off twenty copies or twenty thousand copies it is only a matter of an hour or two so, Sir, that is a very lame excuse, telling those communities that they could not get enough copies from the press. Once on the press, Sir, you can run

MR. F. ROWE: off several thousand copies. The fact of the matter, Sir, is that this administration deliberately kept this bill away from the very various communities, unincorporated or incorporated, for one very good reason; they anticipated the negative reaction that they were going to receive publicly before this bill went into second reading. And, Sir, we in the Opposition office were inundated with requests from the various communities and we did what we thought best. We took off copies of this bill and we sent them off to the various interested bodies and they had a look at it, Sir, and to my knowledge one community in the undefined region, just one community in the undefined region, has presumably supported this bill, but, Sir, they say that there are certain objectionable clauses in this bill. - let us not forget that - that the Mount Pearl town council have stated very clearly that although they support this bill in principle, that there are certain clauses in this bill that they find very objectionable. And, Sir, let me just make a point with respect to the Opposition's stand on this: We got going up around the city of St. John's - if I can get the word out correctly - a mini-megalopolis, It is growing to one great huge town, just like the whole Eastern seaboard of the United States now, if you are flying over it, is essentially one great string of cities, towns and communities. We have the same thing happening around St. John's, approaching 200,000 people; two-fifths of the population of this Province are in this region that we are talking about and, Sir, anybody would have to be insane not to suggest that some structure has to exist, some form of what you would call Regional Government, would have to exist -

MR. PECKFORD: (Inaudible)

MR. F. ROWE: The ignorance of the member for Green Bay is deadly, the poison-pen member, Sir. He waltzed into this House with that walrus mustache of his, twitches it a few time - and what is he saying? Either the member, Sir, was not here to hear

MR. F. ROWE:

or if he was listening he could not understand. Because the one thing that I have not done, Sir, I taught at the university for seven years, I have always managed to keep my language quite simple so that hon. members opposite could understand. If they cannot understand, Sir, that is their problem and I suggest they go back and take a few courses.

MR. W. ROWE:

- poison pen letters on them now. It writes black.

MR. F. ROWE:

Sir, you know -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. F. ROWE:

Mr. Speaker, I would remind the hon. gentleman for Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) that he is not in his seat and therefore he cannot utter a word in this Chamber until he gets back in his seat and then only by leave. So I would suggest that the member get back in his seat and just clam up. And this is the hon. member, Mr. Speaker, who told us about the decorum of this House. Here we had the member for St. John's Centre (Mr. Murphy) a few moments ago talking about how the Opposition is lowering the decorum of this House and we have these two hon. gentlemen, and I use the word advisedly, backs to me now who come in here and start jabbing away.

MR. WHITE:

Two fine candidates for the leadership.

MR. F. ROWE:

The two candidates for the leadership, Sir, now getting together, frightened, the Minister of Fisheries is pulling ahead of them.

MR. W. ROWE:

You will see the two of them fighting with each other anyway.

MR. FLIGHT:

The member for Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) is for regional government.

MR. F. ROWE:

Sir, let me make it abundantly clear that we on this side of the House, in case this is ever interpreted

MR. F. ROWE: otherwise, are in favour of and support a reasonable form of regional government in any area of this Province of Newfoundland and Labrador where we think it could bring organization to the various communities that are very close to each other, if not in fact overlapping each other, and if brought together in some form of regional government, joint government, would be of benefit to each other. We stand one hundred per cent behind that concept, Sir. However, the way this bill, Sir, was introduced by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the arrogant attitude that he displayed -

MR. W. ROWE: Arrogant, childish attitude.

MR. F. ROWE: - and childish and silly.

AN HON. MEMBER: Foolish, silly as a loon.

MR. STRACHAN: Hysterical.

MR. F. ROWE: An overdose of spinach, Sir, he had before he came into the House when he introduced the bill. The method that the minister used, Sir, to introduce this bill, as was suggested by some hon. member, I believe the Leader of the Opposition, has probably set back the concept of the smooth introduction of regional government and regional governments into various areas of this Province, set it back ten years.

MR. W. ROWE: At least that.

MR. F. ROWE: Because, Sir, we could have had the bringing in of regional government in this particular area without any great controversy. But when the minister comes in and says, the very first thing, Sir, he does he attacks the Leader of the Opposition, a personal attack, and then he decides to go along the line, right down the line, each member here, and take them on for some unknown reason. He attacked me, Sir. You would not believe why he attacked me, Sir, because I did not thank

MR. F. ROWE: him publicly for \$500,000 that the taxpayers are providing to Bay de Verde for the first phase of the water system.

AN HON. MEMBER: Shame! Shame!

MR. F. ROWE: Amazing, Sir. The hon. minister, Sir, is his own worst enemy. That is point number one. The method of introduction of this bill has antagonized the people in this area, the region, something unbelievable, something incredible.

Sir, I listened to an hon. gentleman - Mr. Fahey is it? - Mr. Fahey a few weeks ago, a few days ago who presented some very logical reasons why he did not like this bill. And after the confrontation that he had with the minister on an open-line programme, when he could not even hear the minister because of the technical set up on that particular occasion, and having heard the minister yesterday introduce the bill, what I am afraid of now, Sir, is certain gentlemen like Mr. Fahey

MR. F. ROWE: and other people who are concerned about certain details of this bill may be polarized to the point where we have a situation in this Province where we are talking about anti regional government and pro regional government and that is the -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible) abusive.

MR. F. ROWE: Abusive? So that is the whole reason.

MR. W.N. ROWE: A despicable display.

MR. F. ROWE: An arrogant, despicable, unbecoming display by a Minister of the Crown both on the open line programmes and in this Chamber, Sir, to the point where instead of being able to sit out here or stand up here and debate and point out what we consider to be the weaknesses of this bill. We have a situation now where the government is trying to establish a pro and anti regional government atmosphere, not only in this Chamber but outside the Chamber. And that's the last thing we need, Sir, the last thing we need.

The Leader of the Opposition got up, Sir, and supported the concept of regional government and, Sir, he went through it clause by clause meticulously. Clause by clause and pointed out what he and we consider to be the weaknesses and the oppressive, repressive, regressive undemocratic and negative aspects of this bill.

MR. W.N. ROWE: We got abused.

MR. F. ROWE: And, Sir what happened? As a result of that we get a vicious attack from the member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall). A vicious attack! And the member for St. John's Centre getting up, the tears rolling down his face, the member for St. John's Centre (Mr. Murphy), the tears rolling down his face, Sir, saying this young gentleman with such great promise, how he has lowered the decorum of the House and all this kind of foolishness.

The only thing missing, Sir, were the violins. Sir, most unbecoming of the hon. minister. The minister, Sir, has passed his political menopause. There was a time, Sir, when I had a great deal of admiration for the hon. member who used to be the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. F. ROWE: There were times, Sir, when I sat up there in the galleries as a student and sat down, Sir, and felt sorry for the hon. member when he was leader of the Opposition because he was up against a giant in the realm of debate with the former Premier. Then, Sir, when I saw him in his first years of government display incompetence in certain respects - I am not attacking the minister personally, but some ministers are competent, some ministers are incompetent - and in this particular case, Sir, we have an incompetent minister who has to resort to tear-jerking personal attack and abuse on members opposite when they dare question a clause or two of this bill. And, Sir, the hon. member opposite talks about dictatorship in the previous administration and then he gets up and complains about the fact that we do not bow down and say 'yes', 'yes', 'yes'. How many times? One hundred and forty-eight times, one hundred and forty-nine times we are supposed to say 'yes', 'yes', 'yes' 149 times to every clause in this bill and unless we say 'yes', 'yes', 'yes', 149 times we are lowering the decorum of this House.

Sir, regional government, which we support, and Bill 50 are as different as night and day.

AN HON. MEMBER: Bill 50, that is not regional government.

MR. F. ROWE: Regional government, Sir, and Bill 50 area as different as night and day -

MR. W.N. ROWE: It is an extension of the Cabinet, that is all.

MR. F. ROWE: It is as simple as that. Sir, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing gets up another example, Sir, of how the minister started this off on the wrong track - the minister gets up, Sir, and introduces the bill. Now, Mr. Speaker, we all understand the parliamentary system. The minister introduces the bill. He understands the principle of the bill. He has unlimited time to introduce the principle of the bill. He took about what? - an hour and a half to introduce the bill. He has unlimited time to introduce the principle of the bill. Now, Sir, understanding the parliamentary system he then closes the debate on the bill at which time he counterattacks the argumentation that he might have gotten from this side of the House. But what could the minister do, Sir?

MR. F.B. ROWE: Without any reference to the bill at all, without any reference to a single clause, the minister, Sir, counterattacks before the alleged attack.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Imaginary arguments. Strawmen.

MR. F.B. ROWE: Sir, he had imaginary arguments in front of him, imaginary attacks in front of him and he counterattacks before the alleged attack. Sir, I just could not believe it. I could not believe it, Sir, how a minister who has an opportunity to present a bill, explain the principle of the bill, point out, presumably, the reason and the rationale for the bill would get up and counterattack when he knows full well that he has the opportunity to do so in closing the debate on the bill. Completely unbelievable, Sir.

Apparently, Sir, the only way to deal with the army, the parade of rats, in the midst of his hysteria, Sir, the minister said, 'The parade of rats from the Robin Hood Bay dump to Pleasantville. We have to stop the parade of rats.'

MR. W.N. ROWE: They mistook it for a Tory convention.

MR. F.B. ROWE: And, Sir, that was the rationale for the bill. We have to stop that army of rats.

MR. DINN: Regional waste disposal.

MR. F.B. ROWE: But he invited hon. members opposite to go down and look at the parade of rats and that was supposed to be reason enough to vote for this bill. The regional water supply, Sir, we have that already.

Sir, in the few moments remaining let me just point out once again, because hon. members opposite have not addressed themselves to these points.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. F.B. ROWE: The two hon. gentlemen opposite,

MR. F.B. ROWE: the ex-cabinet minister and the present incompetent minister are interrupting the member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells) who is trying to listen, I believe. He is trying to listen, I believe.

MR. PECKFORD: He is trying to think, obviously.

MR. F.B. ROWE: The hon. member for Kilbride, I think, wants to speak. And I hope the hon. member for Kilbride will address himself to the specifics. And we do not have to wait for the Committee stage for this one because some of the specifics of this bill really are the principle of the bill. They represent the principle of the bill, and before I get into that I might ask - and I found this just unbelievably partisan that the member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall) could stand in his place tonight, Sir, and say that the P.C., the Tory M.H.A's representing St. John's got together, presumably in their homes, on a number of occasions, I think he said seventeen or eighteen occasions - why was not the member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan) invited?

MR. W.N. ROWE: Secret meetings.

MR. F.B. ROWE: I ask hon. members opposite that. We did not even know the meetings were going on, Sir. The first revelation of these meetings were made here in this Chamber since this bill was introduced. The member for St. John's East, Sir, admitted in the House tonight that the reason the member for St. John's West (Dr. Kitchen) was not invited was because he had a different political stripe. He said that.

MR. MORGAN: Because he was not elected.

MR. F.B. ROWE: He said, when he was elected he was not asked to attend these meetings because he was of a different political stripe. He said that in this Chamber, Sir.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. PECKFORD: He said no such thing.

MR. F.B. ROWE: And here is the member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan) who represents, I believe, the third largest council in this Province, who was not asked for input into this Tory secret meeting.

MR. MURPHY: I am not making excuses, but we had a St. John's caucus -

MR. F.B. ROWE: Well, that is a pretty poor excuse. That is an excuse but that is an excuse that, Sir, I cannot even find to jump on, to step on. Because, Sir, the region, as it happens, includes just more than the core of this City of St. John's. St. John's South, where does that go? And Kilbride goes into the Goulds.

MR. MURPHY: St. John's South.

MR. F.B. ROWE: St. John's South, right! It extends out that way. St. John's East Extern is urban - rural, I am sorry - part of it is rural, Conception Bay South is a natural extension of St. John's.

MR. PECKFORD: You are beginning to learn distance.

MR. F.B. ROWE: Listen to the Smart Aleck cracks. Mr. Speaker, since you are in the Chair I ask for complete and utter silence from members opposite, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER (Collins): Order, please!

The hon. member asks that he be heard in silence, which is his right.

MR. F.B. ROWE: Now, Sir, when the member for

MR. F. ROWE: Kilbride (Mr. Wells) stands in his place, Sir, I hope he addresses himself to the points that have been made by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. W. Rowe) and the member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan), because I think they are very serious matters of principle with respect to this bill.

I would like him, for example, Sir, to take note of clause (3), "The purpose of this act is to provide a framework for regional government in the Northeast Avalon region in order to provide certain municipal services of a region on a regional nature throughout the region, as delegated to the regional council by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council and provide local government in the unincorporated areas of the region."

Sir, the power here rests wholly and solely with the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, which is in effect the PC Cabinet. Now, Sir, I submit -

AN HON. MEMBER: A lot of people think there is -

MR. F. ROWE: Sir, I am only listening to what I hear and read in the papers and what I hear on the phone and what I hear in letters that are written to me; certain people find that clause (3) very objectionable. They do not think that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, the PC Cabinet, should have that particular power. It is as simple as that. So I would like to hear the member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells) or any other member, address themselves specifically to that and try to rationalize why they are supporting that particular clause.

Now, Sir, clause (5) says, "Except as is necessary for the regional council to exercise powers granted to, under or pursuant to this act, nothing in this act is to abridge the powers granted to any municipality or board under the Local Government Act 1972, any community under

MR. F. ROWE: The Community Councils Act 1972,
or the city of St. John's, under the City of St. John's Act."

Now, Sir, that sounds very, very
good except for the first four words there, "Except as is
necessary." Except as is necessary.

MR. W. ROWE: To who? Necessary to whom?

MR. F. ROWE: Back to the Cabinet, the PC Cabinet
again, Sir, the PC Cabinet.

Clause (6), Sir, region established
and the boundaries. "There is hereby established a region to be
known as the Northeast Avalon region for such purposes of local
government throughout the region as are delegated to regional
council by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council or set out in this
act."

And clause (7), Sir, says, "That
boundaries of the region are to be prescribed by order of the
Lieutenant-Governor in Council." Sir, here we are talking about
a regional government, the Northeast Avalon urban region and
this House does not know the boundaries of that region yet and
here we are debating the bill, and you are expecting the people
out in the Northeast Avalon region, whatever that represents
to say, "Yes, we accept this bill. We take it down hook, line and
sinker." Is Foxtrap going to be in it? Is Holyrood going to be
in it? Is for example anybody who is working in St. John's,
supposing there are fifty or so people living in some community
out on the Isthmus and they come in and they use the roads in the
city, they use the services of this city, are they going to be
included in this Northeast Avalon urban region for that reason?
What is the rationale for it, Sir? What is the rationale going
to be for the establishment of the boundaries of the Northeast
Avalon urban region?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. F. ROWE:

I ask the speaker, Sir, some non-

members I will accept comment but not these two gentleman, Sir.

Here we are, Sir, debating a bill and we do not even know the boundaries of the region that we are talking about. But we know one thing, Sir, the Cabinet can sit up there around that round table and they can do what they did with the Elections Act, or with the electoral boundaries, they set up this great fancy commission, they received the commission, they took it, Sir, and they threw it in the harbour and they got down there one night, the Cabinet, and they carved out districts, Sir, like you would not believe. Oh no.

Mr. F. Rowe: They tried it in Trinity-Bay de Verde, Sir. Trinity South, Sir, what did they do? They took out Dildo and Blaketown and all those great Liberal communities, Sir, whip them out and move the boundary up to New Harbour -

AN HON. MEMBER: They did not do it, though, they tried.

MR. F. ROWE: - and then they slipped in Bay de Verde that was two to one P.C. before. Now we will get the Liberals into Trinity-Bay de Verde. And what did Bay de Verde do, Sir? They switched right around. Two to one P.C. in 1972, two to one Liberal in 1975. It did not work, Sir. And they will do, Sir, the same thing with carving out the boundary of this Northeast Avalon Urban Region. I can hear them now, Sir, -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I request silence for the third time.

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

The hon. member, if he wishes, can request that the Chair insist on silence on his behalf, which of course is in our Standing Rules that silence should be maintained when any member is speaking. So that this restriction applies to all members of the House.

MR. F. ROWE: Sir, I do not just wish, I demand from these two hon. gentlemen.

Now, Sir, these hon. gentlemen can sit up there in the Cabinet Room and the member for Harbour Main (Mr. Doody) can say, "Boy, Mr. Premier, Holyrood, they are vicious out there. They do not want to be any part of this regional government."

MR. DOODY: (Inaudible).

MR. F. ROWE: Oh, the member's ears have not been open outside of the Overpass.

AN HON. MEMBER: Just Holyrood -

MR. F. ROWE: Well, if he went outside of the Overpass he would not find his way back, Sir.

MR. W. ROWE: Everything looks like a giant -

MR. STRACHAN: Give him a compass.

MR. F. ROWE: What I am saying, Sir, is that with the power of the Cabinet with respect to the boundaries here they can carve this Northeast Avalon Urban Region up to their hearts' delight. And, Sir, that is what I am afraid is going to happen. Now, Sir, that is Clauses number (6) and (7).

Sir, I would like the member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells) to comment on this great democratic clause here, that the regional council is to consist of a Chairman, and four councillors at large to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council, again by the Cabinet, five members, Sir, of this regional council are going to be appointed by this hon. crowd over there, Sir. Four councillors are going to be elected at large, Sir, in accordance with the provisions of the St. John's Municipal Elections Act, and six councillors elected in accordance with The Local Government Act etc. But, Sir, that sounds very good. We are going to have five appointed and we are going to have ten elected. It sounds very, very good until we go over to Clause (12), and what do we see, Sir? And by the way, these five people are appointed by the P.C. Cabinet with a provision for ten to be elected. It sounds good on the surface.

Clause (12) says, a little subtitle there, the first election, the first election of the elected councillors is to take place within six months of the coming into force of this Act on a date fixed by the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council. The second election of the elected councillors is to be held on the first Tuesday in December of 1981, and subsequent elections are to be held on the first Tuesday in December in every fourth year thereafter.

Sir, this essentially means this, that the appointees of this government, the hand chosen Chairman and four councillors, the hand chosen persons of this Administration can, if I am not incorrect, can hold power for one and a half years. One and one half years, Sir. Now what can they do in one and one half years, Sir? And, Sir, by the way, to make matters worse, remuneration: Now

Mr. F. Rowe: let us add these three things together, Sir, five gentlemen who can hold power for one and a half years are going to be paid by, guess whom, Sir, the taxpayers? Yes. The taxpayers who elected them? No. But, Sir, they are going to be paid. The Lieutenant Governor-in-Council may authorize the regional council to pay the Chairman,

MR. F. ROWE: vice-chairman and the other councillors such annual or other remuneration as may be contained in the authorization. Sir, 165,000 people to 200,000 people are going to be in the clutches, can be in the clutches of five people who are appointed by this administration, appointed by this hon. crowd, Sir. It would make you - Sir, you would need a vomitorium when you think of what is running this Province here, Sir. This hon. member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) flicked out of the portfolio of Education, the hon. member who has the gall to go out, Sir, to a Pentecostal school board that is in financial trouble and they were pleading with him for financial help. Do you know what advice the hon. minister gave, Sir, when he was Minister of Education? Run a few Bingos - to a Pentecostal school board! Sir, make no wonder he was turfed out by the ear!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. F. ROWE: Incredible, Sir! What insight, Sir! And we have to sit in here and listen to the barks from that hon. gentleman.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

AN HON. MEMBER: Sounds very sensible to me!

MR. F. ROWE: You should have been there and seen how sensible the school board found it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. F. ROWE: It is so amusing, Sir, I almost forgot the points I am making. And, Sir, we have to sit here and listen to jabs and jars and vibes and jibes and gabs and everything else from the hon. gentleman opposite.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

MR. F. ROWE: Sir, this is a fundamental principle in this bill that I wish hon. members opposite would relate themselves to, the fact that you can have five people in this Province control the destiny of 165,000 to 200,000 people - five people not elected by these 165,000 people, but appointed by this government and who will do, Sir, what this government tells them to do for the very simple reason that they are appointed and paid

MR. F. ROWE: by the P.C. Cabinet. It is as simple as that, Sir. They can establish whatever regulations they may; they can set up whatever boundaries they may; they can expropriate what they wish, as was pointed out by the member for Twillingate, the Leader of the Opposition. Prescribed power, privileged meeting, Sir, this crowd, Sir, these five appointees for one and one-half years, every meeting of the regional council is open to the public unless it is held as a privileged meeting or declared by vote of the councillors present at the meeting to be a privileged meeting. So theoretically, Sir - obviously they will not do this - but theoretically they could have privileged meetings for one and one-half years. And I would submit, Sir, that they will have a great number of privileged meetings when they want to deal with something that they know that the 165,000 people they are representing and they are not elected by will not like. And they will have these privileged meetings. And, Sir, in Section 30, other prescribed powers - Section 32: 'Acquiring the property of municipalities; methods of acquiring property' - Sir, the point that I am making, and this is the most dangerous thing I have seen in this bill, and I will go back to it and I repeat it to boredom until it sinks into hon. gentleman's heads opposite, that these five appointees can have dictatorial power for up to one and one-half years. Now, Sir, that is bad enough. Sir, there was mention made of an hon.

MR. F. ROWE:

gentleman by a number of members on both sides of the House, Mr. John O'Dea. I spent nineteen hours sitting in a car with him stuck on the Trans-Canada Highway there last Winter when we went off the road in a snow storm - the only thing we had to eat, Sir, were these little plastic containers of mustard and relish and catsup, that was our midnight meal, and breakfast - and I had nineteen hours with Mr. John O'Dea and, Sir, I found him to be a perfect gentleman, an absolutely perfect gentleman. But that does not mean that everything he has done in the past or he will do in the future is right. We can all make mistakes.

AN HON. MEMBER:

In that nineteen hours.

MR. F. ROWE:

In that nineteen hours we obviously made a mistake and find ourself in a ditch for nineteen hours.

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible)

MR. F. ROWE:

Do not ask such embarrassing questions. Well, Mr. Speaker, the point is that he is absolutely marvelous gentleman, he has made a great contribution to this Province but he has injected himself into the debate by the news media and he has been named Chairman of this regional council and he is going to be paid by this regional council.

AN HON. MEMBER:

How much?

MR. F. ROWE:

That is a good question. I guess the Lieutenant-Governor in Council or the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing will decide the salary of the hon. gentleman but that is a minor detail, Sir. If it is out of kilter, if it is anything like the Hydro chairman we may ask some questions about it. But he is an hon. gentleman, Sir, and the fact of the matter is that he and four other people are going to have and can have not only dictatorial powers, that is bad enough, I would rather, Sir, see them have complete autonomy from this hon. crowd over there, I would rather see them working unto themselves than be tied into this Cabinet over there, Sir, because I can bet you my sessional pay, Mr. Speaker, - and God knows I need it, I bet you my sessional pay that when the Cabinet says, "Jump!" the chairman

MR. F. ROWE: and the four other appointed councillors will jump, it is as simple as that. Now, Sir, I am rapidly running out time and I would ask hon. gentlemen opposite, I would respectfully ask, Sir, that they address themselves to the points that we have brought up in this bill that we feel are very, very undemocratic and that we fear and let them not attempt to use this old procedure, Sir, of polarizing the situation because the next thing you know we are going to hear this, Sir, the Liberals are against Regional Government, that is what they will be saying next, the Liberals are against Regional Government, and we are for it.

AN HON. MEMBER:

I will not be ashamed of that

(inaudible)

MR. F. ROWE:

Sir, we are against Regional Government when it comes to a bill like this. But I will tell you one thing, Sir, we are firm believers in organizing groups of communities but not under this kind of a formula. In no way, Sir. In no way. After years of building up a democratic system and gradually moving away from local improvement districts and having elected council - and I give the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing credit for increasing the number of elected councils in this Province and I give the previous administration credit for doing the same thing and undoubtedly there will be more elected councils when we take over - but, Sir, this is a gigantic step backward when you have a Regional Government that starts off entirely wrongly, entirely on the wrong foot.

MR. F. ROWE: The first fundamental step I would suggest, Sir, if we are going to have regional government in this area, is, number one, to define a boundary and, number two, to have an election of the people of these councillors. Why did the hon. member for St. John North (Mr. J. Carter) say we are against not bridge financing but something he could -

MR. J. CARTER: Delegated authority.

MR. F. ROWE: No. No. He did not say that. He made some reference to a carrying over bill, you know, an interim bill type of a bank.

Sir, the danger about this is this, is that this may be a bill -

MR. J. CARTER: Enabling legislation.

MR. F. ROWE: - enabling legislation, that is right.

Enabling legislation, Sir, if this is enabling legislation it is very dangerous enabling legislation because it gives the power to too few people for too long a length of time and basically the power goes right back to the round table on the eighth floor, and Sir, that is not very funny when we have seen what this government has done over the past two or three years.

Now, Sir, I would ask and appeal to hon. gentlemen opposite to address themselves to these clauses and stop this foolish bickering about whether we are lowering the decorum of the House, or whether they have greater expectations for some hon. gentlemen over here and relating back to the previous administration. Sir, that kind of thing is totally irrelevant. I have yet, Sir, really to hear an hon. member opposite address himself to the principle detailed and the specifics of the bill, including I might add the minister who -

MR. FLIGHT: Particularly the minister.

MR. F. ROWE: - who was so nervous about this bill he closed the bill before he even introduced it.

MRS. MACISSAC:

And then he ran away.

MR. F. ROWE:

Back forward, Sir.

MR. PECKFORD:

Do you want to adjourn the debate.

MR. F. ROWE:

No, I will not need to adjourn the debate because my time has run out so if some hon. gentleman wants to adjourn the debate before eleven o'clock I will be only too glad to let him do so, Sir.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member for Mount Scio.

DR. WINSOR:

Mr. Speaker, it being one minute to eleven and this bill is certainly very important to my district and therefore I look forward to getting into debate on Thursday afternoon, I hereby adjourn the debate.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member has adjourned the debate.

MR. PECKFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I move that this House adjourn until tomorrow, three of the clock.

MR. SPEAKER:

It is moved that this House adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion; those in favour "Aye," contrary "Nay", carried.

This House is now adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday at three of the clock.