

PRELIMINARY
UNEDITED
TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

FOR THE PERIOD:

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 1978

The House met at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

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

MR. W. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, some time ago in response to a question, I indicated that we would be setting up a Committee on School Board Financing. I am pleased to announce the formation of the Committee now comprised of representatives from government and school boards, the Denominational Education Committee and The School Tax Authorities. And they are going to examine the cost of funding a basic educational programme in relation to existing government grants. That concerns school busing and the existing grant.

As part of its overall terms of reference, the Committee will also examine the role of School Tax Authorities and their effectiveness in assisting school boards in financing their programmes. The commitment, of course, to establish such a committee was announced by the Minister of Finance in his Budget Speech, March 17. The Committee is made up of the following people from the Department of Education Mr. Sansome; Mr. Riggs from Treasury Board; Mr. Ed Kent, Mr. Bellamy and Mr. Frank Janes from the Confederation of School Boards; Dr. Tracey from the Denominational Educational Committee; and Mr. William Moores from the School Tax Authorities.

In establishing this Committee, of course, we recognize that there may be inequities in the present funding arrangements and these need to be resolved. Of course, they have been worked on for a couple of years prior to this. The Committee will be working in close co-operation with the Task Force, and there have been discussions with the Task Force in the setting up of this Committee - that was earlier announced. Of course, the Task Force will examine the effect of declining enrollments. It is expected that the report from this particular Committee will be made to Treasury Board by the end of the calendar year.

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

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House have often questioned the effectiveness of the School Tax Authorities in this Province. The Authorities themselves are not the same across the Province, indeed there are great discrepancies in the amount of money that they bring into various areas of the Province. For instance, the School Tax Authorities in rural areas do not bring nearly as much money to the rural areas as do the School Tax Authorities in areas where the economy is much better, and in areas where there are more prosperous businesses and that sort of thing.

I believe there must be an attempt made to equalize the contributions made by School Tax Authorities. But even with that, I think the whole question of School Tax Authorities should be looked into, whether it is proper to have School Tax Authorities in this Province at all, since the bureaucracy which surrounds many of the School Tax Authorities, I feel, negates much of the good that they do. And we have often said that we feel that the finances should come from the general revenue of the Province.

However, I would say, Mr. Speaker, that we welcome this particular body, this group, and we feel that they should look into all aspects of school financing, including whether School Tax Authorities are effective and whether they should be done away with or not.

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

MR. NEARY: Today is not Friday.

AN HON. MEMBER: It must be Private Members' Day.

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I want to table a copy of a telegram that I have today sent the hon. Minister of Fisheries, Mr. LeBlanc, concerning recent action taken by the minister and his department with respect to the issuance of shrimp licences off the Northern—at least, the Coast of Labrador. Maybe I will take the time of the House, Mr.

Mr. W. Carter: Speaker, to summarize the contents of the telegram. The telegram reads as follows: "As Minister of Fisheries for the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador I protest the proposed issuance to Mainland firms of six shrimp licences valid for shrimp stocks located solely off the Coast of Labrador and Northeast Newfoundland. I am sure you realize that the fisheries and other living resources of the waters adjacent to our Province had historically provided the economic and social basis for life in this Province, and that the Coast of Labrador and the Northeast Coast are particularly so dependent. That historical and total dependency was, as you are well aware, the main moral basis on which Canada justified its unilateral 200 mile declaration and the key argument which, as it could not be refuted, forced the distant water fishing nations to accede to Canada's demand for a 200 mile limit. It is thus ironic to say the least to find that while the historic special interest of these communities can act as the basis of rights on the International level, they do not form the main criteria upon which the federal government's policy as to the allocation of licences for shrimp and other species is based.

MR. W. CARTER: "It is doubly ironic that your statement indicated that such a principle might be applied but only to the allocation of any additional licences which might be issued in subsequent years.

"You realize, of course, that employment opportunities on the coast of Labrador and in places like St. Anthony on the Northeast Coast are very limited. The unemployment statistics confirm in grim eloquence that fact far better than I could. Naturally the people of these coasts have looked forward to the restoration of cod stocks and the development of new species of fisheries to provide much needed employment.

"Consequently, you must understand the bitter disappointment which we in this Province felt and, I am sure, which was felt particularly in St. Anthony when we learnt that out of eight active licences, it is proposed that six be issued to other than Newfoundland firms without any conditions being attached to such licences as to the requirement to hire crew members locally or to land their catches for processing in communities on the Coast of Labrador and the Northeast coast of our Province.

"Moreover, the method by which these licences, which as you say will provide lucrative returns to their holders, are being allocated is secretive and arbitrary. This process makes no attempt to be a public process using known objective and fair criteria. Moreover, your decision in this matter is not open to review in any manner nor was the input of residents of any of the communities along the Coast of Labrador and the Northeast coast, much less the government of this Province, sought.

"This process is, of course, in strong contrast to the procedures by which, let us say, a radio licence is obtained from the CRTC or even a common carrier trucking licence under Provincial Public Utilities Boards. This is evidence, I suggest, that the development of our administrative procedures have not kept pace with the expansion of government regulations of the fisheries, particularly

MR. W. CARTER: with regard to licencing.

"Surely the procedures relating to the allocation of a licence, the acquisition of which can have the most direct and profound impact upon a fisherman, should be subject to the same sort of administrative review and public input as is traditionally and correctly applied to a whole host of other decisions by government.

"The present system stands condemned as arbitrary and paternalistic, nor does it reflect the vital role which the people and government of this Province have a moral, if not legal, right to play in such decisions.

"As a prime example of this I might point out that if there had been an open and continuous process of consultation on the allocation of these licences, I am sure that they would have been able to help Labrador residents to acquire vessels so that the three Labrador licences could be used this Summer and would no doubt have seen a processor gearing up to process shrimp at a plant on the Labrador coast this Summer. Now that opportunity has passed.

"In view of this I ask, in the strongest possible terms, that you do either of the following:

- (1) Cancel your plans to issue six shrimp licences to other than Newfoundland firms; or
- (2) If you have proceeded too far to accede to (1) above, attach conditions to such six mainland licences to ensure that the crews in question come from, and that all catches must be processed on the Coast of Labrador and the Northeast Coast so that the communities on these coasts can derive economic benefits from the exploitation of a fisheries resource in which, based on their historical, economic, and social dependency, they have a strong moral right and special interest.

"I know, of course, that as far as the general licencing question is concerned you yourself did not institute the present method of licencing. Rather, it is a system that has not kept pace with fishermen and was originally justified on the basis of the limited harvesting

June 7, 1978

Tape No. 4075

AH-3

MR. W. CARTER: potential of certain species and has not been offset by procedures protecting the interests of the individual.

"I submit that this situation must be corrected and that the new system must further recognize the right of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, local and regional groups within this Province to have

MR. W. CARTER:

a real say in such important decisions as the allocation of licences, decisions which in essence determine if a man or even an entire community, will have the means to earn a livelihood in a decent and self reliant manner. I raise these issues more in sorrow than in anger and assure you that I am ready to work with you to achieve a new fair and workable method of allocating licences."

Mr. Speaker, that is the text of a telegram that I have sent today to the minister in Ottawa and I should point out that I am sure all hon. members know by now that Fishery Products, and it is a company that was looking forward with great expectations to establishing a shrimp processing plant in St. Anthony on the basis of that new found stock, have today announced their intentions to put aside their plans in that regard and to try to make do with existing processing capability the company has in other parts of the Island. I have not got the exact figures but I have been told that it will have a very serious social and economic impact on that part of our Province. And I contend, Mr. Speaker, that that shrimp stock, found as it was in an area to which we have historic and traditional rights, if properly developed, and had the Province of Newfoundland been given its rights, could have had the effect of transforming the entire economy of the Great Northern Peninsula, and I suggest to you would have put it on a par with the prosperity that we enjoy today on the Burin Peninsula.

Thank you, very much.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member for Eagle River.

MR. STRACHAN:

Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the member for Trinity - Bay de Verde (Mr. F. Rowe) has kindly

MR. STRACHAN: conceded to me to reply to the statement since it involves the shrimp fishery off the Labrador Coast on the Hawkes Channel, thirty-five miles off Cartwright and sixty-five miles on the Hopedale Saddle, which was discovered, the Northern ones, last year.

In essence, of course, we cannot but agree with the statement made by the minister, although there are some points which we feel must be raised since they have been raised earlier on by the member for the Straits of Belle Isle (Mr. Roberts) in discussing the situation, and by Gus Etchegary also who has raised this question concerning licences.

I, myself, believe absolutely that if a new species is discovered, a species for which the technology is not available locally, then there must be sufficient time to put into place locally the technology and the expertise and the training and the processing so that locally we can get that on a regional basis. I also object similarly that licences for a new species can be handed out to other provinces. Initially I think that if we default in not making use of that licence, if we default in not getting into that type of fishery, then we deserve to lose that licence, we deserve to lose that opportunity. But initially, in the beginning years, I believe we must have the opportunity given to us to allow us to get into this and I notice that the three Labrador licences are in abeyance until September '79 so the processors there, or people there, can have the opportunity to try to develop it.

However, I would like to ask the minister if he could tell us why now in June '78 we are talking about this kind of a situation between the provincial and federal governments when the shrimp fishery was discovered last year in the Northern parts - obviously the Hawkes Channel one has been there for quite some time - but in the Northern parts, on the Saddle and off Cartwright

MR. STRACHAN: the shrimp fishery was discovered last year and I wonder if the minister could tell us what consultation has gone on prior to this time on that shrimp fishery between the Province and the federal government? I would imagine there has been some consultation on that basis. And secondly, I wonder that his paragraph, the third last paragraph, I think is correct, where he has stated here that the minister himself is not concerned with the general licence in question since it was brought in previously. I wonder whether there has been discussion in changing the whole licencing question on an ongoing basis, I do not mean ad hoc discussions, but an ongoing discussion with Ottawa to change the licencing process, especially as it applies to new species since it is very important that we are given the first opportunity and given it for people on the Labrador Coast where the employment is low and where we can possibly, over a period of two to three years, get into this kind of technology.

So I wonder if the minister could address himself to that part of it. I noticed in his last sentence he says he is ready to work with the minister and I wondering whether there has been any work previously done with the minister to try to change this or try to get him to come to some different conclusions. I disagree with the licencing system and I support him totally on that. I disagree with it being given to other provinces and naturally

MR. STRACHAN: almost every Newfoundlander and Labradorian must disagree with new species licences being given away to other provinces who have interests rather than to be given to this Province. So I wonder if the minister could answer that question only as to what consultation has gone on before and whether there has been ongoing consultations on the Labrador shrimp fishery especially since its discovery last Fall.

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

MR. W. CARTER: We have endeavoured at every possible opportunity, we have used every device at our disposal to impress upon Ottawa the need for closer consultation, for more dialogue in the matter of determining the issuance of licences especially with respect to that shrimp stock. We made it known in no uncertain terms that we supported the efforts of Fishery Products Limited, who were gearing up in a very meaningful way to be able to harvest and to process that shrimp.

MR. NEARY: Who did you make your case known to?

MR. W. CARTER: Naturally to the minister. We would not go below the minister in this -

MR. NEARY: Any correspondence?

MR. W. CARTER: I do not have it here, but we have it. We have gone on record, of course.

The matter of licence generally, we have indicated to Ottawa that we are not satisfied with the method employed. It is arbitrary. The rights of the individual are not protected. There is very little redress open to a fisherman or to a fish company that has

June 7, 1978

Tape 4077

EC - 2

MR. W. CARTER: applied to our licence, and we believe that that is almost in contradiction of the rights of our people. And certainly we are prepared to work with Ottawa to assist in every way possible to bring about the necessary changes in that system.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, Your Honour.

MR. SPEAKER: On a point of order.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Mr. Speaker, in view of the statement by the minister and the unanimity of feeling on the issue as expressed by the member for Eagle River (Mr. Strachan), I wonder would it be in order to suggest that the House Leaders get together and draft a resolution which could be put before the House, which could be forwarded to the Minister of External Affairs, the Minister of Fisheries, the leaders of the various parties at the federal level, expressing the unanimity of feeling by this Legislature against the system of licencing which has such a detrimental and long term implication for the Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, we would be very happy to consider that, providing the provincial Minister of Fisheries, Sir, will give us all the documentation and backup information that I just asked the hon. gentleman if he had. The hon. gentleman confirmed that he had letters -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. NEARY: No, the hon. gentleman confirmed that he had letters and telegrams in his office, and if the

June 7, 1978

Tape 4077

EC - 3

MR. NEARY: hon. gentleman will make these -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. NEARY: - making recommendations in connection with the licences. The minister is telling us this is not the first time that he has made a recommendation to the Minister of Fisheries. Well, if we can have the documentation we will have a look at it and then the House Leader and myself can get together, but we must have the documentation first.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

AN HON. MEMBER: What is this, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! both hon. gentlemen. I do believe that the procedure now has gone far enough. I understand the hon. gentleman was in effect asking for unanimous consent for a certain procedure and the hon. gentleman to my right has made a comment thereon. I am not aware to date that there is unanimous consent. If and when there is, hon. members will inform me and that will be that, but at the moment I am not aware of unanimous consent so I have to continue with the routine orders, the next one being Presenting Petitions.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

MR. NEARY: Your Honour just made a ruling -

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

MR. NEARY: Your Honour just made a ruling, Sir, and then the member for Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan), future minister, Sir, shouted across the House that we objected to this, that we did not want to do it after Your Honour made a ruling. And, Your Honour, that is misleading, it is unparliamentary, it is an attack on the Opposition,

June 7, 1978

Tape 4077

EC - 4

MR. NEARY: Sir, for something that they did not say or do. The statement that I made, Sir, is that we are prepared to consider giving unanimous consent of the House, providing the minister will give us all the documentation that he has with the minister in connection with this matter.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Why all of it?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: We want to see first what the minister has done.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: You are against it.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: So the member for Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan), Sir -

MR. SPEAKER: If both hon. gentlemen will please take their seats. This is as far as this procedure is now allowed to go. If and when there is unanimous consent, then hon. members can inform me and until I am aware that there is unanimous consent there is nothing further that can be said on it or that I will allow to be said on it.

The next routine proceeding is Presenting Petitions.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

MR. POWER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to present

Mr. Power: a petition on behalf of 278 residents of Ferryland district, also I think some teachers from the District of St. Mary's - The Capes, which takes in the educational district of Ferryland, which takes in from Bay Bulls to Trepassey.

Mr. Speaker, in presenting this petition and in signing the petition I support fully the prayer of that petition and in so doing supporting fully the prayer of the petition. I have to disagree with a government policy, a policy of the Department of Education with relationship to teacher cutbacks. Mr. Speaker, the prayer of the petition reads: We the undersigned make this petition to the members of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador that the government reverts its recently announced decision to cut back on the numbers of teachers in Newfoundland schools. We feel that such a move can only have a detrimental effect on the quality of education to be offered to our children; we ask you to reconsider.

Mr. Speaker, as I said I signed the petition, I support the petition fully. I have some sincere beliefs that the new programme in education will cause a severe cutback in the quality of education in our district. The minister himself has acknowledged that the district of Ferryland, being one of the smallest educational districts in this Province, will be most adversely affected by the new policy of the department. The fact that we will lose six teachers out of one hundred and twenty seems to be a very small amount. But, in fact, when you lose six teachers out of a very small number of teachers in the beginning the effects can actually be very momentous. In the case of Fermuse, for example, we now have thirty-five or thirty-seven students of Grade V and Grade VI in one classroom rather than having two classrooms because the community of Fermuse is losing one of their classroom teachers.

I think that this policy, as the prayer of the petition says, will have a detrimental effect on the quality of education both in Fermuse and Tors Cove and many other smaller schools along our shore. The minister himself has said that our conditions are

Mr. Power: somewhat different than the rest of the school boards within the Province in the sense that we are smaller and being affected more adversely. I hope that the minister can reconsider, at least for this year, the conditions that are going to take place in Ferryland district. I also hope that the minister when the Task Force report is presented back to government, that he will accept these reports, in particular as how it relates to the district of Ferryland.

I might also add, Mr. Speaker, and maybe it is a good occasion for me to do so, that although I as a government member disagree with this policy of the Department of Education, it does not necessarily mean that I disagree with the whole Department of Education, or that whole \$300 million within the Department of Education as being wasted and squandered and not being getting some value for our money. I just feel that this segment of education of policy would have a very detrimental effect on our school system.

I might also add, Mr. Speaker, that I have never seen a department of government move more quickly and effectively than did the Department of Education last week when we had a very great tragedy on our shore when Baltimore High School was burned down, which was a tragedy in itself. But we also had a tragedy in the sense that a great deal of notes, private and personal papers belonging to the students that they were using as sort of a cram course, I suppose, for there exams which will take place in a week or so, all those notes were lost. And it was a very difficult situation where one or two students had notes left, and all the other students needed copies. Through the assistance of the Minister of Education and his department, and the Minister of Public Works who gave his consent, and certainly the Director of Printing Services and the staff of Printing Services, the school in Ferryland, the students of Baltimore High School yesterday and today received over 40,000 pages of notes back into that community, simply because of the co-operation

Mr. Power: of those departments of government. So certainly the last thing I want to do is to say that the whole of the Department of Education is wrong, and it does not do things that help our students, because in many cases it does.

I just say most sincerely, Mr. Speaker, and to other members of the House that I do believe that the teacher cutbacks were done somewhat hastily. I think they were done without full thought of maybe some of the ramifications that were encountered. I know that in the district of Ferryland that the quality of education will be somewhat hurt, and I think that it is very sorry thing. I think that is one part of this Province that should not be effected is the quality of education of our young people. I think that when you deal with parents' hopes and aspirations and believes for their childrens future then it is a very dangerous thing when we have to cutback a small amount of money that causes such a great effect.

I only hope, as the last line of the petition says, that the minister will reconsider that when the Task Force is being presented and if a new task force is being set up then some parents will be on that task force, and even some students should be on that task force. I have great respect for any of our high school students, and certainly many of them are quite competent to serve on a task force and give their viewpoint back to the Department of Education as to what they should think should happen within the educational system.

Again I say most sincerely to the minister and his department that we as parents in the district of Ferryland,

MR. C. POWER:

as very concerned parents we hope that the minister can reconsider and he can re-evaluate the very sorry situation that may develop in the school district of Ferryland.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. W. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I too would like to rise and say a few words in support of this petition from a number of residents of Ferryland district and St. Mary's - The Capes also, I believe the hon. member mentioned.

We have had a great number of petitions presented in this hon. House on this subject of teacher cutbacks during this session and I have received much correspondence from many people all over the Province on this very subject as well, the greater proportion of which, by the way, I do not mind saying - well, not the greater proportion but a substantial portion of which comes from the hon. member's district and St. Mary's - The Capes district. There seems to be a very strong movement among residents and teachers alike in that area against these cutbacks.

I believe my hon. friend, the member for Port au Port district (Mr. Hodder) represented me at a meeting of teachers and residents in that district three or four weeks ago.

MR. HODDER: Attended by 400 people.

MR. W. ROWE: 400 people there, I believe the Minister of Fisheries was there as well and the Minister of Education, and if reports are correct, did not receive that great a reception trying to sell the government's proposal to cut back teachers and the quality of education in this Province.

Now, Sir, the fact that this hon. member, who obviously rose in all sincerity to present this petition and support the petition, says that his views diverge, are different from the views of the government on this matter, that is a very serious matter, Mr. Speaker, and one which I hope will be reported

MR. W. ROWE: widely throughout the Province because this hon. gentleman, besides being a member for the district, is also of course the president of the party which this government is formed from, the PC Party, and he must have had to search his soul -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. W. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, can I be spared the ignorance and discourtesy of that hon. member over there? Accomplishing nothing, Sir, except exposing his lack of courtesy to this House day after day.

Mr. Speaker, this hon. member obviously had to search his soul and to make up his mind to rise publicly in this House and present a petition which he supports and which he states frankly and candidly, without any attempt to hide his feelings now at this point, that he supports it and his views diverge from those of the government. That gives it much more impact, Sir, than one which might be presented by another member of the House who does not hold that high official position that he does in the Party which this government represents. And, therefore, I hope that the wrongness, the erroneous action, the decision taken in haste, as he says, and based on wrong premises, I hope that the people are aware of the fact that he disputes that decision and that action and that the government should in fact reconsider this backward move in the field of education.

It is also, Sir, before sitting down let me say this, it is also a clear indication of what is happening to this government and to the party opposite, when on every measure taken by the government, whether it is the spruce budworm, whether it is education, whether it is something else that you can take at random practically, you either see ministers coming up publicly and disputing it, or high party officials, like the member for Ferryland district, coming out and publicly differing from a decision, an action taken by this own government, Mr. Speaker, that

MR. W. ROWE: is a clear indication of this government's future and the fact that the government has lost complete control over the government of this Province and the administration of the government in Newfoundland and Labrador.

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

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, I too would like to congratulate the member for Ferryland (Mr. C. Power) on his comments on that petition. For some time now anyone in this House of Assembly, I believe, who has had anything to do with education or has anything to do with education at the present time, knows in their heart and soul that the policies as brought out by the Department of Education in recent months regarding teacher cutbacks and school board cutbacks and cutbacks at the university, that anyone who has anything to do with education knows that the Department of Education acted in the member for Ferryland's words "hastily". And, Mr. Speaker, I had suspected that there would be some on the other side who would question the policy of this government in this respect.

The member for Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) went close to going against the government on this particular issue when he spoke here in the House sometime ago on a petition, and the member for Ferryland

MR. J. HODDER:

(Mr. Power) has now come out and said in no uncertain terms that he dissagrees with the government stand on this particular matter. Now, Mr. Speaker, I feel that really from the way that the government, and from the way that the Minister of Education has handled this particular matter, the way I have watched him on the stage in various places throughout the Province and I have heard him talk here in the House, and I do not believe either that he believes, Mr. Speaker, that those particular policies should have been taken and those particular actions should have been taken.

Because, Mr. Speaker, the quality of education, and as many of the other members on the other side of this House realize, that the quality of education is suffering in our classrooms and that the students who are being hurt by it most are the disadvantaged students. Another thing that I ran across recently, the President of the NTA brought out the fact that the drop-outs in the schools in this Province were rapidly escalating and I have no doubt and I can predict here and now, Mr. Speaker, that this will continue and intensify. Because when you cut back it is easy enough to say that because you lose so many pupils therefore you can lose so many teachers, but what happens is that these students do not go in one classroom. You just do not lose thirty students from a grade seven classroom and then say that teacher can go. What happens is you have students dropping out of a school from various classes in that particular school. I know the minister said many times that specialists are not being laid off by this government. We realize the school boards are laying off the specialists, but what happens when you realize that certain classrooms will have a large number of students and other classrooms may not, but the thing is what do you What is happening in many of the schools in this

MR. J. HODDER: Province at the moment is that specialists are the first ones to go. And so I feel that we - instead of what the present government - instead of trying to just make a blanket cutback of teachers, instead of doing what they should have done some planning because we know that the students are dropping, we know that at the university we are still turning out more teachers than we require in the schools, but yet we have no plans whatsoever as to how many teachers we are going to need in this Province in the years to come.

I listened recently to a program which talked about what was happening in Manitoba where there they have looked at the number of teachers they need in the next five years and they found out that the drop-outs and the turnovers will be about 6 per cent.

AN HON. MEMBER: A good P.C. government.

MR. NEARY: Keep quiet, boy.

MR. J. HODDER: So that, Mr. Speaker, I feel that instead of launching on this program, the easy program of just slashing across the board, this quick Budget, I feel that we should have looked to the future, seen what our needs were, seen what we require and then from that to guide our students or to advise students that are going into the university what jobs they can expect in the future and what the outlook will be. But instead of planning, instead of looking to the future we took the expedient way which was to cutback and in doing so we have ruined and lowered the quality of education in this Province.

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

MR. NOLAN: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the petition - how many names were signed? I did not get it.

AN HON. MEMBER: 278 citizens.

MR. NOLAN:

278 citizens and residents

of Ferryland district. And I would like to commend the hon. member opposite on two items, if I may: one, apparently in spite of the advice of one his more prominent colleagues who has insisted publicly that presenting petitions were a waste of time in this House, I suggest that he nevertheless in spite of that sage advice has taking advantage of the opportunity, which is afforded to him and all members here in this House on behalf of citizens he represents, to present the petition, so I doubt very much if he thinks it is a waste of time and I doubt very much if the residents who signed the petition feel that it is a waste of time. If so it is an awful insult to the people and to the hon. member. That is item one.

Secondly, the fact that the hon. member has pointed out that the decision to bring about the cutbacks in education were reached hastily. Now what are we talking about? We are talking about the very foundation of the future citizens of this Province, That is what we are talking about - we are not talking about a change of bed linen and it was hastily arrived at. Hastily arrived at!

June 7, 1978

Tape 4081

EC - 1

MR. NOLAN:

I mean, how can you hastily arrive at a decision of that magnitude? And if one does, surely it is an indication of the fact that the social policies, whether it is in education or otherwise of the government, are cracking at the seams - she is coming asunder. Now it is all very well whether all of us here continue in the House or not, but the fact is, what is important, what we are talking about and which the Minister of Education directly and all ministers in general have a responsibility for, and all members of the House have a responsibility for insofar as they are able, is to see that we do not permit bills or cutbacks through the Budget or anything else to go through this House that will have the serious effects that no one has any doubt about it on the youth of our Province. They have a rough enough row to hoe as it is. Even when they finish they do not know where they are going in this Province. But for God's sake, let us give them a firm base! Let us give them the roots that they need here.

And the Minister of Education, if he did not have the background and so on in education perhaps I could understand. Perhaps I could say that he was swayed by someone within the Cabinet who may be a little more influential than he. Perhaps I would then consider that perhaps he may have been unduly influenced. But he is not an educational ignoramus - far from it: but a man who is respected, as I understand it, within the educational fraternity, or was for many, many years. And now he is shot down in disgrace as though he were a Luftwaffe pilot or something. The fact is that this programme has to change, and I warn the minister, through you, Mr. Speaker, that he and the government may count on sort of a pall, a calming from the students and the teachers in this

MR. NOLAN: Province over the summer months. People are only interested in holidays. The House of Assembly may be closed, and things like that, but the fact is come the Fall of this year, I suggest to you, with the problems of the youth in this Province, with unemployment, with the problems at Memorial University, with the problems in secondary and grade schools of all kinds, that it is going to reach a crescendo that is going to blast the minister right out of that portfolio unless he takes a stand now.

So I certainly support the prayer of this petition so ably presented. in spite of advice that petitions are a waste of time by the hon. the member for Ferryland.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

DR. J. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, I rise to request that this petition certainly be looked at by the hon. minister and his department officials and be given the consideration it clearly deserves.

I recall, Mr. Speaker, that when I went to school myself, I would think the ratio in the school that I attended, which was considered to be one of the better schools in the Province, here in the city of St. John's, I would say the student-teacher ratio was probably to the order of one in forty-five, one in fifty, something of that order. And I would say in my later medical studies I attended courses where the student-teacher ratio would have been of the order of one to one hundred and fifty, and one to two hundred, and some of these courses were the most beneficial in my whole educational career.

I would say that the hon. the minister should certainly, in considering this petition,

DR. J. COLLINS: bear in mind the proposition that we not lower the student-teacher ratio below one to twenty-five which I think he is aiming at maintaining, and which has been a great advance over the years.

I had a chance to look through the educational budget recently and I was pleased to see that if one looked at the proportion of the Budget that is given to the schools in all aspects - this is quite apart from the vocational school, the university and so on and so forth - but the actual high schools, primary schools and so on, it is interesting to note that the actual amount of money given is an increase of 5 per cent to 6 per cent over last year. Now this perhaps does not quite get up to the increase in the cost of living, but it is within a very short distance of it and if one compares that with the amount of money given in the Budget to other aspects, that is, the administrative aspects and so on and so forth, in the educational budget, it is interesting to note that the Budget was 5 per cent to 6 per cent less there. So there was an orientation in this Education department estimates to direct money into the school system rather than to the administrative aspects of the system.

Mr. Speaker, I would also hope that the minister would hold to his indication that there will be no cutbacks in specialists in the schools,

Dr. J. Collins:

and that in actual fact he has stated and stated quite clearly in this House, and also at public meetings that in actual fact he would look very favourably at any requests from school authorities that further specialists be put into the schools. I would hope that he would bear that in mind.

It is interesting to note, Mr. Speaker, in terms of - a comment was made about the graduation of teachers at our University - it is interesting to note the recent comment by the President there, who said that Memorial does not graduate teachers; Memorial graduates people educated in teaching. And that these people if they do not get into a specific job that they were orientating themselves for, their basis educational background would allow them to re-direct themselves, and for this very reason he was loath to say we should put an artificial barrier to people going into the educational faculty.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the member for Terra Nova, followed by the hon. member for Grand Falls.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, I stand to support this petition presented so capably by the member for Ferryland (Mr. Power), and I want to compliment him on his stand on this particular issue, the issue of teacher cutbacks. Mr. Speaker, this is only one in a series of measures that this particular government have taken with respect to education that is going to seriously effect education in this Province. And hopefully during the Throne Speech I will get a chance to debate some of these measures as they respect our high schools and our high school institutions, the university and trade schools and one thing and the other, measures which are going to severely affect the quality of education and equality of educational opportunity. But this particular petition addresses itself to teacher cutbacks. And, Mr. Speaker, this must be now several thousands of people that have signed their names to one petition or another objecting to these teacher cutbacks, several thousands of people who are concerned

MR. LUSH:

about the affect that teacher cutbacks will have on quality education and equality of educational opportunity in their particular areas as are the people in the Ferryland area.

Mr. Speaker, there is no question about it that the cutbacks will have a serious effect on education in certain areas more so than in others, particularly the rural areas of the Province, the smaller areas of the Province. The hon. member for St. John's South (Dr. J. Collins) made reference to the fact that he hoped that there would be no specialists lost in these teacher cutbacks and that the minister was not advocating this. Mr. Speaker, the minister is advocating nothing because all the minister is doing is cutting back. The onus is on the school boards as to what teachers they are going to cut back, as to what teachers are going to have to be removed from schools. And it is a case of what the school boards feel will be less detrimental to the school and what will be placing less responsibility on the entire staff as a whole. And in many cases this is dismissing or getting rid of a specialist because a specialist does not have the responsibility of looking after a particular class. Rather, his role is more of a general one and catering to all of the students. And even though it is a very essential service, because the specialist is not responsible for a particular class in many cases when a superintendent is faced with getting rid of teachers this is the one that will cause him least problems. And this is why we find certain schools getting rid of specialists. So the very format used encourages school boards to get rid of specialists because by doing this it causes less difficulties, less worries from the point of view of staffing a school, staffing class rooms.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I maintain that instead of teacher cutbacks, instead of getting rid of teachers, what the government would have been more prudent in doing, what the government would have been more advised in doing, what

MR. LUSH: the government would have shown more wisdom in doing would have been looking at some way whereby we could have diminished the student-teacher ratio and given our school boards more teachers. What the government should be looking at with respect to teachers in this Province giving quality education, is that they should be looking for a new formula for teacher allocation to school boards. The present formula is iniquitous. When we use a blanket ratio of one to twenty-six or whatever, this is not the kind of formula that is going to bring about equity and equality in education.

I maintain that we have to look for a new formula in allocating schoolteachers, a formula that is not based on a mathematical figure right across the Province - one to twenty-six, one to twenty-seven or one to anything. What we have to do is look at other factors. And the only way we are going to bring about equality in education is to consider the factors such as geography, where schools are located, the size of the community and the size of a particular school, the kind of programmes that will be offered in that particular school; this is the only way that we are going to be able to offer quality education and equality of educational opportunity in this Province. So what we must be looking for is a new formula, not having teacher cutbacks, but looking for a new formula so that those communities now that are prejudiced against with respect to this formula of one to twenty-six, that they can be given a more equal opportunity in providing quality education for the students of whatever area.

June 7, 1978

Tape 4083

EC - 2

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the member for
Grand Falls.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, as a critic of the Question Period or the petition process, I have to say on this particular point that this is one of the years when there has been very, very useful contribution, using the petition and the method by my hon. colleague this afternoon to bring forward to the Legislature ways and means of getting comment on the issue of education in our Province.

I feel very strongly on the particular topic and I feel, even though we might not achieve a direct success in terms of having the minister come forward with some fundamental policy change, I believe it is very worthwhile that we have legislative members, the fifty-one members being able to exchange points of view on education, which is a topic that generally does not receive a lot of commentary in the Legislature.

The area that I have always touched on when I have spoken is the retention rate, which is the one that Dr. Llew Parsons, a former colleague of my colleague from St. John's West (Dr. Kitchen) and myself in the administration field at the university has been so vocal on in recent weeks. Some 34 per cent of the students who start kindergarten in this Province finally successfully complete Grade XI. That was the latest statistics done by, I believe, Dr. Arch Sullivan - 34 per cent, one-third of the student body who begin school at the kindergarten level successfully complete Grade XI, which is our highest level of secondary education. I consider this to be one of the tragedies of the education system in our Province today.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: When you compare that statistic with Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia, we are approximately 50 per cent as high as they are in their retention rate, and I consider this to be an area that we should address ourselves to quite seriously.

Now even of more concern are the comments I have heard in the last two weeks, Mr. Speaker, that principals are reporting that there is an increase in the drop-out rate in the Province today. With a retention rate of one-third of the student body there is an increase in the drop-out rate, and that means, of course, that many of our students are under the illusion that there is an opportunity for them if they leave school, which is not correct, because there is no opportunity by and large for young people who do not complete secondary education. There is a very limited opportunity if they do complete secondary education. And consequently, somebody has to try to find ways and means to dislodge from the minds of the student body that there is an economic opportunity if they leave school. My own feeling is that without at least a Grade XI education today you are hardly qualified to be an active member of a society because that is the minimum of an education standard that young people need in 1978.

I fully support the feeling that we open up the topic further, that we look at it and not restrict ourselves to the narrow issue of the pupil-teacher ratio, but get into the area of programme development which is the focal point in the member for Terra Nova's remarks.

Having said that, let me indicate how surprised and astounded I am that

MR. J. LUNDRIGAN:

here are today, we are looking at an hour gone, we looked at fifteen hours debate the other day by the member for Burgeo -

Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) and this afternoon on the

MR. S. NEARY:

Did he break any rules?

MR. J. LUNDRIGAN:

No, he did not break any

rules once in a while. He did not break any rules.

MR. PECKFORD:

Keep quiet!

MR. J. LUNDRIGAN:

If the member will listen for

one more second. I am astounded that despite the liberties that we take with petitions, like today there has been six or seven members spoken which is about the seventh time we have had a debate, a mini debate, on the education issue in the House that the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) refused consent to have unanimous consent for a resolution, Mr. Speaker, to support one of the most ornamental matters that we have had before the House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please! Order, please!

As is obvious to hon. members,

the latter comments or a sentence or two of the hon. member for Grand Falls were off the subject matter of the petition and were not in order.

MR. S. NEARY:

A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A point of order has risen.

MR. S. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman

just made a statement, and Your Honour heard it, I believe, that the member for LaBoile refused to grant unanimous consent of the House to do something or other that the hon. gentleman wanted to do. I do not understand what it was, Sir, but Mr. Speaker, let me make it abundantly clear that I did not refuse, nobody on this side of the House refused, and the hon. member should be asked to retract that, Sir, and apologize to the House, Sir,

MR. S. NEARY: for this guttersnipe type of political innuendo and sniping at the Opposition.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please!
Before I hear the hon. gentleman, at times words appear to creep into our vocabulary and one hears them once or twice and perhaps does not immediately respond, thinking that this was a slip of the tongue but then they sort of become current. I do believe that hon. members would be better off in their participation debate not to use the term gutter-snipe.

MR. S. NEARY: Is it unparliamentary?

MR. SPEAKER: I think it is, yes.

MR. S. NEARY: Just going on, Sir, some of the statements made by the member for Mount Scio (Dr. Winsor) yesterday -

MR. W.N. ROWE: Which were allowed.

MR. S. NEARY: - which were allowed, but if Your Honour thinks it is unparliamentary I believe Your Honour is doubtful but I will withdraw to save Your Honour the embarrassment anyway, Sir.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

AN HON. MEMBER: Even if they are true.

MR. S. NEARY: But I believe the member should withdraw his statement, Your Honour, because it is not true that we. I agreed on behalf of my colleagues -

MR. W.N. ROWE: We agreed.

MR. S. NEARY: - to look at the matter, to look at it, Sir, providing the Minister of Fisheries would give us the letters and telegrams to the minister before today's statement, give us the documentation before he made his statement today, to show what the minister had already done. That is fair enough, is it not?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:

Hon. member.

MR. J. LUNDRIGAN:

Your Honour, the hon. member

rose on a point of order and indicated that I should withdraw the statement that I made that there was no unanimous consent and that it was withheld by the member. And, Mr. Speaker, the reason that cannot be true, there were two people who participated in the presentation on the resolution. I made the recommendation, the hon. member got up, attached conditions because of his concern and his suspicions and refused. And then Your Honour got up and ruled that there was no unanimous consent. Now, Your Honour, there were only two people who participated and I recommended it and the other member was the member who spoke. Obviously, Your Honour must have been under the impression that the member refused unanimous consent.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please! Order, please!

The whole matter appears to be a difference of opinion between two hon. gentleman. There is nothing the Chair can say. The hon. member alleges or states that unanimous consent was refused, the other hon. gentleman says it was not refused. There is no matter for the Chair to make any decision on. It is a difference of opinion and not a matter on which the Chair can make any ruling.

MR. S. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

On the petition?

The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. S. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, a new ideology,

a new philosophy seems to have developed in this House, Sir, today. The member for Grand Falls is now going to decide what petitions are good and what petitions are bad.

MR. W.N. ROWE:

That is right.

MR. NOLAN:

As only he can.

MR. S. NEARY:

The member who told us that they are a waste of time got up today and supported a

June 7, 1978

Tape 4084

DW - 4

MR. S. NEARY: petition but said this is
a good one, the others are all bad petitions.

MR. WHITE: Water and sewer are not important (inaudible)

MR. S. NEARY: So, Mr. Speaker, there is
a new philosophy. Mr. Speaker, the petition that was presented
by the member for Ferryland (Mr. Power), Sir, on behalf of
278 residents of Ferryland - St. Mary's and The Capes was a
good petition and it is not the first, as Your Honour knows,
that has been presented in this hon. House.

MR. SIMMONS: Did you hear what he
said?

MR. J. LUNDRIGAN: A point of order, Your Honour.

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order.

MR. J. LUNDRIGAN: Mr. Speaker, I am trying to
listen to the member for LaPoile and two members both of them
are cat-calling across the House and I cannot hear the member
and I ask that he be heard in silence.

AN HON. MEMBER: Sit down.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member has a right
to be heard without interruption.

MR. S. NEARY: I do not -

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

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order has risen.

MR. SIMMONS: Well, I guess on a matter of
privilege, because what I was doing was not catcalling but reacting
in horror to what I heard the member for Grand Falls say. He told
my colleague from Lewisporte (Mr. White) that he would get him.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMONS: I heard it -

MR. SIMMONS: distinctly, Mr. Speaker, and that is what I was reacting to. The member for Grand Falls - They can laugh it off, Mr. Speaker,

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. SIMMONS: They can laugh it off all they want. I heard the member for Grand Falls -

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Go float around (inaudible)

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: No control over the members!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order! The hon. gentleman.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Go ahead.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, -

MR. SIMMONS: No, I am not finished. I have lots of time left.

Mr. Speaker, the member for Grand Falls, and he might laugh it off now and try and cozy his way into the Chair and that kind of thing.

MR. WHITE: Grand Falls will deal with him. Grand Falls will deal with him.

MR. SIMMONS: The member for Grand Falls said to my colleague in a very threatened tone, and I heard it and I believe my colleague heard it,

"I will get you!" Now, Mr. Speaker, we cannot have that kind of thing particularly from the person who sets the standards in the House, who tells us what is dignity and all that kind of stuff. He is over there saying, and I heard him, Mr. Speaker, in distinct terms, and I think Hansard will show that I am correct on this, that he said in very distinct and very threatening terms to my colleague from Lewisporte, "I will get you." Now that cannot be allowed, Mr. Speaker, and he must be asked to withdraw it.

MR. SPEAKER: I will hear the hon. member.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: To that point of order I have to stand up because Hansard does not record the ho, hoes and the smiles and the laughs and the kinds of frivolity with which I treat that hon. member's comments. So I have to stand and correct the record because you have to have this on tape. I never made any such nonsensical comments. I indicated to the member

MR. LUNDRIGAN: across the way that when I get on my feet the next time I will get the chance to get my remarks across to him and not cat-calling across the way. The member, who has a skin like an onion leaf.

Mr. Speaker, is responding and showing his lack of altitude again and in that regard I ignore his comments.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I think the matter has been disposed of in that the hon. gentleman did indicate that he did not intend any threatening language. Obviously I think all hon. members have to take that. I mean the words are ambiguous and they can have a number of meaning. I think the hon. gentleman has stated quite unequivocally that he had no intention of using them in an unparliamentary and improper sense.

The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, this is the second day in a row now that we have seen the decorum of the House, Sir, lowered by members on the opposite side.

MR. WHITE: By the member for Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan)

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, that is right, Sir. There is no leadership. They have no leadership on the government benches they are just doing what they like.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I must direct the hon. gentleman to marshall his remarks in terms of the petition which is related to education and the possible diminishment of the quality thereof by cutbacks etc.

MR. NEARY: Yes, Sir, We are talking about quality of education, Mr. Speaker, and that is a most appropriate subject to talk about in this House today, quality of education. I am sure that we could rise the quality of education in this hon. House after just listening to the hon. member for Grand Falls and the member for Mount Scio yesterday. But, Sir, the gentleman that brought in the petition, Mr. Speaker, as my hon. colleague, the Leader of the Opposition indicated, must have done

MR. NEARY: so, Sir, after some very serious soul searching as the hon. gentleman is the president of the Tory party in this Province and it just goes to show, Sir, that the dissension that must be going on at the moment in the ranks of the government benches.

MR. C. POWER: A point of order.

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

MR. C. POWER: Mr. Speaker, I brought a petition into the House of Assembly as a member of the House of Assembly for Ferryland district. I did so with the interest of the students and parents concerned. It has absolutely no relationship to being president of the PC party or being a government member or other. I resent the fact, whether it is a point of order or not, that members on the opposite side of the House can make it into political dissension on our side of the House because I as a member do my duty.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

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

There is no point of order or matter on which this Chair can possibly make any decision or contribution.

The hon. member.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, there is clearly a split in the ranks, Sir, but nevertheless having said that we now have the petition before us and I want to support it, Sir, because I have supported, I believe, just about every petition of a similar nature that has been brought into this House this session. It is the only opportunity we have had to debate this matter, by the way. The Premier has not given us an opportunity to debate the teacher cutbacks, the effect that it will have on the quality of education in the House. Presenting petitions is the only method whereby we can debate this matter or discuss this matter.

AN HON. MEMBER: They are a waste of time, are they not?

PREMIER MOORES: You spoke for five days on the Throne Speech.

MR. NEARY: No, Sir, that is not true. The Premier knows that I did not speak for five days on the Throne Speech and if I did, Sir —

June 7, 1978

Tape No. 4085

JM - 4

AN HON. MEMBER: At least he spoke.

MR. NEARY: - if I did at least I spoke, and I spoke in the Budget Speech, that is more than the hon. the Premier has done yet. The hon. Premier decides -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I must point out hon. gentleman on both sides are abusing the rules with respect to petitions and I would ask them to adhere to them.

MR. NEARY: We do not know what the Premier's feelings are on this matter, Sir. Maybe we will hear tonight. The hon. gentleman has bought time out of the taxpayers' money to make a political statement. Maybe he will tell us tonight about the teacher cutback.

AN HON. MEMBER: Debating, debating!

MR. NEARY: No, Mr. Speaker, I am not debating. The Premier is the head of the administration, and I would like to know how the Premier feels about this cutback on teachers that will have such a drastic effect on the quality of education in this Province. I would like to see, Sir, as I have said so often before, a thorough, independent study of all aspects of education in this Province starting from kindergarten right on up through to university - pupil-teacher ratio, student aid, which is increasing year by year, the curriculum, whether we should have Grade XII in the high schools or not -

MR. H. COLLINS: The only thing not corrupt is (inaudible).

MR. NEARY: Well, we will find out tonight who is corrupt and who smears people, and name-calling and character assassination. We will be tuned in at 6:30 tonight.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I support the petition and I would encourage the minister and ask the government to reconsider this matter of the little, old Task Force they set up of two academics over at Memorial University, broaden it and put the parents on it, put the taxpayers' representative on it and put students on it, and let us have a fact finding study made of our whole educational system.

And, Mr. Speaker, I will say this before I sit down - and I have not consulted my colleague,

MR. NEARY: the Leader of the Opposition - but I would say that one of the first things we will do when we form the government of this Province is to do a thorough, independent fact finding study of education in this Province to see if we are getting the best value for our money, if we are headed in the right direction starting at kindergarten and right on up through to university education.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, this is a fairly significant petition. I was glad that the Minister of Education finally dragged himself into the House. He did his colleague the disservice of being away when the petition was presented, but he finally dragged himself in. I can understand it is not good news for him that not only we on this side but some thinking people on the other side happen to have reservations about his Task Force, reservations about his education teacher cutbacks, so that all we have been told by the minister may be his view but not necessarily the view of everybody on that side. And that is encouraging to know, because what the member for Ferryland has said outside this House he is now saying inside this House, that he has some very serious reservations about the matter and I admire him for saying that.

Mr. Speaker, the petition today is significant for two reasons, two big reasons. One, of course, is that it is an education petition. And we have said a lot about education in this House. And as long as

MR. SIMMONS: this House is sitting we will continue to say a lot more until we finally get through to the Minister of Education that, for political interests or whatever, he is sacrificing some very real and important causes. Secondly, Mr. Speaker, this petition today is awfully significant having in mind that it was the member for Ferryland (Mr. Power) who presented it and the member for Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) who spoke to it, and the member for Bonavista South (Mr. Morgan) who seemed not to want the discussion on the petition to go on, he with his position on budworms and what have you. Very significant, Mr. Speaker, this petition is, because it illustrates once-

MR. MORGAN: (Inaudible) is more like it!

MR. WHITE: The most reprimanded minister in history.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. MORGAN: The teachers' great friend.

MR. SIMMONS: That is right, Mr. Speaker. The minister is finally right on something. I am the great friend of the teachers, which he cannot claim.

Mr. Speaker, this petition illustrates once again -

MR. H. COLLINS: (Inaudible).

MR. SIMMONS: I know the budworm is a tender subject for the minister.

MR. H. COLLINS: At least I know when there is a problem.

MR. SIMMONS:

That is right. The minister now begins to admit the truth of that spray. The spray is going to affect more people than it will budworms. He might have conned the doctors into backing down.

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

I would ask the hon. gentlemen to my left to cease interrupting and the hon. gentlemen to my right to revert from budworms to education.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, this petition is significant for another very important reasons. It illustrates, Mr. Speaker, once again in no uncertain terms, much more so than the comment of the Minister of Tourism about budworms or his comment earlier about transportation and highways and so on, it illustrates once again the very serious, very fatal cracks in the government's armor. It is beyond repair, particularly so on the subject of education. They are just a bunch of confused people, Mr. Speaker, who have no concensus on this issue. They are fumbling around for some direction. They are bumping into each other going in all directions. I wish they would come to their senses on this one in particular, this question of education. It is so important. I wish the member for Ferryland (Mr. Power) could get that through to his colleague. I had depended for a while on the member for Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) but of course he has demonstrated today that he cannot be depended on.

Now I want to say one word to my colleagues before I sit down, my colleagues here on this side of the House in particular before I sit down. Whenever you have got a petition, fellows, submit it to the member for Grand Falls and see if it is a sensible one or not first because it may not be sensible. It may deal with something as mundane as water and sewer. Now that is not very sensible, you understand. Ask the member for Grand Falls what is a sensible petition? What an abuse of the rules of the House! Shameful abuse for a member to get up here, after what he said outside the House to undermine this House, to get up then and have the gall to get up and even participate in this petition discussion. Shameful! I support the petition, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

The hon. Minister of Tourism.

MR. MORGAN: I would like to present a petition to be tabled to the hon. Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Do we have leave to revert to petition?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No.

NOTICES OF MOTION:

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The Liquor Corporation Act, 1973". (Bill No. 60)

On behalf of the hon. Minister of Social Services, a bill, "An Act To Provide For The Registration Of Qualified Social Workers." (Bill No. 61)

On behalf of the hon. Minister of Consumer Affairs and Environment, "An Act To Facilitate Metric Conversion." (Bill No. 62)

On behalf of the hon. Minister of Forestry and Agriculture, a bill, "An Act Respecting The Protection Of Plants And The Pervention Of The Spread Of Pests And Diseases Destructive To Vegation." (Bill No. 55). And a bill, "An Act Respecting The Protection Of Animals." (Bill No. 63). And a bill, "An Act To Amend The War Services (Pensions) Act, 1975." (Bill No. 59)

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN:

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Health.

MR. H. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, I have some more answers for the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary). The answer to question no. 86. In the name of the same hon. member, the answer to question no. 72 and the answer to question no. 79.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Labour.

MR. ROUSSEAU: Yesterday I undertook for the hon. member for Terra Nova (Mr. Lush) to give him the numbers of agreements with government and the various stages. I have that information now in total. The number of agreements negotiated by Treasury Board and by

MR. ROUSSEAU:

Treasury Board plus another agency in some instances. Three have been settled. Eight are in the negotiation stage and there are fifteen to come which are agreements to be negotiated. In other words, the current contract has not expired. Three, eight and fifteen.

ORAL QUESTIONS:

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

MR. W. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, if I may ask a question of the Minister of Health. I understood a day or two ago when I asked him the question in the House that the Newfoundland Medical Association came out against certain aspects of the spruce budworm spray programme particularly the spraying in or near water sources, water

MR. W. ROWE:

supplies, community water supplies, or spraying in or near communities. Subsequently, yesterday, I believe, they had a meeting with the Minister and his colleague, if the news reports are correct, his colleague, the Minister of Forestry, and now apparently according to news reports again, the Medical Association is satisfied that there will not be spraying near communities or near water supplies. Does that mean, as it can only mean, that the Minister of the Government has now changed its program, the parameters of its programme, where the spraying is going to take place?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister of Health.

MR. H. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, it might be worthwhile to read the original resolution which was passed at the annual meeting of the Newfoundland Medical Association. It is obvious that the resolution could have been misinterpreted by people listening to it on the airwaves or in the press in general. The resolution passed by the Newfoundland Medical Association at St. John's on June 2nd reads, "That the Newfoundland Medical Association asked the Government to avoid spruce budworm spraying near community water supplies and populated areas until safety levels had been evaluated and short term and long term hazards to health had been fully studied".

Now, Mr. Speaker, in the release that they made yesterday, or last night, the Medical Association says again, and I quote, "On the basis of information provided by the Minister of Health and the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture at this afternoon's meeting, the Newfoundland Medical Association feels that the spray program lies within the guidelines and intent of the motion passed on June 2nd at the annual general meeting. There has been no -".

MR. WHITE: Who wrote that?

MR. H. COLLINS: Who wrote what?

AN HON. MEMBER: What you just read.

MR. H. COLLINS: That is a copy of an official release by the Newfoundland Medical Association. One is by the Medical Association

MR. H. COLLINS: in convention, and the one I read, which was released last night, is by the Executive of the Newfoundland Medical Association.

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Hon. the Premier. Will the Hon. the Premier indicate to the House when the Cabinet reshuffle that the hon. gentleman spoke about in May month that was to take place in the month of June - would the Hon. the Premier indicate if and when that Cabinet shuffle is going to take place and if it will take place before the House closes?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Mr. Speaker, you know, I think the hon. member is getting his years mixed up. There is no commitment to have any Cabinet shuffle at this time.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary. Hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. S. NEARY: Would the hon. gentleman indicate to the House if he has received a resignation from either the Minister of Consumer Affairs, or the Minister of Industrial Development, or any other Minister? Is the Premier currently carrying around any resignations in his pocket?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. T. RIDEOUT: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. member for Baie Verte-White Bay.

MR. T. RIDEOUT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Transportation and Communications, and in view of the appearance of priority given by the Government to the upgrading and paving of certain roads on the Baie Verte Peninsula because of asbestos contamination in the road dust, and in view of the fact that this priority has obviously been accepted and espoused by the Government over the past number of months, could the Minister tell the House now, in view of the fact that we are into June month, whether or not it is the firm intention

MR. T. RIDEOUT: of the Government to start a major reconstruction and paving program on the Baie Verte Peninsula this summer?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister for Transportation and Communications.

MR. W. DOODY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, it is the intent of the Government to get into a major reconstruction and hopefully a paving program on the Peninsula during the present season. We have already called tenders for a section of the Seal Cove Road for rebuilding. We hope to be in a position within the next few weeks to make a more significant and important announcement; however, it would be in conjunction with the Government of Canada and I am not in a position to elaborate on that at this particular time, but it is, and I reiterate and emphasize, the intention of the Government to fulfill its commitment in that regard.

MR. T. RIDEOUT: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary.

MR. T. RIDEOUT: Mr. Speaker, I know that the Government is awaiting some word from the Government of Canada, but I am wondering also whether

MR. RIDEOUT: the minister can give this House some sort of definitive statement as to exactly what work this government plans to carry out on the Baie Verte Peninsula this Summer, how much is going to be done and what is the dollar value of the proposed reconstruction and paving that will be carried out by this government on the Baie Verte Peninsula this Summer?

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

MR. DOODY: It is impossible to put a dollar value on it at this point, Your Honour, and it is also equally impossible to give an actual time frame of construction. The intent is to work on both these roads, to rebuild them and bring them up to standard for paving and to pave them as quickly as we possibly can. What the actual value of that project is, I am not in a position to say because I quite honestly do not know. And the other part of the question is what the time frame is in which that can be done. Once again that will depend to a large extent on the ongoing discussions. I am in a dangerous area here, Sir; I do not want to pre-empt the position of the people of the Government of Canada with whom we are having discussions. They have been most co-operative to date. I do not want to interfere with that process. It is going very, very well. And on the other hand I do not want to withhold information from the House. So if the hon. member will bear with me for a week or two I think we will be in a position to make a far more positive announcement than what appears now to be hedge hopping and side stepping and so on, which is not really what I am trying to do.

MR. RIDEOUT: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A final supplementary.

MR. RIDEOUT: Mr. Speaker, let me ask the minister a supplementary that has no bearing whatsoever, I do not suppose, on any negotiations with Ottawa, and that is that in view of the fact that the budget

MR. RIDEOUT: for this year has now been approved by the House, the minister has the money that he is allowed to spend for this financial year. Does the minister have any intention of tabling in this House a list of capital projects to be undertaken by his department all over the Province this year? I think the minister ought to give the House the benefit of that information before the House closes for the session.

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

MR. DOODY: Well, I can certainly table in the House the list of road projects that have been approved and stamped and certified and put out to tender to date, and I can also add to that list from time to time as further projects and particular roads are approved by government. To be able to project into the season for the full list of all the things that we hope to do and want to do would be a very dangerous thing. I would not want to get involved in it because there are all too often many programmes, many projects, many road operations, that we would like to get into that we have intentions of getting into, but which we may have to defer for one reason or another until the following year. And I do not want to be in a position of raising the hopes and expectations, and being accused of making political promises and commitments. I would much rather do it when the actual fact of the matter is before the public and is an actually certified event that can be stated as being in the process of being done.

I am not going to put on a list of projected roads. We have got a lot of road work on in the programme this year, Sir. A lot of it caught us somewhat unprepared. The Trans-Canada Highway agreement was one that was an and/or/if situation until almost a week or so before the final signing. We did not have the engineering staff

MR. DOODY: in place to look after all that work. As a result of it we have had to go out looking for extra help and we have had to hire on a part-time basis other engineering and drafting help to try to catch up with that. We could not hire the staff beforehand, it would have been superfluous. We have got the DREE work underway. We have got our provincial roads programme underway. I think that this is one of the biggest years that we have had in road work for some years now and that is being reflected, incidentally, in the type of tender calls that are coming in. The prices for road work this year are far higher than they have been during the past several years. I would suspect that the industry realizes that this is a very active year and it is going to be an active season and as a result of which the bids are much higher than we had anticipated. This is making us rethink it and relook at it and we are trying to do the engineering, the upgrading, and all the necessary bits and pieces and put them out in a way they can be handled in a reasonable and sensible manner, rather than just make a blanket statement of all the things that we are going to do and it could very well be that we may not be able to attain all the ambitions that we have in that particular regard.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Port au Port, followed by the hon. member for Conception Bay South.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. For several years now the French group in the district of Port au Port, Les Terra Novians Francais have been asking for bilingual road signs for the district, and last year - now I might point out that this is a bilingual district. It has been designated a bilingual district by the federal government. It now has French radio and television. The representation was made to the former minister and

MR. J. HODDER: he gave the excuse last year that the sign shop was busy because of the change to metric. I ask now if the Minister of Transportation and Communications would now consider the request of the french speaking people of Port au Port for bilingual road signs for the French communities in that area?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. W. DOODY: I will certainly consider it, Sir. I do not know how quickly it can be accomplished. I would assume that there is a programme of that type in being in this great country of ours. Certainly the Government of Canada seems most anxious to help in any way that is french speaking and even bilingual. So I think that even if our own facilities are stretched a little bit we may be able to get them done in some sign shop in Hull or some other part of Canada. I would certainly like to be able to get it done and I will take it up with the people in our own department and try to press it on as far as I can. I would like to go a little bit further, as a matter of fact, and get some Gaelic signs put in Kitchuses and Bacon Cove but I do not think that is going to be possible during this particular year. But in all seriousness, I am serious, I will look into it and see if we can get it done. It is not a problem that I am quite honestly familiar with but it is one that you can tell me more about and I will try to get at it.

MR. SIMMONS: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary, the hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, to the same minister and my request is even simpler than the member for Port au Port's. I am looking for a sign in one language, English, a sign for the Bay d'Espoir highway. Mr. Speaker, there is no sign at the intersection of the Bay d'Espoir Highway and the Trans-Canada Highway. It has been missing for some time, about a year or so. Anticipating the minister, I did not take it down. But seriously, does the minister - It is perhaps not a detail he would be aware of now but could he undertake to find out what plans there are to have a proper sign erected there? I can find

MR. SIMMONS: my way to Bay d'Espoir; that is not the problem, I say to the minister. But seriously, there are a lot of people down the Bay d'Espoir Highway, in Bay d'Espoir and all around the West side of Fortune Bay, a population of about 12,000 or 13,000 in my district and my colleague's district from Fortune-Hermitage, and there is no sign coming in either direction approaching it from the West or East, any sign on the highway to indicate to the traveller the names of the communities down that highway, nothing whatsoever other than the route sign saying route so and so but no indication of where St. Albans is or Harbour Breton or Hermitage or any of the communities down that highway at all.

I wonder could the minister either undertake or perhaps if he is aware of the situation now could he respond to my question on the point.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. W. DOODY: No, Sir, I must admit in all humility of my ignorance of that particular situation. I did not realize that the sign was missing. I would like to take the opportunity to join the hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir and say that I too am not responsible for the missing sign and I feel certain that all other hon. members of this House would like to take advantage of the opportunity to affirm their innocence in this particular piece of villainy. As for getting a sign in place there, I am certainly sure that if that problem is presented to the people in the department - and I do not know if it has been, but certainly I have not heard of it before - I am sure they would be only too happy to put a sign up directing the populace and the tourists to that particular part of the province. It is an exceptionally attractive part and it is a scenic delight and I think that it would be only fair and just to allow people to know exactly where these communities are. I would be only too happy to co-operate. Perhaps if the hon. member would give us a call down at the department -

MR. SIMMONS: Will do.

MR. W. DOODY: -it may facilitate or speed up the process.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Conception -

MR. NOLAN: No, Mr. Speaker, I am not ready.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. gentleman is not ready. The hon. member for Conception Bay South followed by St. John's West, Windsor-Buchans and Terra Nova.

MR. NOLAN: Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Rural Development. There are a number of people in my own district and many other districts as well who have applied to the department for grants and/or loans which are being held up pending the necessary funds, the signing of the necessary agreements. If I am not mistaken, I believe there might be thirty applications, and I maybe wrong on that but somewhere in that vicinity. I am wondering if the minister can give us some information on this because there are people who are quite interested as you know in attempting to start industries, small businesses and so on and I would like to hear his answer on this situation.

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

MR. PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for Conception Bay South for asking me that question because it is an important question and one that a lot of individuals around the Province and small entrepreneurs want an answer to and have been calling the department on a regular basis over the last number of weeks. I have indicated to all the development associations in the

June 7, 1978

Tape 4091

EC - 1

MR. PECKFORD: Province, and to all others who have contacted me, that myself together with the Minister of Inter-governmental affairs are in the process of signing a new DREE agreement of \$18 million to \$20 million with the federal government and that agreement does contain elements in it which have been suggested by the hon. the member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan), namely, incentive grants to small industries, which, as the hon. member knows, are working extremely well around the Province and which have created something over 3,000 jobs in the last three or four years. So we are very proud of the programmes. Specifically, it is hoped that the agreement can be signed before the end of this present month. In the interim, what we are doing is that we are suggesting to business people that they apply to the Rural Development Authority for the no interest loans in the interim so that they are not stalled in getting on with the job of creating jobs. And as it relates to the development associations who are funded federally/provincially usually under the previous agreement and will be under the new agreement, we have advanced the development associations who are in trouble money on our own - the provincial government have - to insure that they can get on with their projects and will not be stalled, and then it will be subtracted from the amount that they get when the agreement is signed.

I thank the hon. member for the question, and he can be assured that we will get that agreement signed as soon as we can, precisely, sometime this month.

MR. NOLAN:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. gentleman.

June 7, 1978

Tape 4091

EC - 2

MR. NOLAN:

I thank the minister.

While the hon. minister referred to the development associations, there are others who are not applying through development associations, and the real danger here that I see now, particularly in my own area, but other areas that I have had calls from as well, is that unless there is some kind of move for funding, either interim financing or something, they are not going to get off the ground this year, particularly if you require to get going in the fine weather, which God knows we do not have enough of. And I am wondering if there is any way to give it a little push somewhere along the line because people have a feeling they are being stalled off out there. They 'phone in to the department and they are told, 'We do not know when the agreement is going to be signed.' And I am sure the minister has heard the same things I have.

MR. PECKFORD:

Yes.

MR. NOLAN:

And I urge him if there is any way possible, please give us some assurance if there is anything in an interim way that can be done to help these people. They deserve to be helped, by the way, on the basis of their proposition.

MR. PECKFORD:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I assure the hon. gentleman that we are doing everything possible, as are the Minister of Inter-governmental Affairs and people in both departments to expedite getting this agreement signed. All the development associations in the Province have written both the federal minister responsible for DREE and myself and the Minister of Inter-governmental Affairs and other interested bodies in the Province like the Rural Development Council who can put additional

MR. PECKFORD: pressure on both governments to get to the table and get the thing signed so that we can get on with the job before a very attractive Spring and Summer for investment is lost.

MR. SPEAKER: I have indicated the hon. the member for St. John's West.

MR. KITCHEN: Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Mr. Speaker, I understand that the minister has announced that the present Chairman of Metro Board, Mr. John R. O'Dea, is to be the Chairman of the Regional Council proposed under Bill No. 50 currently before the House. This being so, Mr. Speaker, could the minister inform us by what legal authority this appointment was made when the bill has not yet been approved by the Legislature and may never be approved? - certainly, that controversial section having to do with the chairman may not be approved. And while he is doing this, the minister might also inform the House under what authority he and the government with which he is associated dares to insult this House and every member in it by taking our assent for granted.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker, I announced in this House that the present Chairman of Metro Board, who is now the permanent Chairman of Metro Board, who was appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, which is their right to do, is the permanent Chairman, right now, of Metro Board and will be if we have regional government, if the House consents to that, will be the new Chairman of the Regional Council.

June 7, 1978

Tape 4091

EC - 4

AN HON. MEMBER:

Taking a lot for granted.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Windsor - Buchans, I had indicated, followed by the hon. gentleman from Terra Nova.

MR. FLIGHT:

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Mines and Energy with regard to the Hind's Lake development. I understand that the tenders for Hind's Lake are now under consideration by Hydro. Would the minister indicate what the status of the tender from Collavino is, whether that company is still in competition in view of the fact that they underbid the rest of the companies and Hydro's own cost analysis by \$10 million. There was some word that they may no longer be in competition. Would the minister confirm or deny that they are still in competition?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Mines and Energy.

MR. PECKFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I checked on this this morning with people in Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro and, as I understand it from them, the message that they conveyed to me this

MR. PECKFORD:

morning in person, was that all the people, all the contractors who bid on those two packages, civil works, are still in the running, if you will, and that includes then the Collavino Brothers. The assessment process should be over within another day or so and then various recommendations will be coming from Shawmont, the consultants, and from the management of Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro to me as minister responsible and through me to Cabinet. That is where it stands as of this morning at about ten thirty. I am hopeful that within seven days a final decision on how we are going to handle those two contracts and who gets the work can be made so that we can get on with the job.

MR. FLIGHT: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. FLIGHT: Would the minister confirm that Collavino did indeed underbid the rest of the companies by \$10 million and also not only did he underbid the rest of the contractors but the company underbid Newfoundland Hydro's own cost estimation for the job? If that is so, is the minister saying that having done that, having underbid by \$10 million, that they are letting their tender stand and are prepared to do that work for \$10 million less than Hydro had intended or that the other contractors felt they could do it for?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. PECKFORD: Number one, the Collavino Brothers did bid a lot lower than the rest of the contractors, somewhere around \$9 million or \$10 million as the hon. member for Windsor-Buchans says. Number two, was that bid a lot lower than what Newfoundland Hydro has estimated - and there seems to be some confusion on that issue. I think the difference from Collavino Brothers and the next lowest bid was somewhere around \$9 million to \$10 million. The estimate by Hydro, they did not put any firm figure on it. So it would seem that Collavino Brothers could be \$5 million or more below the estimate but not the \$10 million that has been quoted very often.

MR. PECKFORD:

And the third part of the question had to do with -

MR. FLIGHT: Did Collavino request -

MR. PECKFORD: Amend his bid afterwards?

MR. FLIGHT: Request to withdraw their tender as a result of that.

MR. PECKFORD: No, they have not requested withdrawal but there have been talks with Collavino Brothers. I will not have anything definite on that until I have it in writing from Hydro and the consultant, which I hope will be tomorrow. So I do not know whether in fact as I have just left it for the consultants and Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro to put in the package if you will for me before I get involved in it. So I am not sure whether Collavino Brothers has upped their bid or changed it or said that they have mistakes in their bid or whatever. But I will have all of that in writing from Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro tomorrow and then hopefully for a governmental decision on it this week or early next week.

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

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a question to the Minister of Labour and Manpower with respect to the present state of negotiations between the X ray and lab technicians and the government. I expect that is one of the eight that the minister referred to that is in negotiation, and it looks like running into some problems. I am led to understand that the X ray and lab technicians group, the union, that they have approached the minister or requested the minister for a mediator. Can the minister comment on this and what his response to this request has been or will be?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Labour.

MR. ROUSSEAU: I had a request from the union, from the chief negotiator for that unit, Mr. Ryan, about a week ago and I met with him last Monday. They did ask for a mediator. I have decided at this time not to appoint a mediator. But I have asked, besides a conciliation officer, Ted Blanchard, my deputy minister to keep in contact with both

MR. ROUSSEAU:

sides and he has done that. Beyond that I would not like to make any further comment except the fact that daily contact is maintained between both sides and the department.

MR. LUSH: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, I understand that the X ray and lab technicians have embarked upon a rotating strike system and I am wondering what effect this is having on the particular hospitals concerned and more particularly the general public because I am sure people from all around the Avalon Peninsula come to these hospitals for X rays and one thing and the other on appointment. I am just wondering whether there is any way of these people being notified of that or whether they get here and find out that the X ray and lab technicians are on strike. I am sure this must be causing some inconvenience this way. So I am wondering if the minister can comment

June 7, 1978

Tape No. 4093

RT-1

MR. T. LUSH: on that and whether the general public would have some notification when they have appointments at the hospital.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister.

MR. J. ROUSSEAU: I would assume that the hospitals can carry on for some time. Obviously, you know, it is a strike situation. They have fulfilled all the requirements of the Public Service Collective Bargaining Act, they are now in a legal position to strike, the hospitals are in a legal position to lock out, if that be the case, so, that being the economic weapon that the union uses and it is a legitimate strike, then what can be said? I think there is some inconvenience and we have had a discussion with the union on this, the fact that seven days notice is given of a strike and then the strike may occur at any period. After the vote is taken, they have to notify me or the Minister of Labour and Manpower that they have taken a strike vote and that they have done that, but anytime after the seven days of which I am notified, they may take a strike and they may rotate, and it certainly does cause some inconvenience because people do not know when it is going to come. It is more inconvenient, of course, to people outside of town who come in from outside of town but, you know, that is one of the problems in a strike situation. If it is a rotating strike, they do not know where it is going to be, but that is one of the situations I assume that my colleague, the Minister of Health, might be able to give some indication of just what the situation is in respect to the withdrawal of service. But I would assume that there would be enough supervisory personnel to do the job and I would assume in an emergency situation I think that the x-ray and lab people would come back and do - I would assume - I am not talking maybe that they would not let an emergency or an urgent situation go by without doing something. They are not that type of people.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. member for Conception Bay South.

MR. J. NOLAN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask, and the Minister of Transportation may not be in a position to give the answers to the questions I have now, but maybe he could look it up. I wonder if the Minister would be good enough to provide me, and through me the people

MR. J. NOLAN: in the district, with a little information on what plans they might have for Critch's Car Path off Thorburn Road which was so badly neglected, also Dunn's Hill Road in Foxtrap, and finally the bridge that I have referred to him on numerous occasions on the main road going through Foxtrap that now looks like the bridge on the River Kwai after the explosion. So if he would be kind enough to give us some assurance of what he is going to do about this, it would certainly be appreciated unless he is in a position to give it to us right now we would be enlightened.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister.

MR. W. DOODY: I will certainly look into it. I will certainly take these very important items under consideration and press the officials in the Department of Transportation and Communications to give them the urgent treatment that they deserve. There was another road, I think. Was it Gribb's Road, or Crebe's -

MR. J. NOLAN: Critch's Path? Critch's Car Path? Glebe Road?

MR. W. DOODY: Glebe Road. You forgot the Glebe Road.

MR. J. NOLAN: No. I did not. I mentioned it to you.

MR. J. NOLAN: That is right. But in your public discourse a minute or two ago, the hon. member forgot to mention Glebe Road and I would like to bring that to the attention of the House too. We are looking at all these, Sir. And as for the bridge in Foxtrap, I remember it well. I have done my best to destroy the old bridge, I have hit it at least three times myself and I am sure that many of the people of that great and historic part of the Province have aided and abetted in the destruction of that monstrosity. Hopefully we will get the funding necessary to replace it. It is probably, with the possible exception of the St. Edward's Bridge a little bit further up that road, they are probably the only two remaining bridges of the old Topsail Highway that are still serving that road. If they are not replaced this year they will certainly have to be done very, very shortly. We are very,

MR. W. DOODY: very aware of it. It is a part of the Province that I know very well having had the honour of representing it for some time and certainly it is very close to my heart.

Critch's Car Path Road and the Glebe Road, I must admit in all honesty, Sir, are not as familiar to me, they were not part of the Harbour Main district at that time but, nevertheless, they will get the attention and the immediate attention that they deserve.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. S. NEARY: Sir, I would like to rise on a point of privilege, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of privilege.

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether it is the hon. Premier's imagination, Sir, or some psychological quirk that the hon. gentleman has, but he seems to want to blame everything in this Province, Sir, on a Mr. John C. Doyle. If the matter is raised such as the scandal at the Health Science Complex, blame it on Doyle. The Tory Party issuing cheques for income tax purposes, blame it on Doyle. Public Works scandal, blame it on Doyle. Fisheries scandal, blame it on Doyle. Davidson scandal, blame it on Doyle. Dobbin affair -

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

I must point out to the hon. gentleman that the matter of privilege must affect hon. members.

MR. S. NEARY: Yes, Sir. I am coming -

MR. SPEAKER: If Mr. Doyle feels any infringement, he would have to use another forum. It would have to affect a member.

MR. S. NEARY: No, Sir. No, no. But I am coming to it, Mr. Speaker, And the same way with the fire at Elizabeth Towers, I understand that the Premier was almost ready to take to the airwaves and blame that on Doyle except that a couple of gentlemen

MR. S. NEARY:

outside this Province stopped him from making a fool of himself and making himself the laughingstock of the Province. And the hon. Premier, Sir, there about a little over a month ago tried to make a link between the Opposition and myself and Mr. Doyle by rushing into the House with a little piece of information that was passed on by a gentleman at the CBC stating that Mr. Charlie Silver had paid my transportation to Miami. The hon. the Premier thought he had a little mini scandal. Well, Sir, in order to explode that falsehood, that myth, and in order to destroy any evidence in the Premier's mind or anything in his imagination that may - where he may try to establish a link between the Opposition via Mr. Silver or anybody to Mr. Doyle, Sir, I would like to lay upon the table of the House documents, Sir. One is a letter dated May 3, 1978 and I hope that the hon. Premier stand in his place, Sir, and apologize to the House and forever put this out of his mind, that the hon. gentleman cannot answer charges by blaming everything on Mr. Doyle. These will not evaporate. They have to be faced up to by the administration and they are not going to be swept under the carpet with that kind of weak defence. It says, "Dear Charlie"-this is May 3, 1978 "Dear Charlie: Many thanks for your generosity and thoughtful kindness in teeing up for me the trip to the Florida conference last weekend. Since my colleagues in caucus have found the result of that conference helpful in tying together the loose ends of matters here, they insist upon footing the bill for the travel expenses involved. Accordingly I am enclosing a cheque in the amount of \$570 to reimburse you for the outlay involved. Thank you again for your helpfulness."

AN HON. MEMBER:

For a constant supporter.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please! Order, please!

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. W. ROWE:

Supporting what? Uncovering

crookedness, yes.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please! Order, please!

MR. W. ROWE:

Crookedness, yes.

MR. WHITE:

What about your buddy in

Cabinet? You are still in there .

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, if the hon.

gentleman will just restrain himself for a moment so that there will be no connection, so that the Premier or none of his ministers, Sir, will ever again be able to make a connection between the Opposition -

AN HON. MEMBER:

Liberal Party.

MR. NEARY:

- between myself and Mr. Doyle

that I hope this myth is exploded forever. I could not raise the matter before, Sir, because I had not received back a copy of the cancelled cheque. I received a copy of the cancelled cheque yesterday or the day before, Sir, this is the earliest opportunity that I have had to lay it upon the table of the House. So I hope, Sir, that we will never again hear any accusations or charges made by the Premier or any of his henchmen that there are puppets in this House for Mr. Doyle because Mr. Silver happens to be a friend of mine and arranged a trip to Florida for me. I hope, Sir, that is gone forever and I would expect the Premier now to stand in his place -

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible)

MR. S. NEARY:

- and admit, Sir, that he has

to face up to these charges, that Mr. Doyle was, nor Mr. Silver or anybody else was not in this Province when this corruption took place, that the Premier had banished him South and never wants to see him back here again for obvious reasons. And so, Sir, I lay this documentation on the table of the House including the cancelled cheque and I hope that the Premier will apologize,

MR. S. NEARY: Sir, for his innuendoes and his smear tactics and his character assassination.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Charlie Silver, as the hon. member well knows, is a good friend of Mr. Doyle's. He was his PR man for some twenty years and I do not know but he still is. And I am delighted that the Liberal Caucus has seen fit to pay for the trip after the fact, but I underline, Sir, that it was very much after the fact and not before.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER MOORES: - that this was done and that should be very well pointed out which only goes to show, Sir, I would suggest that the Liberal Caucus or a lot of them are very upset about some of the contacts and behaviors that have been made on the other side.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER MOORES: The fact is, Sir, I am sure the hon. member for LaPoile will get up and say that no trips have been paid for by Mr. Silver or Mr. Doyle he has taken in the last two years. I am sure that he will also get up and prove to us that Mr. Doyle through various contacts has no influence to him and I am sure, Sir, he would also like to say that under no circumstances Mr. Doyle or any of his friends or colleagues contributed to his leadership campaign.

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

I wish to now dispense of this matter. A point of privilege under which hon. members address the House is a matter, as has been used in the House before, which May refers to page 343, "In regard to the explanation of personal matters the House is usually indulgent and will permit a statement of that character to have been made without any

MR. SPEAKER:

question being before the House! and later on, "No debate should ensue thereon. If another member is involved in a personal statement he is generally allowed to give his own view of the matter and say whether he accepts it or not." That is what has now transpired and the matter is not one on which the Chair has a ruling to make but comes under the classification of personal explanation.

MR. NEARY: On a point of privilege, Sir, of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: In addition? Another?

MR. NEARY: No, another point of privilege, Sir. Mr. Speaker, now that this matter has been cleared up, Sir, and I hope to the hon. the Premier's satisfaction although judging by his snide remarks the hon. gentleman just made, and I answered that before, Sir, by the way, by telling the hon. the Premier that I am quite prepared at any time to put my own personal financial statement of everything that I own in this world, my own leadership statement, I am prepared to put it all on the table of the House providing the Premier will do the same thing. Now, Sir, that is fair enough. If the hon. the Premier will put his statement on the table of the House, I will lay mine on the table of the House and that is fair enough, I think, Mr. Speaker. So I hope we hear no more about that sort of smear tactic. I am quite prepared to do it. I have the financial statement ready, and willing and I am able to put it on the table of the House anytime but I do not think it would be fair, Sir, to do it unless the Premier would lay his statement on the table of the House about his leadership expenses, about the 1971 and 1972 campaign expenses and money that Mr. George McLean has raised outside of this Province for the hon. gentleman.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

I must point out that we are not anywhere in the area of privilege or even the extension of it, in the area of personal explanation. It appears to me to be perhaps a debatable matter in which an appropriate motion no doubt may very soon be before the House. So I would ask the hon. gentleman to bring his remarks to a conclusion.

MR. NEARY: Yes, Sir. Mr. Speaker, just to clue up on that particular point, Sir, that I have nothing to hide, nothing to be ashamed of, and if the hon. the Premier has nothing to hide and nothing to be ashamed of then he will join with me in laying on the Table of this House all of the documentation in connection which the hon. gentleman raised.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have a minister sitting in this House, Sir, who had his expenses paid by Mr. John Doyle to Nassau and to Panama City. Now, Mr. Speaker, that gentleman can no longer sit in the Cabinet, as far as I am concerned, as far as my colleagues are concerned, Sir, without a proper explanation from the Premier of this Province of what that trip was all about. And I understand, Sir, from a recent television programme that the Premier was aware that his minister was going to Nassau and going to Panama City, that it was done with the blessing of the Premier. And I am also aware, Sir, that the Premier was trying to make a deal a year or two or three ago with Mr. Doyle through a Mr. George McLean, and I am also aware of a lot of other things. So I believe now, Sir, it is incumbent upon the Premier of this Province to clear the air, and to make a statement to this House, and to the people of this Province; number one, has the government, has the Premier reimbursed the Minister of Industrial Development for his expenses, the same as my colleagues have done, reimbursed the minister, Sir, -

MR. MORGAN: This is a matter for the Question Period.

MR. NEARY: No, this is a minister of the Crown now who is in a conflict of interest situation, who is in a situation of influence peddling, there are all kinds of possibilities.

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

I must point out that the matter the hon. gentleman is now involved in may, under appropriate motion, be matters for debate, may under Question Period be matters for oral or written questions. There may be other areas, but to found the matter of privilege, I am not aware of any area of privilege. So I would ask

Mr. Speaker: the hon. gentleman to bring his remarks -

AN HON. MEMBER: To the point.

MR. SPEAKER: - yes, to the point and to conclude the remarks in the relatively near future.

MR. NEARY: Yes, Sir. The main point is this, Sir, the hon. the Premier has accused Mr. Doyle of being a fugitive from Justice.

Now I want to ask the hon. gentleman, Sir, how he can condone his minister, and the Premier himself in telephone conversations talking to this gentleman in the last year or two, how can the hon. gentleman explain that to the people of this Province?

PREMIER MOORES: Explain what?

MR. NEARY: Condoning his minister cavorting with a gentleman that the hon. the Premier has accused of being a fugitive from Justice. I believe, Sir, the Premier owes this House, and owe the people of this Province -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: - an explanation, Sir, of this matter.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible) the big investor in the Liberal Party!

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

MR. NEARY: Is that so? The big investment is on that side of the House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: If my hon. friend only knew, if my hon. friend only knew what the Premier was trying to do with Mr. Doyle.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

MR. NEARY: If my hon. friend only knew the shakedown and the ripoff -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please! I have to point out to hon. members on both sides that our procedures are only capable of certain elasticity and then they break. So I would ask hon. members to bear that in mind, and if they break I am not sure what it is to replace them. I do not know and the House will have to decide that. So I would point that out to hon. members, and I would ask the hon. gentleman to conclude.

MR. NEARY: Sir, I conclude by calling upon the Premier, Sir, to give this House an explanation, otherwise, Sir, that dark cloud is going to hang over the government, over the Premier's head, over the head of the Minister of Industrial Development. Why did the government send the Minister of Industrial Development, with the Premier's blessing, to consult with Mr. Doyle? What was the purpose of the visit? Was it to make some kind of a deal? I think the Premier, Sir, should clear the air and make a statement in this House and then tell the House whether or not the government members are going to do the same thing as my colleagues did, reimburse the hon. gentleman for his trip?

AN HON. MEMBER: Right.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Mr. Speaker, I am glad to hear the hon. member substantiate what I have already said about Mr. Charlie Silver and the conscience once again of the Liberal caucus which I am delighted to see. The government did not send the hon. Minister of Industrial Development down to Panama, Sir, and I suggest when all the cases are tried in the courts it will be well known exactly who is behind what in this Province.

MR. NEARY: That is for sure.

PREMIER MOORES: As far as shaking down Mr. Doyle is concerned, Sir, there is no question about that. He was shaken down by this government when the Julianne rights were taken back and when the rights on Labrador were taken back and they will be done again.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible) Liberal Party.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Shaheen and the Japanese and George McLean.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

PREMIER MOORES: Mr. Speaker, the man is very upset. He must have a terrific obligation which he is not telling us about. He certainly is very, very sensitive.

MR. NEARY: My obligation is to the people who put me in the House -

PREMIER MOORES: The fact is, Sir, I would like -

MR. NEARY: - not to the skurks (inaudible).

MR. HICKMAN: Order! Order!

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

PREMIER MOORES: Surely the hon. member, Sir, would also say that if there are any other trips that should be paid for by his caucus. The member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan), I suppose he paid for his trip. I have every intention, Sir, that the people of this Province will not know just the innuendo and smear that has been in this House. I have every intention that they will know a great deal more than that and all the facts.

MR. NEARY: And that is what we want.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! It being Private Members Day I am -

MR. NEARY: Investigations (inaudible).

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

June 7, 1978

Tape No. 4096

NM - 3

MR. NEARY: And the Bill Saunders case.

MR. SPEAKER: In my opinion this House should adjourn for ten minutes. I will return to call the appropriate motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! It being Private Member's Day the adjourned debate on Motion No. 10 adjourned by the hon. Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Mr. Speaker, last Wednesday we talked about the potential of Labrador and as I said at that time the potential of Labrador is very well known. The exact amount of the potential, of course, is not well known but we do know that it is tremendously rich in resources and that it has tremendous potential. Also, as I was closing last week - and I will not be too long today, also, the thing that surfaces in Labrador as well is the tremendous problems that are created by the population being dispersed over a huge area of territory and the population, of course, being very small.

As I mentioned last week the Labrador situation could be classified, I suppose, in many ways and many interests. In the Labrador City area we have people who, I guess, their average stay in that part of Labrador or in Labrador has been ten years. Anyone who has been there for twenty years has been there for an extraordinarily long time and there are very few of those, so they are very much new Labradorians but also very intense Labradorians. Equally, the native people on the coast have been there for hundreds of years and are from a totally different background, I would suggest, than any people in the Province or in Labrador. In Goose Bay we have somewhere in between, people who have moved there over the last fifty years and also people who have moved in from the coast who were native to that area.

Sir, when we look at all these backgrounds and the fact that there are just some 38,000 people, approximately, in Labrador, we see with the cultural differences and the huge area differences and the locations of the various peoples that, obviously, there are bound to be a lot of stresses and a lot of frustrations and a lot of problems, I would suggest, much more so than we have in the society we are used to. The things we take for granted to them are things that are very frustrating indeed.

The critical problems in Labrador: As I said, Sir, isolation is without question one of the major ones.

June 7, 1978

Tape No. 4097

AH-2

PREMIER MOORES: The environment in a territory like Labrador is one that has to be handled much more carefully than would be the case in a more Southern climate. The preservation of the environment in a location like Labrador: When you cut down a tree it takes probably fifteen times as long to grow or ten times as long to grow as one does in the Southern United States.

The challenge to develop is there but the challenge to preserve must be accepted as well. In the environment of Labrador you have, as I mentioned the other day, tremendous beauty. You have very little pollution today by most standards although in Labrador City, when one looks at the tailings that are going into the lakes there, one wonders if pollution is not a potential factor in the future and something that has to be guarded against very stringently now. When we talk about clear

PREMIER MOORES:

cutting the Gull Island reservoir that, of course, is primarily being done for not just economic reasons and good economic sense, but also because of the environmental hazard in that particular area.

The quality of life that is in Labrador; In many ways the quality of life that can be preserved, the quality of life that has to be preserved is one where the environmental controls are going to have to be very carefully carried out and ones which are going to have to have some teeth in them to make sure it happens.

But also, Sir, it is not just the environment, it is things such as health services. And particularly when we are talking about health, of course, we talk about the coastal area, and once again isolation and transportation come into effect.

We look at the performance of the International Grenfell Association who have filled in a void for many, many years and have done some tremendous work along the coast. But once again we have to improve the health services through transportation and through clinics, and as much as possible to provide the health services that are going to be required for these people in these isolated areas. Transportation again, is one that as I have said many times, is not only expensive, but when you take the size of the population, is extraordinarily expensive. The airstrip philosophy along the coast for the people in those areas to have more immediate access is obviously a programme that is getting top priority from this government and, I would suggest,

June 7, 1978

Tape 4098

EC - 2

PREMIER MOORES: the federal government as well.

When we talk about the coast of Labrador we are not just talking about float planes or planes on skis. I would suggest that for several months a year the only access in air transportation is by helicopter and that is a service, of course, that has to be provided and proved.

The ferry service from the Island part of the Province to the Straits area is one where you have a hookup which is not necessarily a good one. The ferry service from Lewisporte through to Happy Valley is for a very short duration of the year because of the ice conditions.

And when we talk about the roads in Labrador, the cost, of course, is horrendous. For the network of roads that would be required to tie in every community, I would suggest that it would be many decades before every community that is in Labrador today is all tied into a network of roads. However, the main road, the Trans-Labrador road, is one that certainly has to have a priority as the future evolves, because I suggest, Sir, that one of the things that will happen in Labrador is that while there are only 38,000 people there now, with the development of the resources that Labrador will be providing, a great many more people from the Island part of our Province and from many parts of Canada will, in fact, be moving into Labrador to take advantage of those opportunities.

In the field of education once again, the difficulty of attracting teachers to some of the more remote areas, the difficulty of

PREMIER MOORES: providing the facilities that go with this development is of concern to us all.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as the hon. House knows, some couple of years ago we appointed the Snowden Commission on Labrador, and that report consists of six volumes containing some 287 recommendations. The Labrador Development proposal presented in November, 1977 dealt with some of those.

The review of the status report very recently shows that 114 of the recommendations have been completed, 109 are in the process of implementation or held up through lack of funds, 21 require further study, 5 recommendations were eliminated by previous action and 35 not recommended for further action, and three have been partially implemented.

Now, I would suggest, Sir, that very rarely in the history of governments in this Province, have they had a study of such magnitude done and had virtually over half the recommendations already implemented and the others in the process of being implemented. I happened to be talking to Mr. Snowden not long ago and he did a check on it, and he was, as he said, very impressed and very surprised to see the degree of progress that had been made on that particular report.

Also, Sir, in May of 1976, the Province began funding the operations of the Labrador Resources Advisory Council as a forum in which the residents could express their views as to how they would like to see the region developed. Now, any advisory group of that sort are obviously going to make recommendations that sometimes are, I will not say unreasonable, but too costly to perform.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

June 7, 1978

Tape 4098

EC - 4

PREMIER MOORES:
resolutions that

They also make some other

Premier Moores:

are impractical I would suggest, as the member himself would, I am sure, would agree with me on. But in the main, this sort of group that gets together to protect their own environment, to find out what industry means in their area, to find out what their opportunities are, to have input into the decision-making process, in the main, that sort of group forms a tremendously good function.

At the same time, Sir, the government appointed a special advisor in Labrador Affairs at that time, Mr. Mike Martin, that was in 1976, to travel throughout the area to consult with Regional Development Associations, Native Associations, and other interested groups and individuals to obtain their views on regional development, and in August of that year it was proposed that the Province and DREE formulate a comprehensive development plan for Labrador. Last year the Department of Rural Development appointed an assistant deputy minister to live in Labrador and to take much more of a direct involvement than had been the case before.

Regarding the Labrador development, Sir, it is, as I said, a huge undertaking. The DREE proposal we put in to the federal government was for \$130 million in total, in two phases, for the third phase to be developed. Of that \$130 million the land management projects were surveys and mapping, coastal resource inventory and mapping, surveying the project in Labrador, a large scale mapping, in other words, getting all of the detail and all the knowledge of Labrador officially on paper in a mapping sense, and that would have cost or will cost some \$3.3 million. In water management, to find out exactly what the resources are, and we are talking some hydro electric, potentially hydro electrical sites here, but also water quality surveys of the various communities where there is a problem, there was \$1,000,700 requested for it. In wildlife management there was \$1 million for a survey of the animals that are in the area, and the habitat of the caribou and the other animals that are so important to be protected in the future. In the area of tourism and recreational facilities; park establishment and

Premier Moores: expansion, a Labrador tour development programme, a Labrador promotional programme, seasonal accommodation demonstration programme, cultural affairs grants, and the Happy Valley-Goose Bay museum and exhibitions centre, all of which would be helpful. It was a \$3 million programme in that particular area.

In fisheries the resource assessment, the commercial assessment and regional development of fisheries, the primary processing and mobile support facilities, herring developments and processing opportunities for a total of \$5 million. In forestry there was a \$3 million programme suggested, in agriculture it was \$700,000, and in trapping \$300,000 for a total of some \$20 million.

Now, Sir, in the area of social and community development which certainly is one of the major areas of government concern because, after all, in the resource orientated areas it is obvious that private capital with the degree of wealth of the resources in Labrador, in the main, can be available for that development. But in the area of social and community development it is another story. Community planning and infrastructure, community water and sewerage and waste disposal and community energy pilot projects were requested at the cost of approximately \$10 million. And in the community health programme care projects, the health care facilities and the alcohol rehabilitation programme, and the mental health service was another \$10 million that was requested.

In the community education programme, school buildings and facilities, teacher and curriculum development, local educational development, and adult education came to \$14 million. I might point out here, Sir, that in the area of adult education there was \$6.5 million requested for that. And I think it is very interesting that the Minister of Education, who was in Labrador last week, has identified that in Labrador West alone there are 1,700 people taking advantage of the adult education programme, and on the Coast and in the Happy Valley-Goose Bay area together with Labrador West there is a total of some 3,000 people. And when you consider, Sir, out of a population of 38,000 men, women, and children, for 3,000 to be

Premier Moores: taking adult education programmes at this point in time, I think, it is a tremendous sign that the people in Labrador themselves want to pull themselves up by their boot straps, so to speak, to improve their lot, and are prepared to work at it.

The biggest item, Sir, obviously, in the proposal we put forward to DREE was in transportation and communications. That came to

PREMIER MOORES: some \$71 million and obviously it was the construction of airstrips and the main road in Labrador as well as the roads around Northwest and Goose particularly. That \$71 million proposal would have gotten the thing underway. It was far from bringing anything to completion as far as the Trans-Labrador Highway is concerned, but it certainly would have been of significant benefit.

Now, Sir, as you know, the LREE agreement that was signed, I think it was last year, maybe it was the year before, I think it was last year, for some \$11 million, included an industrial park in Wabush which was the only involvement as I understand, in Labrador West, but the Northwest River Bridge, the Happy Valley - Goose Bay Economic Development Corporation, the student dormitory at Happy Valley, the auxiliary sewage collection system and outfall capacity, street improvement in Happy Valley, the town of Happy Valley NIP Programme and so on. Now as we all know this year, of course, there was another \$4.7 million added to that, appended to it, which included some \$1.5 million for pure water supplies, distribution systems and this sort of thing, particularly on the Coast, and medical facilities, provision of permanent nursing stations at Rigolet and Postville, as well as the upgrading of the Northwest River and the Makkovik situation as it is there now.

Now, Sir, the fact is that also there was investigative work done to the tune of \$1.5 million public information processes and so on for a total of \$7.8 million but \$19 million in total over, really, what is a two year period. Now I think that has to be increased and I think it has to be increased drastically because, obviously, the needs are so much greater in the Labrador area than they are in most parts of the Province.

The fact is, Sir, that as I have said, I am not going to be long today. There will be many opportunities to talk about Labrador. I think we all appreciate, as I said, its huge potential, I think we all appreciate the problems. It is a matter of how do we

PREMIER MOORES: tackle them as a government? The fact is there are very few people with very high costs.

Regarding the redistribution or the additional half seat for Labrador, additional representation, when one considers the huge size of the district, when one considers the tremendous diversification of interests of the people living in Labrador, certainly it is something that I personally am more than sympathetic with and I think the government and this side of the House is as well. It is the sort of thing that I would like to see because if there are people who want representation and people who have needs and people who need things done, I would suggest the people of Labrador are in that position more so than anybody else.

So, Sir, it certainly would be my intention and my colleagues, as soon as it is feasible and possible, to relook at the Labrador situation as far as representation is concerned with a view of increasing the representation in this House.

Sir, the industrial and rural situation in Labrador are so extreme that it makes it very, very difficult to realize the many worlds there are. On one area you have got Quebec as neighbours and you have got almost an enmity of attitude between the two groups whereby on the coastal area Quebec is a million miles away, as far as they are concerned, for any great degree of influence on them.

But, Sir, in closing I would just like to say that Labrador is a land of the future. It is a part of our Province and a very, very critical part and important part of our Province. And I think, Sir, and I will say unequivocally that this government in the resource development of Labrador and any place that we have any influence, is that that resource benefit will be first of all for Labradorians, secondly for the rest of our Province, and thirdly for our country as a whole.

Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER (Mr. Young): When the Leader of the Opposition speaks now he closes the debate.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. W. ROWE: I assume no one else wants to speak, Mr. Speaker. I will not be long. The debate has taken quite a number of Private Members' Days. There is another motion on the Order Paper which members are eager to get to. Your Honour himself, I believe, will be moving the motion, or will - yes, be moving, speaking to it.

We have heard lots of words on this motion, Sir, concerning the development of Labrador. Unfortunately, words are not enough regarding Labrador. As we saw quite clearly the other day when the Premier visited Labrador West, Wabush and Labrador City, the Menihek district, and was met by a group of several hundred at the very least, people from that area

June 7, 1978

Tape 4101

EC - 1

MR. W. ROWE: who impressed upon the Premier in a very forceful way - I do not think there was any violence whatsoever, certainly we would not want to condone any violence or threat of violence or even any apprehension of violence - but they impressed upon the Premier and his colleague, the member for Menihek district (Mr. Rousseau) that words are not enough.

Every session of the House we have had a motion put before the House for debate on Labrador. This particular one I was eager to get on because I had hoped, and I still hope, that we will see some action as a result not of the motion itself, but of the sentiments expressed in the motion that Labrador be developed for the people of Labrador. I notice the Premier now parrots the words that we use in our motion and we used in the motion which we brought before the policy convention of the Liberal Party of Canada where we stated - and we got unanimous agreement from all delegates at that convention - we stated forcefully again the idea that Labrador should be developed fully for the benefit of the people of Labrador and the people of the Province as a whole; that this should include not only the exploitation of the raw materials in sending them elsewhere for further processing and the exportation of our electricity and energy, but that the development of raw material should take place in Labrador and that our energy should be used wherever possible in Labrador, that any power that has to be exported from Labrador should be on a short-term, recallable basis only at best possible market values so that that revenue, where it could not be used for industrial development at any point in time, that revenue could be used for the benefit of Labrador and of Newfoundland.

MR. W. ROWE: And, Sir, we stressed - and got unanimous consent in Ottawa and the consent of the Prime Minister and his colleagues - the idea of a transportation system across Labrador, road and/or railway or both, whatever is determined to be economical and feasible and sensible. There should be a Port Labrador so that we can ship our materials where necessary, processed or otherwise, out of Labrador itself and not give all the secondary jobs to Quebec in Sept Iles, as has happened. We have a city in Sept Iles which is larger than Corner Brook, which is based almost entirely on the Labrador resources and the secondary jobs related to that resource. We think, Sir, that Labrador can be and should be developed on its own merits and for the benefit of this Province, particularly those living in Labrador. And when these developments are taking place, Mr. Speaker, as we believe they should, there should be full consultation with the people of Labrador, including the native groups, not that the native groups are going to necessarily determine the future of Labrador by themselves, other people have rights and privileges and duties in that regard as well because Labrador is part of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador and people everywhere have a right to speak out and have a say on what happens to Labrador. But, of course, everybody feels that Labradorians themselves should have top priority when any developments are taking place and that full consultations should take place on all aspects of development.

And, Sir, I had hoped that during this debate, which was supported and is supported by the government and all members - the motion is being supported - that we would hear some concrete announcements

June 7, 1978

Tape 4102

DW - 1

MR. W.N. ROWE:

which many people in Labrador West themselves were not aware of. As a matter of fact we, I believe, made the news media by and large and the people there aware of what was going on just forty miles away from the Labrador border. We flew out in this helicopter - naturally we had heard rumours and speculation about it but we wanted to see with our own two eyes what was going on - we flew out in this helicopter, Sir, and we got to Fire Lake and in the Fire Lake area, which is forty or fifty miles, I suppose, from the Labrador border, we saw a paved road, a paved road which came and went down into the community of Fire Lake. And coming off that road on a tangent to the road, jutting off from the road and heading for the Labrador border was several hundred, perhaps several thousand feet of black-top, going nowhere, for all apparent purposes, just heading off that road heading for the Labrador border. And it goes all along for several hundred yards of black top then it stops and there is nothing else beyond that road. But, Sir, it is unmistakably clear what is going on there, that this is the road which is going to take off, a portion of which is already paved, is going to take off and lead towards the Labrador border. There is a tote road, Sir, which connects Fire Lake with Fermont and which was in the process of being upgraded at the very time that we flew over it, and I think my friend for Eagle River (Mr. Strachan) will agree a considerable amount of upgrading work going ahead between Fire Lake and Fermont. Of course, the road from Fermont to Labrador City and Wabush is paved, there is a road there, a tremendous amount of upgrading going ahead. In the Fermont area there is some company equipment being used to upgrade the road. The equipment which presumably should be lying dormant and unused is being used because there is a strike on, of course, there - but it is being used to upgrade road facilities there. So I would say, Sir, that within a year or so there will be a clearly

MR. W.N. ROWE: passable road from the Labrador border right on to Fire Lake. There is already one from Fire Lake to Gagnon and there is a contract let for the remainder of the road from Gagnon onto -

MR. STRACHAN: Mannic Five.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Mannic Five and what remains then that he done to connect up with the Quebec road system?

MR. STRACHAN: Mannic Five, Baie Comeau -

MR. W.N. ROWE: Mannic Five, Baie Comeau part is already passable, done and passable. So you are talking about a year or so before there will be a link between the Labrador border, as my friends opposite I am sure realize, the member for Naskaupi (Mr. Goudie), the member for Menihek (Mr. Rousseau), I am sure they realize that there will be a link between the Quebec road system and North America as a whole and the Labrador border, Labrador City and Wabush.

Now what is wrong with that? Nothing, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of fact, anybody whose head is screwed on right at all has to welcome that occurrence, has to welcome it. Because one of the problems of living in that area, as I understand it from my many friends there, is the sense of isolation, psychological isolation, the sense that you are not a part of any mainstream and that you are just there without taking part in any kind of activity going on elsewhere and the feeling that you are trapped there when you drive back and forth between Fermont and Wabush

Mr. Speaker, everybody has to welcome that road link up. But the problem with it, especially in view of the publicly stated intention of the present Quebec Government to take over Labrador, to make no bones about it, the problem with it, Sir, is that in practically every way, economically, psychologically, in every way perhaps except in a legal way de facto, if not de jure, de facto that will become part of Quebec psychologically and in every other way. The border may be there as a figment of

June 7, 1978

Tape 4102

DW - 3

MR. W.N. ROWE:

somebody's imagination but it will become part of Quebec in a psychological way and certainly in an economic way. So what do we do about that? There is no sense hiding our heads in the sand, there is no sense ranting and roaring, there is no sense accusing Quebec of this, that and the other thing what is the point of that? What we need to do, Mr. Speaker, is take all actions which will tend towards making Labrador an integral part of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. That means :

June 7, 1978

Tape No. 4103

AH-1

MR. W. ROWE: doing everything which will move the economic center of gravity of our Province North as I believe can and should happen, especially with the vast energy up there, the offshore resources and the the other resources. The economic center of gravity should be moved North, there should be every effort made to bring the people living in Labrador both Labrador West, Center, Straits of Belle Isle and on the coast, make them feel that they are part of the mainstream of the political life of the Province, that they are masters in a way of their own destiny. All of these things have to take place and one of the best ways of doing that now is to build a Trans-Labrador Highway which links up all parts of Labrador, joins it up, makes people feel that they are part of one big entity, Labrador. Someone mentioned that Labrador West and the Wabush area are more like a suburb of Montreal than they are of Labrador or Newfoundland. This is the feeling that some outsiders get when they go in there. I do not get that feeling myself maybe because I know quite a number of people there and naturally you get the feeling you are among Newfoundlanders, but the feeling lots of people get is that they could be in a suburb of Montreal.

Join up not only for the economic reasons and the developed mental reasons but the social reasons, the psychological reasons, join up Labrador West with Central Labrador and the Coast of Labrador. This would obviously link up to a Port Labrador as well and there would also, hopefully, be a railway. I notice that Bill Callahan the publisher of the Daily News, who thinks long and hard on these subjects, said there should be both the railway and the Labrador highway.

But, Sir, a Labrador highway linking up all parts of Labrador and linking up Labrador with the Island of Newfoundland, because you could have some kind of a sensible ferry system back and forth there and make it easy and fairly cheap, even if you had to subsidize transportation there as a government in order to encourage people to move around, back and forth, would not cost anything, Sir, it would not cost anything near \$300 million as the Premier said the other day, a \$50 million inflation rate from one week to the other, \$250 million the week before, \$300 million.

MR. W. ROWE: It might cost \$300 million to build the equivalent of the arterial road across Labrador or even perhaps the equivalent of the Trans Canada Highway as it presently exists, but to link up - first and foremost just to make a road link which is passable even at this moment by a four-wheel vehicle would cost nothing near that. It might cost \$10 million. Has the member for Eagle River (Mr. Strachan) heard any figures on the cost of linking up the road now so that it is passable by four-wheel drives?

MR. STRACHAN: What is it, forty miles? Fifty miles?

MR. W. ROWE: Say you are talking about even \$200,000 a mile, you are talking about \$8 million to \$10 million.

MR. STRACHAN: Sure! No problems at all.

MR. W. ROWE: \$200 million would be twice the amount spent per mile that is spent on woods access roads which are certainly passable by car and everything else.

MR. STRACHAN: I am sure the Quebec people on their side of the border are not spending \$250 million.

MR. W. ROWE: I am sure they are not. The point is, Sir, that that is the kind of thing which I find so discouraging about the Premier and about this administration generally, and that is that in order to avoid the solution to a problem the problem is magnified until nobody dares even to suggest a solution because it sounds too ridiculous. Yes, \$250 million to build a road for 38,000 people sounds totally ridiculous and it would be ridiculous and nobody is even suggesting it. But \$8 million or \$10 million, Mr. Speaker, now in the next year or two to link up Labrador with some kind of a road from Central Labrador now, immediately to Western Labrador, is that ridiculous? \$10 million. It is a simple matter and it is not an expensive matter and I am sure that Ottawa, if approached right and in a sensible way with all the facts and figures marshalled in a co-operative way, would be able to help us to some extent, at least fifty per cent, for that kind of a road.

This is the kind of action which the government should be taking. I find it very discouraging when you see the

June 7, 1978

Tape No. 4103

AH-3

MR. W. ROWE: psychological impulses and the upsurge of discontent that the Premier witnessed first hand and the member for Menihek (Mr. Rousseau) witnessed first hand a couple of days ago in Labrador West, and then to hear that the problem is insoluble, the psychological isolation problem is insoluble because we are talking about \$250 million, Mr. Speaker, that is burying one's head in the sand. That is, as somebody said before in this House on another matter, that is taking the refuge of a person that you could call a frustrated absolutist. If something is not absolutely perfect then it is no good at all, if something is not absolutely perfect in every way then you become

Mr. W. Rowe: frustrated, you do not want to go near it, you do not want to touch it. We are not talking about perfection in this field. We are not talking about a perfectly good highway across Labrador, paved, \$250 million or \$300 million within the next year or so, we are not talking about that, so there is no need for the Premier to be frustrated about it, to feel that the problem is insoluble. That what he has to do is put up with the kinds of discontent, brazen out the kinds of discontent he saw demonstrated in Labrador West a few days ago, or perhaps even get his back up and say, "well, if that is the way they are going to carry on we will not do anything anyway." That may be the arrogant way the matter is going to be solved or dealt with, not solved at all. The way to deal with it, Sir, is to look at it, look at reasonable solutions to this one aspect of the problem, and go ahead with it, get a half decent road across there, look at the possibility of getting back our fair share of the Upper Churchill power; not to look at it and say it is impossible to do, we are going to rock boats, we are going to have - Wall Street is going to get up in arms if we take any drastic action to get back our fair share of the Upper Churchill power.

Mr. Speaker, frustrated absolutists! If the thing is not absolutely easy to do, if the solution is not clear in everyone's minds, do not go near it at all! The fact is, Sir, that by taking some gutsy stands on it, by making some efforts, by not having the wool pulled over our eyes with this talk about violating contracts - What a joke, Mr. Speaker! - dealing with a Province like Quebec, and a separatist government who are busily violating the most sacred and most ancient contract of all in Canada, and trying to violate it, for us to fall victim to that kind of propaganda from Rene Lesvesque that we are not going to do anything with the Upper Churchill Falls contract between this Province and Hydro Quebec, Mr. Speaker, that is an easy way out, let is a disasterous way out, I think. There are better solutions, but they are going to

Mr. W. Rowe: be hard, they are going to be risky, there are going to be problems. It is going to be a difficult thing to cope with, but I think, Sir, with the right attitude, the right approach to the problem, prepared to take a gutsy stand, a stand which demands some courage on the Upper Churchill power, I think, that we can get a far better deal with regards to that, several hundred million dollars a year better into our Provincial coffers, not by burying our heads in the sand, not by saying we do not want to rock the boats, but by taking the situation on head on, confront it head on, and do what may be necessary to do in that case.

That is the Upper Churchill power. With regard to a transportation link I have already, I think, exhausted that. Do not bury our heads in the sand on that, recognize it as something that needs to be solved, make our first tentative steps towards solving it, get our transportation link into Central Labrador, and then on to the coast. The expenditure of money will be well worthwhile because as the Minister of Justice said a couple of weeks ago, if anyone had looked at, in a pure economic way, the cost-benefit of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and everyone who pushed the thing purely as an economic venture would have been considered to be off their heads. Just off their heads, it was not economic. But the cost-benefit analysis that are done on these things often are looking at the present rather than the future. And if we had not had a government in Canada which was prepared to take the brave stands at that particular time, we would not have had the Canadian Pacific Railway.

MR. STRACHAN: The William Carson.

MR. W. ROWE: Pardon?

MR. STRACHAN: The William Carson to Goose Bay was also economically unsound, but that went in.

MR. W. ROWE: Yes. Until it went in. That is right. It turned out to be economically unsound, but for a different reason.

MR. STRACHAN: Yes.

MR. W. ROWE: But, Mr. Speaker, the point I am making is that we have to open up Labrador, we have to have these links, we have to have a transportation link. As a matter of fact, I would suggest this to the Premier, I do not think that a good highway should be built at the beginning in any event, because, until it is known a little bit better what are the resources of Labrador, in the interior of Labrador, and I think, he would be the first to admit, and the Minister of Mines and Energy, that we do not know what is there, we do not know, so we are certainly not going to get into a position of building a \$250 million or a \$300 million highway across Labrador in a certain way, and then find out that 200 miles up here is where the economic center of gravity of Labrador is going to be because of certain discoveries or certain changes, economic changes and so on. What I am talking about, Sir, is providing links, economic and social links from one part of Labrador to the other at the cheapest possible cost at this point in time. Open up the country, hopefully it will have an economic impact as well and then go

MR. W. ROWE: from there. Expensive highways can come a little later when they are a little more economically justified.

So, Sir, I conclude my remarks with those two points, the Upper Churchill power requiring a very brave courageous stand. I am not advocating what used to be known in Germany as Gotterdammerung politics, that is bring the Heavens down on you as you try to - you know, either you get your own way or you leave a scorched earth behind you. I am not talking about that, I am not talking about destroying Newfoundland or Labrador in our efforts to get back a fair share of the value of the Upper Churchill power, but I am suggesting that, Sir, we take some risks and we take a courageous and brave stand on it, and that we make some economic threats to Quebec in our efforts to get back - threats that will be backed up if necessary by pulling that switch if necessary, in order to get back a half decent value for us of the Upper Churchill power and then the transportation link, and the other matters, the Lower Churchill and the processing, Port Labrador and these other matters, getting back into Labrador of the more secondary and tertiary industry based on the resources, for example, getting back some of the jobs that are now in Seven Islands, get those back into Labrador, by government action if necessary.

All of these things, Sir, we have discussed and I think we are one mind on them. But I do commend to the government, or I do ask the government not to be satisfied with just words on this, not to be satisfied with just feeling proud about the fact that we recognize a problem, I believe everyone recognizes the problem, feel satisfied that we do see the problem. I think the government should take some action, should make some moves, Mr. Speaker, and should make some effort to actually realize within the next couple of years, some of the things that we have talked about in this House of Assembly.

MR. W. ROWE: I mentioned a couple of days ago that I am not in the habit of making promises or commitments to the people of the Province, especially when you do not know if you can live up to them or not, but I do make this solemn pledge, Mr. Speaker, that if we do have the privilege, on this side of the House of forming the next government, we will - we will as long as I am leader, and if we do not get our way in this regard I will not be leader very long - we will get back a fair share of the Upper Churchill power. We will take the action which is necessary to link up various parts of Labrador to get rid of the isolation, the political and psychological isolation, and we will as an administration take other meaningful actions to make sure that the people of Labrador, and the four or five areas of Labrador that everybody identifies when they speak, that the people there feel that they are part of the mainstream of the political life of the Province, that the resources are developed for the benefit of the people of Labrador primarily and the people of Newfoundland as well, of course. That the will of the people of Labrador and the Island part of the Province are taken into consideration and that, Sir, we will do everything to encourage what I described as moving the economic and social centre of gravity of this Province of Newfoundland and Labrador away from the East Coast of the Island of the Province further North and make Newfoundland and Labrador one Province in reality as well as in name.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Is the House ready for the question on the resolution as amended? Those in favour "Aye", contrary "Nay", I declare the motion carried, the resolution as amended,

MR. W. ROWE: Let the record show, Mr. Speaker, that there was a unanimous vote. I do not think there was a dissenting voice in the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The minutes should show accordingly.

MR. HICKMAN: I know Your Honour is aware that there is a typographical error in the resolution.

MR. SPEAKER: There is a typographical error.

The resolution as amended is carried unanimously.

It being Private Members' Day I now call motion 11, the hon. member for Harbour Grace.

MR. YOUNG: Mr. Speaker, as all members of the House are invited to a certain function, I wonder if we could move the adjournment and call it six o'clock?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: It is agreed that it be called six o'clock and noted that the hon. member moved the adjournment.

It being six o'clock I leave the Chair until tomorrow, Thursday, at 2:00 P.M.

I N D E X

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

TABLED

JUNE 7, 1978

QUESTION #72

Mr. Neary (LaPoile) - to ask the Honourable the Minister of Health to lay upon the Table of the House the following information:

Number of cases of battered husbands recorded for the calendar years 1975, 1976 and 1977.

ANSWER

Information not available.

June 7/78

~~May 22, 1978~~

QUESTION # 79

Mr. Neary (LaPoile) - to ask the Honourable the Minister of Health to lay upon the Table of the House the following information:-

Number of cases of child abuse recorded for the years 1975, 1976 and 1977.

QUESTION

1975-76	13
1976-77	29
1977-78	16

June 7/78

Q79, 1978

QUESTION #86

Mr. Neary (LaPoile) - to ask the Honourable the Minister of Health to lay upon the Table of the House the following information:

Number of cases of battered wives recorded for the calendar years 1975, 1976 and 1977.

ANSWER

Information not available.

June 7/78

~~May 23, 1978~~