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TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
FOR THE PERIOD:
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 1978

The House met at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the House of Assembly would like to go on record as acknowledging the fact that a native son of Jerseyside, Placentia has been elected to the highest position in the world of the Irish Christian Brothers.

I refer of course to Reverend Brother Gerald G. McHugh, who has distinguished himself and his Province by becoming the first Canadian to be elected Superior General of the world-wide Congregation of Christian Brothers. The Congregation, I might add, has 352 communities throughout the world, with 195,000-plus students, with more than 3,000 Christian Brothers.

Brother McHugh, who is forty-six years of age, was elected at the Twenty-Fifth General Chapter of the Congregation in Rome. He is a son of Margaret and the late Philip McHugh, and is one of ten children. One of his brothers is Reverend Father Richard McHugh, Parish Priest on Bell Island, another is Reverend Brother John McHugh, former Principal of St. Bon's College and Brother Rice high schools and currently Principal and Superior of Brother Edmund Rice Secondary School, Toronto, and Reverend Sister Wilhelmina McHugh, of the Presentation Convent, is an aunt.

Mr. Speaker, in many ways the Irish Christian Brothers have contributed greatly to the enrichment of our Province, leading the way in academic endeavours and laying the foundations for great expectations. Newfoundland is a better place today because of the dedicated services of the Irish Christian Brothers.

I know I speak for all members of the House in extending to Brother McHugh our best wishes for every success in his

PREMIER MOORES: new and very challenging position.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

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

MR. W. N. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I would very much like to associate myself and my colleagues with the remarks of the hon. the Premier concerning Reverend Brother McHugh. He is well known, particularly to those who have been involved in education, as one of Newfoundland's greatest educators and he is a man who brings credit on this Province.

It is amazing, Sir, the number of people who rise to very high office in various religious orders and institutions who come from this Province. Scarcely a session has gone by in my eight or nine years in the House, that we have not had the delightful occasion for somebody to rise, the Premier, or some other member and congratulate one of our native sons or daughters for, as I say, rising to high station in a religious institution. And I would very much like to associate my caucus, this side of the House, with the remarks of the hon. the Premier.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure I announce the appointment of Mr. John N. Cardoulis of St. John's, Newfoundland, as Provincial Fire Commissioner.

Mr. Cardoulis was born in Boston, Massachusetts, completed his education at Grand Falls, Newfoundland, and is a Canadian citizen. He is fifty-two years of age, married with eight children. His mother, Mrs. Anna Cardoulis, resides in Grand Falls, Newfoundland.

Mr. Cardoulis will assume the office of Provincial Fire Commissioner on April 1st., 1978. John Cardoulis has been associated with the fire service for over thirty-five years and has served in every capacity in fire departments from fire fighter to fire chief.

MR. HICKMAN: He was Fire Protection Engineer for five years with the United States Civil Service and Director of the Fire Protection and Fire Fighting School over eight years. For the past eighteen years, Mr. Cardoulis has worked as a Fire Protection consultant in Newfoundland. He served for eight and one half years with the United States Air Force and is a graduate of several fire protection schools and courses.

Fire Commissioner Cardoulis has been very closely associated with the fire service in Newfoundland and Labrador during the past twenty years, and has been a very active member of the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Fire Chiefs, being one of the original founders. . . Some time ago he was appointed an honorary life member of the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Fire Chiefs.

Mr. Cardoulis has had a wide range of experience and knowledge in the field of fire protection and life safety and is the recipient of many awards for fire protection services over the years. He is a member of the society of Fire Protection Engineers of Boston, the Institute of Fire Engineers of England and the National Fire Protection Association.

I am indeed pleased that this very highly trained and experienced person has agreed to accept the position of Provincial Fire Commissioner.

MR. HICKMAN: I should like at this time to pay a very sincere tribute to the Provincial Fire Commissioner, Frank J. Ryan, M.B.E., who reached retirement age last July but at the request of government agreed to stay on until March 31, 1978 in order we would have an opportunity to very carefully consider all candidates for the office of Provincial Fire Commissioner. Provincial Fire Commissioner Ryan, who was appointed to office on November 2, 1953, was the first person to occupy this office in Newfoundland, and has done an outstanding job in the area of fire protection and in giving leadership and training to the volunteer fire brigades throughout Newfoundland.

It may be of interest to the hon. members to learn we now have in this Province 190 fire brigades, most of which are fully equipped and have received training under the leadership of Fire Commissioner Ryan. I wish Provincial Fire Commissioner Ryan and his wife many years of healthy and happy retirement.

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

MR. J. NOLAN: Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the hon. Leader and all members on this side join in congratulating the new Fire Commissioner, Mr. John Cardoulis, and to reply to the statement just made by the House Leader and the Minister of Justice. Of course Mr. Cardoulis is very, very well known. In addition to his great knowledge on firefighting and so on, he has appeared on any number of occasions in the media, I am thinking of television, giving demonstrations and so on. My most recent association with him was I believe last year when I was invited to speak to the American Legion here in Newfoundland along with the Minister of Consumer Affairs who was there also at the time. And Mr. Cardoulis is either a president of that organization or a past president but he indeed holds very, very high office. Many people know Johnny Cardoulis. Even though he may not have been born on our shores, I do not think he was anyway, but the fact is we look upon him as someone we have known all of our life, just as the member for Lewisporte (Mr. White) mentioned to me how well he knew him, and how co-operative he has been in so many areas and in doing so much for firefighting in this Province. And of course he is filling big shoes when he replaces Frank Ryan,

Mr. Nolan: because Frank Ryan himself is sort of an institution here in this Province who served the Province and its people long and well for many years as the hon. minister just indicated. Mr. Ryan was always available to those of us who had reason to call upon him when we were associated with the media, I know I have had reason to call upon him on many times in the past, and I cannot think of anyone in all of the civil service of this Province who has always been more co-operative, more knowledgeable, so accessible, and so willing to give of his time and knowledge to assist not only those of us who were directly involved in the media, but through us all the public as well.

So my reason for standing here is to wish John Cardoulis our very, very best wishes and to compliment the Minister of Justice on the appointment of this man who has done so much in a very, very important area, and that is firefighting in this Province; I know for example in my own area, and others as well, where you have volunteer fire brigades. What would we do without them? And I know there is lots to be done yet, but nevertheless it is good to know that we have - and it is not easy to fill a position filled by someone like Frank Ryan for so many, many years - but in John Cardoulis I believe that the minister has done just that, and his advisors, and we certainly wish Mr. Cardoulis well and at the same time join with the minister in wishing Frank Ryan, his wife and family all the best in retirement and to thank them for a job so well done over so many years in servicing this Province and its citizens.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: I have a very short statement, Mr. Speaker, which is more for information for hon. members. The index of the Revised Statutes of Newfoundland 1970, and the bound Statutes for 1977 are in the office of Mr. Speaker, and copies are available for all hon. members if they will, sometime at their convenience, attend at the office of the Speaker and sign for same. I will direct to the

MR. HICKMAN: attention of hon. gentlemen that the index is something new in Canada, the type of indexing that we have, It is a pilot project that was carried on by the Provincial Department of Justice under the leadership of Mr. James W. Ryan, Q.C., and the Canadian Law Information Council, and it was a very substantial sum of money made available by the Canadian Law Information Council. We would like to think, based on good advice, that it is probably the best index of Statutes that can be found in Canada at this time. But in any event they are there for the convenience of hon. members.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. W. ROWE: Mr. Speaker,

MR. A.S. ROWE: I ask the leave of the House to make this particular resolution. I do not think there will be any dissent from it. I would like to move, Sir, seconded by the hon. the Premier, that a message of sympathy and condolences and simple recognition of the fact that the man lived and contributed greatly to this Province be sent to the family of Albert Perlin, who passed away since this house last sat. I think we would be remiss if we did not as a Legislature recognize the passing of this great man, one of the greatest journalists ever produced by this Province. And to put ourselves on the record as having considered ourselves, I suppose, fortunate to have been contemporaries of this gentleman and put ourselves on the record as recognizing the tremendous contribution which this gentleman, this very much of a gentleman, made to the journalistic life of the Province, to the political life of the Province and to government generally both as a non-partisan advisor to governments and as a man who commented on the passing political scene. A very great genuine gentleman, Mr. Speaker, and I would very much like to move that the resolution I referred to be passed unanimously by this House.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I support that resolution for the obvious reason and the reasons given by the Leader of the Opposition. Albert Perlin and his family, but particularly Mr. Perlin, have been - I suppose he was one of the most respected, if not 'the' most respected journalist we have ever had in this Province. He was a man who was always fair and a man who did a study and studied Newfoundland history and its people; a man who in latter years, or I suppose never had any viciousness in him, which I guess by any standards today in the printed word is unusual. He was a man who was a very proud Newfoundlander, a man who was a Newfoundlander by adoption, I believe, but a man who did his utmost to make this a better Province in which to live. It is with great pleasure, Sir, that this side of the House supports the

PREMIER DOORES: resolution.

MR. SPEAKER: hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave of the House to present a resolution that I hope will be supported by the members on either side of the House. I will move the resolution. I hope that the hon. the Premier or the Government House Leader would support my motion and that is, Sir, that the House send a message of sympathy and condolences to the family of the late Dr. Burry who passed away since the House last sat. The Province was very saddened a short while ago, Sir, to hear of the death of the Rev. Dr. Lester Burry. Dr. Burry would best be remembered for his wonderful work throughout Labrador. He was a member of the National Convention and in 1946 was elected from that convention to go to Ottawa to discuss the terms of Confederation.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that I speak for members on both sides of this House in expressing most sincere condolences to the family of the late Dr. Burry.

MR. SPEAKER: hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all hon. gentlemen on this side of the House may I join in the comments by the hon. the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) in saying that we most assuredly would wish to convey to the family of the late Dr. Lester Burry our sincere condolences. It was my good fortune some years ago when I was Chairman of the United Church School Board for this area to have the Rev. Dr. Burry as a member of that board. Whilst he was a great member of the board, the things I remember about him most vividly were his stories and accounts of his years on coastal Labrador. I believe that the late Rev. Burry and Monsignor O'Drien were the first two white people to visit what is now Courcaill Falls. And it was a great thrill I know for both of them to have been present, and I heard them articulate their views, at the time of the opening of this power development.

MR. BICKMAN: Rev. Dr. Surry was a great churchman, a great educator, a great outdoorsman and a tremendous husband and father.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. member for Fogo.

CAPT. WINSOR: It would be amiss if I did not add my sentiments toward the motion made by the House Leader and seconded by the Minister of Justice in the passing of Dr. Surry. I knew Dr. Surry for many, many years, especially pertaining to his work in Labrador. When Dr. Surry went to the Labrador, Mr. Speaker, those were the days when things were not as good as they are today in Labrador, even though we hear that things are bad in Labrador right now. But I am sure the member for Naskaupi (Mr. Goudie) whose mother, I believe, perhaps had more association with Dr. Surry than any other person certainly in this House of Assembly, and it was always easy to get a conversation going with Mrs. Goudie about the times that the hunters or husbands went trapping in Labrador and Dr. Surry, who I suppose next to Rev. Joyce invented a radio, a transmitter, and not only a transmitter but also little radio receivers to take in trapping with them during their trapping season, and I

CAPT. E. WINSOR: may have heard- and as a matter of fact, I think Mrs. Goudie refers to this in her book. - how many times that the men would listen on Sunday especially to get the news from home and listen to the church service broadcast from North West River church which meant a tremendous amount to those people in the interior of Labrador. So that is just one of the many outstanding achievements of Dr. Burry and of course, he operated the mission boat, the Glad Tidings, which was built in Newfoundland and commanded by Dr. Burry and he used to take his mission all up and down the Southern Labrador coast. And of course, it was always a big day. There were two big days or three big days, I suppose, in the life of many Labradorians and that was the day when the coastal boat arrived, the day when Dr. Padden arrived to provide medical services, and the day that Dr. Burry arrived to provide spiritual services, so, Sir, in that light I would say Dr. Burry made a great contribution to this Province and especially to the people of Labrador.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Naskaupi.

MR. GOUDIE: If I may for just a moment, Mr. Speaker, I will associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers. I knew Reverend Dr. Burry fairly well. I nearly got baptized by the honourable gentleman but he happened to leave on sabbatical leave, I believe, in 1939 and Reverend Denzil Rideout from Toronto happened to replace him and I ended up in his arms in front of the altar at that particular time. Of course, we can all, I think, recall many stories that the Reverend Dr. Burry told. We are all, I think, fairly familiar with the valuable work that he performed in Labrador in his twenty-five or thirty years of service. And of course, one of the more important aspects of his work, I believe, was the radio transmitters, which the hon. member for Fogo (Capt. E. Winsor) referred to just a few moments ago, the only way of communication for the trappers other than sending in mail by hand over hundreds of miles of country. And he is going to be remembered with a great deal of affection and with a great deal of admiration by the people of Labrador, and certainly I am one of them and I would very much like to be associated with the sentiments expressed.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member for Fogo.

CAPT. E. WINSOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to - Did I run in that leadership convention? -

MR. W. M. ROWE:

Carry on.

CAPT. E. WINSOR:

Mr. Speaker, I beg to present a petition on behalf of the voters of Clarke's Head, Gander Bay in Fogo district. The prayer of the petition is: "We, the voters of Clarke's Head, who are living to the west of the causeway, petition the government through the Department of Transportation and Communications that a stretch of road be upgraded and paved if possible. If pavement is not possible this year, we hereby request the government and the same minister to have the road sprayed with calcium liquid to keep the dust down especially during the hot weather." Now, Mr. Speaker, having the honour to present the first petition to the new Minister of Transportation and Communications, it would be an unforgivable sin if the hon. minister did not see to it that either this stretch of road would be paved or sprayed with liquid calcium. And I might add, Mr. Speaker, his predecessor, the former Minister of Transportation, did go to some pains last year and the year before to provide some spraying of liquid calcium on the dusty roads in Fogo district and people are very grateful. But now, Sir, we are getting less and less miles of gravel road to be paved except on Fogo Island, of course, which I hope to bring to the minister's attention a little later on. But this small stretch of road, Mr. Speaker, is so insignificant in terms of dollars, and now while they are paving the Gander Bay - or the Bonavista Bay loop road, it should not take too much money, time or effort to have that small stretch of road paved. I strongly support the petition and request that the minister give this matter very serious consideration. I ask that the petition be received and laid on the table of the House and have it referred to the department to which it relates.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of
Transportation.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker it is certainly a very gratifying experience indeed to be able to stand up and say that I would certainly do everything that I possibly can within the limitations of my confreres in Treasury Board and Finance, who are renowned for their parsimoniousness. We will certainly do everything we can to spray at least as much liquid around the roads as my predecessor did. I will do everything I can in your district and in every other district, Sir. If it is calcium, then we will certainly get the calcium in there too. It is all very necessary and worthwhile and the people in that particular area of the Province will certainly not be overlooked. We will do everything we possibly can in their behalf.

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

MR. F.B. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition on behalf of forty-one residents of New Harbour in the electoral district of Trinity - Bay de Verde and the prayer of the petition reads as follows, Sir: We, the undersigned citizens of Pond Road in the community of New Harbour, District of Trinity - Bay de Verde, do hereby petition the government to proceed immediately with the construction of a waterline to service the seventeen homes of the undersigned.

Such a waterline should be connected to the existing main waterline presently serving the two fish plants in New Harbour.

Justification: This is the fourth or fifth time we have applied for a water supply for this area, all to no avail. The wells presently serving this area have been tested by the Department of

MR. F.B. ROWE: Health and were found to be unfit for human consumption. Consequently, we are desperately in need of the water supply.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in speaking in support of the petition; although this may appear to be a relatively small petition, since it represents only forty-one residents of New Harbour, I would like to point out that New Harbour is the second largest community in the district of Trinity - Bay de Verde. Unfortunately that particular community is not incorporated, it has no local government whatsoever, and there are many other sideroads and main roads in that community that have this very similar problem. They have been asking for water over the past fifteen years. There have been numerous petitions sent in. As I have mentioned, there are other areas in New Harbour that need this water. The water is indeed contaminated and the people at the present time, particularly in the Pond Road area, have to drive as far as twelve miles in order to get water fit to drink.

Sir, can you imagine the frustration the people must encounter when they have a huge waterline, built by DREE, running from a good supply of water past their homes to the two fish plants in the area and these people cannot connect up this water to their homes. They are further frustrated, Sir, by the numerous complaints and representations that they have made over the years and they have had no action on the part of any government over these years.

These people, Sir, are quite willing to put the sidelines in themselves and they are quite willing to be metered. All they require is seventeen hundred feet from the mainline to their area where they can connect up.

MR. F.B. ROWE: Sir, I made representation to the Director of the Water Services Division in the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing with respect to this particular request, and I would like to read it to the hon. House.

"This will acknowledge receipt of your letters" - as I indicated I had the same representation from other areas of New Harbour - "This will acknowledge receipt of your letters of February 20, 1978 requesting permission to connect to the fish plant water supply in New Harbour.

"This system is still under the jurisdiction of the Department of Fisheries. It is expected that it will be passed over to this Department sometime in the future. Until such time as the system is formally accepted, the department is unable to consider these requests. In the meantime, I would suggest that these people form a water supply committee because individuals are not permitted to connect to the system. In this way we will be in a position to expedite their request once the system has been accepted by the department."

Now, Sir, I would like it if the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Minister of Fisheries could indicate to the House, Sir, when this waterline will indeed be passed over to the provincial government, or more specifically, to the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and therefore to the Water Services Division, in order that these people may be connected up to this water supply.

I might add, Sir, in spite of what was indicated in the letter, it is my understanding that there is indeed a water committee set up representing these people, so there appears to

MR. F.B. ROWE: be some confusion, and it further points out, Sir, the need for the incorporation of such large communities as New Harbour so that the people can get organized with a local government and take care of these tasks and these problems which are very difficult to take care of without local government. Sir, I give this my full support and I ask that the petition be placed on the Table of the House and referred to the departments to which it relates. I think in this case it would be the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Department of Fisheries.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. HEARY: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present two petitions if that is an order, Sir; they concern the same matter and I just as soon, to save time of the House, to present both petitions at the same time. The two petitions, Sir, one comes from the community of Grand Druit on the Southwest coast and the other petition is from LaPoile. And I might say for the benefit of the house, Sir, before I read the prayer of the petition that this is a federal matter but I have been asked to raise it in the House, and in keeping with past tradition, Sir, I think that is in order, so I can refer the matter to the appropriate provincial minister so that he in turn can bring pressure to bear on his federal counterpart to try to do something about the problem that the people are telling us they have in the prayer of these two petitions.

It has to do, Mr. Speaker, both petitions have to do with CBC television programming and reception in the communities of Grand Druit and LaPoile. The people are complaining about the interruptions that they get just about every day when television is off the air, sometimes for part of the day, sometimes for almost all day. And then when it does come back on, Mr. Speaker, I am told by the prayer of the petition that there are still all kinds of interruptions in the picture, and sound troubles and you would need a bulldozer to clean the snow off the television set. Mr. Speaker, the tragic part of it, the unfortunate part of it is that the people in these two communities, along with the people in Labrador west and in the Happy Valley - Goose Bay area, only have one channel. Here we are here in St. John's, Stepenville, Corner Brook and Grand Falls getting cable television where you can have a choice of seven or eight or nine or ten channels,

MR. NEARY: and these people in the two communities on whose behalf I am presenting the petition, only have one channel to watch. And they are forced to watch Peter Gzowski at night whether they like it or not. No wonder the people down in Labrador West are the best in the Province for playing forty-fives because when the Peter Gzowski comes on they either play forty-fives or drive their boot into the television. That is how much that program is hated in that area. And the same way down in my district, Sir; they only get one channel, and pretty well all of LaPoile district, around the southwest corner once you get beyond Port-Aux-Basques down on the Southwest corner they get one channel. I have been two years now fighting for the second channel for the people in that area without success, and I was told recently by the owners of the private network that the people have to pay for the transmitter themselves if they want to get the second channel. What kind of foolish nonsense is that? They have a franchise. The CRTC have granted the private broadcasting company in this Province a license to operate radio and television and it is up to them to provide the service to people on the Southwest corner and on the Southwest coast of this Province. And the same thing, Sir, in LaPoile, it says. "We, the under-signed residents of LaPoile, want some improvement done with the CBC network for channel thirteen. We experience interruptions such as television off the air half the day and sometimes most all day, film breaks, sound trouble. We only got one television to watch and that is channel thirteen. All other residents of the South coast have channel ten to stand by when channel thirteen goes off the air, so they do not make any hurry to fix up the trouble.

MR. NEARY: "This day and age we should have better service than this. We also would like to get channel ten as well as channel thirteen." Can you imagine, Mr. Speaker, in this Province today people are asking for a second television channel? Something that every other citizen in Newfoundland takes for granted, and then cable television coming in on top of it where you can get another seven or eight channels, and these people are forced to watch the so called Canadian content, that would make you puke when you are forced to watch it. I do not blame these people for complaining, Sir, I have no hesitation at all in supporting the prayer of the petition and the people's dissatisfaction with the CBC that cost the taxpayers of this country \$500 million dollars a year to operate the CBC. And then you got the arty type foisting, forcing their programs down the throats of the people of this country. \$500 million dollars, a half a billion dollars to operate the CBC and they got about less than ten percent of the viewing audience in Canada. It is a disgrace, Sir, it is terrible and I cannot blame these people in these two communities and in Labrador West and in Naskaupi for complaining.

Petitions have been presented. The chairman of the English network, the president of the English network was in St. John's last week trying to cover up - I saw him being interviewed on television the other night - trying to cover up for the mismanagement of the public funds. So I have no hesitation, Sir, in tabling these two petitions and asking the Minister of Transportation and Communications if he would take this matter up with his counterpart and try to remedy the situation

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MR. NEARY: and try to see to it that these people who live in these remote parts of the Province have an alternative, have a choice, that they will be given a second channel so that they can turn off - what is that Gzowski show called?-

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Ninety Minutes Live.

MR. NEARY: - Ninety Minutes Live if they want to.

AN HON. MEMBER: Ninety minutes dead!

MR. NEARY: That is what one of my colleagues calls it.

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

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member quite correctly pointed out, of course, this is a federal government responsibility and I can assume, and probably rightly so, that the hon. member took the matter up with the federal member for the district and with his counterpart - or with my counterpart, the hon. Minister of Communications in Ottawa during the recent Liberal Policy Convention there. The situation is as the hon. member describes it, one that is absolutely ridiculous and one that is insufferable and would not be tolerated in any other part of Canada. I can well understand his sentiments when he feels that these people are willing to puke at the thoughts of having to sit ninety minutes with Peter Gzowski. I feel that they have some advantages over us in having the set disconnected from time to time while that programme is on. I feel they have a far more legitimate beef though, and my hon. friend has just left, in missing the opportunity of seeing uninterrupted Brook's Half Hour, which I find to be very informative, and instructive, entertaining and amusing. Unfortunately the gentleman has left the gallery at the present time.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear! Hear!

MR. DOODY: We certainly will do everything that we possibly can to see that those people in that part of the district have the opportunity of a choice, both in channels and perhaps later on in the course of events, in members. We will do all we possibly can to arrange all these things and we will take it up with our counterparts in Ottawa to see that that happens. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Bellevue.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition on behalf of fifty-five residents from the district of Bellevue, who

MR. CALLAN: live in the town of Adeytown - or Adeytown, both pronunciations are correct, I believe - that is in Trinity Bay.

The prayer of the petition, Mr. Speaker, is as follows: "We the undersigned residents of the community of Adeytown, T.B., hereby petition the Government of Newfoundland, through the hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications, to give immediate consideration to paving the main and branch roads through the community of Adeytown. This is the second time that our community has had reason to petition the government in this connection.

"We feel very strongly that we receive the same consideration that was given Deep Bight and all of the signatures in this petition hereby strongly support our request in this regard."

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are fifty-five signatures, that is including my own. But, Mr. Speaker, in supporting this petition perhaps I should say that there is a principle at work here. There is a principle involved here and the number of signatures is not at all important. Perhaps for the benefit of hon. members who may not be familiar with Adeytown or Deep Bight, since Deep Bight was mentioned in the prayer, perhaps I should locate it on a map; if you can imagine driving west on the Trans Canada, just before you get to Clarenville, there is a loop road; the loop turns out towards Adeytown and that same little stretch of loop road, about two miles long, loops down through Adeytown, then to Deep Bight, back to the TCH and of course you are on the way to Clarenville.

Mr. Speaker, during the Summer I was called down to attend a public meeting in Adeytown and when I got to the meeting I was informed, this was in August, I was informed that the residents had heard that Deep Bight was going to be paved but that Adeytown was not; and so they had met the night before they invited me - they had two consecutive meetings, two consecutive nights. The night before they had met and they had decided to go to Clarenville and check

MR. CALLAN: with the Department of Transportation and Communications Division there and they were informed by that division that plans had been made in '74 to pave the whole loop, but they had been given orders last Spring to drop the idea of paving Adeytown, but just pave to the last house in Deep Bight.

Now then, Mr. Speaker, I went to the meeting and they told me this and said, "Okay, we will try to get hold of the Minister of Transportation and Communications and iron this thing out and so on." So I tried to contact the minister and finally I, and the residents of Adeytown, gave up on that idea and so we - one gentleman in particular who was chairing up the committee called the Premier on three or four occasions, got no results there.

A letter did arrive, by the way, after about a week or two later, a letter did arrive from the former minister, the Minister of Transportation and Communications at that time, explaining that the road could not be done for lack of funds and so on, even though, Mr. Speaker, I know and they knew that no contract was called for Deep Bight. Deep Bight was just tacked on to a paving project that was being carried out on Random Island and other parts of the district of Trinity North.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have located the area, I have located Deep Bight and Adeytown on the map as a loop. Many of the people driving to Deep Bight to St. John's and areas east of Adeytown, they leave the Trans-Canada at the Adeytown intersection and they drive to Adeytown in order to get to Deep Bight. Many of them do, tourists and what have you, raising dust as they go.

Well, Mr. Speaker, something that I did not mention that I should make mention of, and perhaps this explains why the pavement was laid to the very last house in Deep Bight, is because it is there that the imaginary boundary lies between the district of Trinity North, represented by the Minister of Social Services -

AN HON. MEMBER: Badly, mind you, badly!

MR. CALLAN: - the boundary ends at the last house in Deep Bight, and the district of Bellevue starts with Adeytown, Why that line was drawn there -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Shame, shame!

MR. CALLAN: - Mr. Speaker, is beyond me, one would think that well, if you are going to have two communities there on the same piece of loop road let us put them all in one district one way or the other.

AN HON. MEMBER: Right, right!

MR. CALLAN: You know, one way or the other. But no, there was where the line was drawn, and, Mr. Speaker, -

AN HON. MEMBER: That is where the pavement ends.

MR. CALLAN: And that is where the pavement ended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, I can think of no other example, no better example of blatant, petty, partisan politics -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. CALLAN: - than was played there.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think my intervention will come as a total surprise to the hon. member for Bellevue, but I refer him to Standing Order 97, "There shall be no debate on a petition". I would request him to bear that Standing Order in mind.

The hon. member for Bellevue.

MR. CALLAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it goes without saying that I thoroughly support the prayer of this petition, and Mr. Speaker, I hope that the present, the new and the present Minister of Transportation and Communications will consider all of the facts as I have outlined in the last couple of minutes pertaining to this piece of road, It should have been done last year. You know, obviously it is going to be done this year. It is too blatant. It is too blatant. And I hope that the new Minister of Transportation and Communications, when the paving equipment is there next year to do the Southwest Arm, Hillview, and the other areas of my district which will no doubt be done this

Mr. Callan: Summer, that Adeytown will be done as well, and I hope that the present Minister of Transportation and Communications, Mr. Speaker, will not be as political as the former minister.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, I support the prayer of this petition, and I ask that this petition be tabled and referred to the department to which it relates.

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

MR. W. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, I certainly sympathize with him and support the hon. gentleman. I was delighted with the opportunity to hear the geographic description of Adeytown.

MR. CALLAN: I was going to call it that.

MR. DOODY: I could remember distinctly, an awfully long while - I guess it was in 1947 or 1948 - when I first went down there buying herring barrels from Captain Simwest Adey, and the road was not comparable to what it is now, and I do not know - how many people are living there now?

MR. CALLAN: All employed. One hundred percentage employment.

MR. DOODY: Oh, yes it always has been, and Capt. Adey had a schooner, a trader at that time. And they are an excellent group of people. I have no doubt in my mind at all that they had absolutely no say at all in the drawing of the imaginary boundary, and I feel reasonably certain that the hon. minister who proceeded me in that department was certainly not conscious of this boundary.

MR. CALLAN: Yes he was.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. DOODY: He was renowned for his non-partisanship, renowned for his fairness in distributing the meager funds that were at his disposal, have lavished funds upon Liberal districts much to my consternation as former President of Treasury Board. Shocked me! Horrified me! Spent more money, I understand, in the district of Bellevue last year than he did in Trinity North -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. DOODY: - which absolutely horrified me. However, we will do what we can to correct the situation this year, and the good people in Adeytown have my full support, and we will do everything we possibly can for them.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. SIMMONS: Sir, I certainly do not want the opportunity to pass without supporting this petition from my colleague for Bellevue because it represents the kind of problem that a lot of districts face. In addition, it represents something else that he did not point out, the big advantage if this bypass were completely paved is that it would be a way to bypass at least a portion of the Trans-Canada Highway. And God knows that with the record of the former, the deposed minister, the minister Ottawa refused to talk to any more -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMONS: - with but the record of him -

AN HON. MEMBER: Welcome back, 'Roger'.

MR. SIMMONS: - the deposed minister, with his record on the TCH, any excuse we can get to bypass even a few feet of the TCH would be a blessing. So I appeal to the new, bright, shining, polished Minister of Transportation and Communications -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible) if it were up to you.

MR. SIMMONS: Ah! that reminds me. I had a ride the other day on a portion of the Trans-Canada, Mr. Speaker, not the portion that this will bypass, but I think it is relevant, and the truck driver of the tractor trailer, the day after the announcement of the minister's being deposed as the Minister of Transportation, and the truck drivers were on the CBs -

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

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. gentleman wants to attack me he has ample time in the Throne Speech debate. I understand now he is speaking on a petition asking for paving of roads, and it is not the TCH he

Mr. Morgan: is talking about.

MR. SPEAKER: On that point of order, the hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: That is not a point of order, Mr. Speaker, that is merely a difference of opinion between two members. Obviously the hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) is getting to gentleman, and the hon. gentleman reacts by raising a point of order. In actual fact, Sir, it is not a point of order, it is just a difference of opinion between two members.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: I should point out to hon. members that apart from Standing Order 97, which I read just a few moments ago, Standing Order 92 does require that hon. members confine their remarks when speaking on petitions to the material allegation of the petition, the number of signatures, etc. Remarks should really be upon the prayer of the petition, which is the paving of a certain road or roads in Adeytown, and I would point out in a more general context as well from both sides of the House that there should not be interruption when the member on the opposite side is speaking.

The hon. member.

MR. SIMONS: Mr. Speaker, my truck driver friend contemplating the advantages of using this bypass once it is paved was pointing out the hazards of driving the way he has to now. And he is most complimentary to the new minister; he has not met him but he has already undertaken to rename some sections of the Trans-Canada in his honour and he said - and he was on the CB talking to his friend - and he said, "We have now called the small potholes on the TCH, we have renamed them and we now call them Doody's Dimples." So you see they have a certain affection, and we all in this House have a certain affection for the present minister. Now I am not talking about the deposed minister, I am talking about the present minister. We have a certain affection for him, truck drivers do, people who want that road paved down through Adeytown up to the Deep Eight pavement have a certain affection for the new minister. The truck driver's affection did not extend - or perhaps it did extend to the old minister, the deposed minister, the Ottawa reject minister, because he said, "We are going to keep our name for the big potholes. The small ones we are going to call Doody's Dimples, but the big ones we shall continue to call - you guessed it - Morgan's mouth."

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. member for Trinity-Bay de Verde.

MR. F.B. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I would like very briefly, Mr. Speaker, to support the prayer of the petition for the paving of the road going through Adeytown and to some degree come to the defence of the former Minister of Transportation and Communications.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. F.B. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I was saying, if the hon. minister would listen, that I am coming to the defence of the former Minister of Transportation and Communications and I can well understand why he might not have understood where the boundary lay between the two districts in question because he was too busy announcing fish plants for the Minister of Fisheries.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: I think I should point out, although it is academic, the hon. gentleman has taken his seat, that his last sentence -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order please! - his last sentence was out of order.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Ferryland.

MR. POWER: On behalf of the select committee appointed to draft a reply to the speech of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, we present the report to the select committee as follows;

To His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, the hon. Gordon A. Winter :
May it please Your Honour. We the Commons of Newfoundland in Legislative session assembled beg to thank Your Honour for the gracious speech which Your Honour has addressed to this House.
Signed by the members for Naskaupi, St. John's West and Ferryland.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. JAYNARD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the annual report for 1977 of Newfoundland and Labrador Computer Services.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I want to table the following regulations which were made in 1977: The Fisheries Loan Regulations 1977 amended, Fish Inspections amendments 1969, the Fisheries Loan Regulations 1977, Amendment No. 2, the Fishing Ships Bounties Regulations Amendment 1977.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister of Inter-governmental Affairs.

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table regulations to the highway Traffic Act. There are three here and one on the motorized snow vehicles and all-terrain vehicles act.

I think Your Honour made a ruling last year that these copies of regulations and so on could be tabled simply by giving them to the Clerk of the House and having them considered as tabled. Is that correct? I think it was in the interest of saving time, but I hesitate to do it without checking with Your Honour.

MR. SPEAKER: I recall that the matter did come up and there was some discussion on it. If my memory is correct, but I will check the record on this, there was some objection in that if it were not publically stated that something had been tabled it would be accessible but people would not know it was there.

MR. SPEAKER: I would think we should have an announcement in the House to the effect that something is tabled. If my memory is correct that is what the consensus was last year.

The hon. Minister of Finance.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, as Minister of Finance I am fully conscious of the fact that I one time served as assistant recording scribe of the Sons of Temperance, Grand Division No. 9. I tabled the annual report, 1977, of the Newfoundland Liquor Corporation and the fourth annual report of the Newfoundland Liquor Licencing Board of the period April 1, 1976 to March 31, 1977 and commend it to all hon. gentlemen.

NOTICES OF MOTION

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

DR. FARRELL: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill, "An Act To Repeal The Government's Urban Mobile Homes (1959) Limited Confirmation Of Agreement Act, 1974"

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. WICKMAN: On behalf of my colleague, the hon. Minister of Social Services, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The Adoption Of Children Act, 1972".

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

MR. W. N. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the hon. the Premier. Would the hon. the Premier confirm, Sir, or deny that he or any of his colleagues in the government has received written or oral communication during, say, the past year, from any credit rating agencies in Canada or the United States that this Province may be in danger of losing its credit rating in the bond market?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES:

No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. W. N. ROWE:

Mr. Speaker, just in case the Premier may be answering it strictly without resorting to a general answer, would the Premier say whether the government has been warned in any way during the past year by any credit rating agency to cut its spending, failing which the credit rating of the Province might be forced to go down?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES:

The answer is still No, Mr. Speaker. Obviously when bonds are sold either in New York or wherever it may be, when the prospectus is being drawn up the advisors we have to the government, whether they be Merrill Lynch or Ames or Burns or whoever it may be, obviously advise the government what they think is possible. They advise the government to the effect that they think we should (a) obviously have a balanced budget, possibly a surplus with the provincial debt as it is; equally, at the due diligence meetings that are attended by the Minister of Finance and his advisors, the credit position of the Province is well explained, and other than that, Sir, other than the normal approach to it we have had the review by Standard and Poors and Moody's this past year, I believe, and they, of course, asked a great many questions about the situation. They do not threaten that the rating is going to be dropped. There is always that danger and there is always the hope, of course, that it will go up. But as far as an outright statement from the bond houses themselves to the effect that the rating would go down unless such and such happened - not to my knowledge, no.

MR. W. N. ROWE:

Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary by the original questioner.

MR. W. N. ROWE:

May I request the indulgence of the House. It is Standard and Poors, Mr. Speaker, and Moody's that I am referring to rather than the bond houses themselves - the credit rating agencies. Has the Premier or the former Minister of Finance or the present Minister of Finance received any oral or written communication from either

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MR. W. N. ROWE: of these agencies that they have to take certain measures or risk losing their credit rating?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Not to my knowledge, as I say, Mr. Speaker, but I will ask the previous Minister of Finance to speak, and he has had more direct contact with them than I would have had, so I would ask that he answer the question.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. DOODY: The hope, as the Premier has indicated, the hope of a credit rating upgrading always looms before a borrower, and the spectre or dread of a credit rating downgrading is always a fear. We have not had any oral or written communication from either of the rating houses during my tenure as Minister of Finance to the effect that if such and such did not happen, or if the Province did not do so and so, then the credit rating would drop.

There was a report, I remember, carried by the news media some months ago to the effect that one of the rating houses was quoted as saying that if the Province had not taken its decision on Labrador Linerboard Limited at the time it did, then the probability was that there would have been a downgrading of the rating. As I say, that was a communication to the news media or, at least, it was a release by the news media and was not communicated to the Province while I was Minister of Finance.

I might also say that, of course, as the present minister is aware, and the Premier and members of the House, natural prudence dictates that one does the best one can to stay within what one feels are reasonable limits when it comes to preparing a prospectus, because the credit rating is an important part of the entire process.

MR. W.N. ROWE: One final supplementary, Mr. Speaker, if I may.

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

MR. W.N. ROWE: Just for clarification and for the record, and to make sure there is no misunderstanding about it, would the former Minister of Finance, now Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, indicate - is he indicating that at no time during the Linerboard mill -

MR. W.N. ROWE: the government was pumping money into the Linerboard mill over the past couple of years - that the credit rating agencies or the bond houses from which we ordinarily raise money did not indicate to the minister that the Linerboard mill should be closed down or curtailed in operation or else we may risk losing our credit rating in the American bond market?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs.

MR. DOODY: That question is a very difficult one to answer. The rating agencies certainly did not tell us that this had to happen, that the Linerboard mill had to close or else we would have had a downgrading in the rating. It was pointed out and suggested -

MR. HODDER: That is not what the Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations said in Stephenville.

MR. DOODY: It was pointed out by the various bond houses and fiscal agents and advisors to government that there was a very real danger of this happening if the government continued to pour money into Labrador Linerboard Limited at that time. There was a risk element involved. It was a risk that government felt was not in the best interest of the Province to take, and so the subsequent decision was undoubtedly influenced by that calculated advice by the bond houses, by our fiscal advisors. Certainly it was only advice. It was calculated, it was experienced and it was educated advice, and advice which we felt the Province should accept, but it was not from the rating houses, because my understanding is the rating house do not offer that sort of advice. They tell you what your rating is and they do not tell you what to do

MR. DOODY: or what not to do.

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

MR. HODDER: I would ask the Minister of Manpower and Industrial Relations to either confirm or deny that he said, with a tape recorder running in Stephenville, "Those people in the States came to us and said"- or words to that effect -"that the Labrador Linerboard Limited is costing the Province too much money and we are closing the mill for that reason." Now I have a transcript of that.

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

MR. ROUSSEAU: (Inaudible) there is no difference, in my opinion - you went to the hon. Minister of Governmental Affairs - in what he just said and what I said. I never said 'the rating houses,' I said that the people who gave us their advice suggested that it would be more difficult. I never said it would be impossible with the amount of money that would be spent on Labrador Linerboard, when we did not know, or we did not have a set figure on it. In substance, what the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs said is, in substance, what I said. I never mentioned the bond houses or anybody else, just our fiscal advisors.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

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

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: Would the Premier indicate to the House if the former Minister of Finance, who was booted out of his portfolio because he overspent -

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

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MR. SPEAKER: I think I must draw to the
hon. gentleman's attention the Standing Orders with
respect to Question Periods, Standing Order 31, that
no argument is allowed and only opinion which is
necessary to make the question understandable.

The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, that the hon. former Minister of Finance was removed from that portfolio because of a gross mismanagement in overspending -

MR. W.N. ROWE: Incompetence.

MR. NEARY: - incompetence and spending beyond the last Budget that was brought into the House and creating a \$10 million deficit in the Province, putting the Province on the brink of bankruptcy.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Mr. Speaker, obviously the question as such I suppose is not worthy of comment because it was a speech rather than a question, The fact is that the previous Minister of Finance was one of the finest ministers of finance this Province has ever had.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER MOORES: He was a very conscientious gentleman, and rather than wasting funds, Sir -

MR. SIMONS: You had to get rid of him.

PREMIER MOORES: Not at all, it was not a matter of getting rid of him at all. He just moved to higher things and the fact is that it has been rarely in the history of any Cabinet that any man has performed as diligently and as well.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

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

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: Would the hon. Premier indicate to the House if there is any concern, or has the government's fiscal agents expressed an opinion or concern about this \$10 million deficit, overspending, and mismanagement on the part of the administration?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Mr. Speaker, I know nothing of any mismanagement on behalf of the Minister of Finance or of this administration. As a matter of fact, things have never been managed better.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I think the whole world knows that there is a \$10 million deficit in current account, which is most unusual and devastating to the credit of the Province. Would the Premier indicate if the government's fiscal agents have expressed any opinion on this very, very serious financial situation that we find ourselves in at the present time?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Mr. Speaker, I might say that the reason for a deficit in the Budget this year in this Province, as well, by the way, as every other Province in Canada, and some of them for over \$100 million, as opposed to \$10 million, was the fact that last year when any Province was making up its estimates it takes the federal government's forecast as to what they think is going to be the situation regarding equalization -

MR. NEARY: Federal government, yes.

PREMIER MOORES: No. No. This is true. - regarding whatever the case may be in cost shared programmes or revenues to the 'have-not' or the revenues from the 'have' provinces. The fact is that because of the international, I would suggest, as well as the national situation, these calculations were wildly out last year and it is a fact in every province in this country and it is not something that could have been estimated for budgetary purposes.

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

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: In view of the serious financial condition of the Province at the present time, Sir, would the Premier indicate to the House when government intends to table its estimates for the next fiscal year?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Yes, the intention of course is for the Minister of Finance to bring down the budget as quickly as possible, Mr. Speaker, and hopefully within the next week or two or three.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Bellevue.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. In view of the fact that no mention was made of the Come By Chance oil refinery in the Speech from the Throne yesterday, can it be assumed that the government has given up on efforts to find a buyer for the refinery or to reactivate it or what have you?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: No, not at all, Mr. Speaker. The fact is that as the hon. member knows it is in the hands of a receiver now who is accepting bids for hopefully the revitalization of the refinery. Until such time as these bids have all been received and assessed, particularly by the first mortgage holder, the British Government, and Klienwort Benson, and ourselves, of course, and the other secured creditors, until such time as the bids are in and an assessment can be made, no decision can be made. I suppose it could have been mentioned in the Speech from the Throne but the fact is that I think most people are totally familiar with what the situation is at Come By Chance and it would only be repetition of an effort that is trying to be made of course to try to get it back on stream.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, has the government carried on any negotiations at all with the former operator, John Shaheen, in any efforts to have him reopen or revitalize it?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Mr. Speaker, the government has not carried on any negotiations with any party. We have talked to all and everyone, I guess, who have been interested in a general way. The only negotiations that can be carried on is through the receiver.

MR. NOLAN: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary, the original questioner, followed by the hon. gentleman from Conception Bay South with a supplementary.

MR. CALLAN: Would the Premier either confirm or deny the fact that Ultramar - Golden Eagle, Holyrood - have the intention, if and when they do take over the operation at Come By Chance, to use it merely for storage and spare parts and so on rather than utilize it to its full capacity?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: I think, Mr. Speaker, it is fair to say there are three or four proposals altogether of which Ultramar, as I understand, is one of them, along the lines that the hon. gentleman says.

AN HON. MEMBER: No spare parts.

PREMIER MOORES: No spare parts involved. They have got a proposal in and, as I say, it would be very unfair to make a comment I think on any of those proposals without commenting on all of them and it would only be opinion because whilst the Province has an interest in getting the refinery operating again, and that is our primary concern, I think it is fair to say that, as most gentleman on the other side of the House, I am sure, realize, that when an outfit is in bankruptcy and a receiver has been appointed, until such time as the receiver has the total position to make recommendation to the secured creditors, there is very little that can in fact be done.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Conception Bay South, a supplementary.

MR. NOLAN: Would the hon. Premier - or is the hon. Premier then saying that he personally did not meet with any representative of Ultramar or Golden Eagle in connection with the purchase of the refinery?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: No, personally I have not, Mr. Speaker, not with Ultramar or Golden Eagle. I have met with Mr. Shaheen on occasion when he has been here; I have met with people from Roman Corporation when they were here over the years, but Ultramar and Golden Eagle, no, I have not.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

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

MR. NEARY: Will the Premier indicate to the House if the final decision on the disposal of the oil refinery rests with this government or with the receivers?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Legally with the receiver, Mr. Speaker, and the first mortgage holder, but the fact is of course that it is located in the Province. The fact is that obviously the government has a very vested interest in what happens to the refinery and we would certainly expect to have a major input before any final decision is made.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary, the hon. member for LaPoile, followed by the hon. member for Bellevue with a supplementary, then the hon. member for Windsor - Buchans.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, in the event that the receivers decided to go on their own, you know, and go to the ECGD and negotiate the disposal of the oil refinery on their own, could the Premier indicate what steps the Province could then take to protect their investment?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: That is a hypothetical question, Mr. Speaker. The fact is that obviously until such time as something was done contrary to the government's wishes, we would not take any position and hopefully it will be done in conjunction with the government's wishes, in co-operation with the government.

MR. SPEAKER: A final supplementary, the original questioner, and then the hon. member for Windsor - Buchans.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, would the Premier inform the House what efforts his government are making to live up to a promise that was made on the eighth floor of this building at the time, two years ago, at the time that the refinery closed, an effort would be made by

MR. CALLAN: government, it said, to keep the people out there informed of what was happening and also any Public Works projects and so on that could be carried out would be carried out in that area so that the people who lost their jobs could pick up some slack and get some meaningful employment rather than the ad hoc employment that they are getting now. What efforts are the government making to help them and to keep them informed?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: As I keep telling the member for Trinity North, Mr. Speaker, every effort possible.

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

I have indicated that the original questioner would have the final supplementary; that I recognize the hon. member for Windsor - Buchans does not preclude obviously the hon. member from coming back to the topic.

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, with your concurrence, with the House's concurrence, I will yield the supplementary to the hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: I thank my hon. colleague, Mr. Speaker.

The question that I have I would like to direct to the hon. the Premier, Sir. Could the hon. the Premier explain to the House why his administration joined with the Japanese, Ataka, in putting up \$300,000, of which \$50,000 was donated by this Province, to take legal action against Mr. Shaheen and his company for allegedly creaming off money to go into other Shaheen companies?

MR. NEARY: If I may just say so, Mr. Speaker, the Japs were the ones who put the oil refinery into bankruptcy in the first place, prematurely, I might add, so why would this administration join with the enemies of the Province, the Japanese, in putting up \$50,000, the Japanese putting up \$250,000 to take legal action against Mr. Shaheen?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Mr. Speaker, the amounts that the gentleman mentions - when one talks about the Japanese, I think the figure that they lost by having unpaid bills was over \$350 million. And if there was any chance of recouping any of that before they lost any more I can certainly understand their attitude of spending \$250,000 to try to get some back.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, and I know I cannot debate, Sir, but the Japanese were the ones that put the oil refinery into bankruptcy. So why would the administration of which the hon. gentleman is the head join with the Japanese in taking legal action? And, Mr. Speaker, and why was not - if I can have the hon. Premier's attention for a moment - why was the hon. Premier not aware that his administration had contributed \$50,000 towards this lawsuit?

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

MR. DOODY: If I may? There are two questions there; one infers that the hon. Premier was not aware of the fact that the Province of Newfoundland had joined in what some referred to as the money case, and some people irreverently referred to it as the paper chase. It was a Cabinet decision, a government decision, and it was one that was arrived at after due deliberation and examination of the facts. The facts are that although the Japanese are by far the largest losers under the under secured creditors list, the fact remains that there are hundreds of Newfoundland creditors unsecured in that particular bankruptcy as well. There are many small companies involved, unsecured, relatively

MR. DOODY:

small amounts, \$100,000, a couple of hundred thousand dollars. I do not have the list with me. It is certainly available. I am sure it is available to any member who wants to see it. There are thousands - not thousands, but dozens, maybe hundreds of small businessmen and small individuals who are out of pocket and who have very little opportunity or very little chance of ever seeing any of that money because of the size of the bankruptcy and the size of the assets that may be realized by the receiver under a sale. When the Province of Newfoundland was asked to join the unsecured creditors, on behalf of the unsecured creditors in taking action to try to recover this \$50 million or \$60 million in unaccounted funds, we looked at the situation and felt we owed it to the people in the Province who had money owed to them by that company to put the funds up to try to recover the money on their behalf. Whether we will be successful or not remains to be seen, but we felt it was the duty of the Province on behalf of the citizens to try to recover that money and I certainly make no apologies for it, Sir.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: The response that the hon. gentleman gave me, Mr. Speaker, is just the opposite. It will work in reverse. Do I understand the hon. gentleman correctly, that the government have joined with the enemies of the creditors of this Province, the enemies? The Japanese are the enemies of Newfoundland and the enemies of the creditors of this Province. How could - by the hon. Minister of Finance and the Minister of Justice (Mr. Hickman) behind the Premier's back joining with Ataka - how could that help the creditors of this Province when they are the enemies of Newfoundland, the Japanese in this particular case?

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

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, I do not know what the definition of 'enemy'

MR. DOODY:

is in this particular case nor how the Japanese creditors can be referred to as the enemies of the Province. They were certainly the people who invested the most money in unsecured credit in that particular operation.

MR. NEARY: So what?

MR. DOODY: And they certainly have a position which they sought to protect. How they can be called the enemies of the Province in this particular case, having invested over \$300 million in an operation in the Province, is beyond my scope or imagination. Obviously the hon. member opposite can define 'enemy' in that particular context.

I categorically deny, of course, that the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Justice (Mr. Hickman) went behind anybody's back to arrange this sort of thing. As I said earlier, it was a Cabinet decision. It was arrived at by Cabinet after due deliberation by government, calculated, decided and done as a government movement, a government motion, a government programme, a government project. And I absolutely refute categorically any insinuation that this was done behind the Premier's back by the then Minister of Finance and the Minister of Justice or any other group.

MR. PREMIER: If I may add to that, Mr. Speaker,

PREMIER MOORES: if it is allowed?

MR. SPEAKER: Agreed? Agreed.

PREMIER MOORES: I also would like to unequivocally deny that allegation. The fact that, as the Minister of Transportation and Communications says, it was an absolute government decision. I think for one thing, Sir, it is only fair to point out at this time that the bankruptcy was caused - and there are no fingers being pointed at all - by the most unusual set of circumstances, which I am sure the hon. member is aware of, at a time when contracts were changed with the OPEC countries and the oil prices went very high, and contracts that were in place with the American customer had to stay at the level of when oil was about four dollars or five dollars a barrel; when the Canadian Government, - because of the oil shortage at that time there was no export of oil allowed by Canada - there was a culmination of facts that were very difficult for anyone, Mr. Shaheen or anybody else. It was just a most unfortunate series of events and without, as I say, condemning any one group or any one person on why the refinery had the problems it had, the start up, I would suggest that at that time there were mitigating circumstances which were quite unbelievable.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A final supplementary from the hon. member.

MR. NEARY: Sir, would the hon. the Premier be good enough to enlighten the House, especially myself, because maybe it is because I am so dense that I cannot get the message that the hon. the Premier was trying to communicate to the House, but how will this lawsuit in the United States Court help the creditors of this Province? How can the creditors in Newfoundland get their money? Is not Mr. Shaheen the only man who is on the hook for these creditors? Is he not the only gentleman, his companies the only ones that can pay these creditors? Ultramar or anybody else who tendered on that oil refinery have no intention of doing anything for the local creditors in Newfoundland.

MR. NEARY: Is that not the case? And if so, why is then the Shaheen proposal being ignored?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, it was the hon. the Premier I put the question to.

MR. HICKMAN: The matter that was raised by the hon. gentleman, I think falls primarily under the bankruptcy law that prevails in this Province. The Japanese and a large number of Newfoundlanders and others are unsecured creditors. A petition in bankruptcy was filed which was confirmed by the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and the Clarkson Company Limited were appointed trustees in bankruptcy. And when a company or person is appointed a trustee in bankruptcy under the Bankruptcy Act of Canada, that person has an absolute obligation to try and recover as much money as possible from the bankrupt estate, which money is distributed in accordance with the bankruptcy law. Firstly, it goes to the secured creditors and then it is divided on a pro rata basis between the unsecured creditors; and the other thing is that the trustee in bankruptcy has an absolute obligation to make sure that every dollar that has been spent during the operation of the bankrupt company is accounted for to see whether or not there are any monies due and owing to the bankrupt estate, because if they are then where it is beneficial to all unsecured creditors, in this case to both the Japanese and to the Newfoundland companies and residents of Newfoundland, is that if any money is recovered then it would be after the payment of the secured creditors, distributed to the unsecured creditors on a pro rata basis. So it will be beneficial if they succeed in recovering, and I appreciate that -

MR. NEARY: Recovering what? What are they (inaudible)

MR. HICKMAN: The action that has been taken is for the - well, there is an allegation, and I guess it is better not to talk about matters that are before the courts, but there are allegations before the courts concerning the amount of money, which obviously is quite a

MR. HICKMAN: substantial sum. If recovered, it will go into the hands of Clarkson, Gordon who are the trustees. They then have to distribute it on a pro rata basis bearing in mind the Canadian Bankruptcy Act as it applies to both the secured and unsecured creditors.

MR. NEARY: Was the hon. minister on the board of directors of Newfoundland Refining when this money was transferred?

MR. HICKMAN: No.

MR. NEARY: Well, I beg your pardon; the hon. gentleman was.

MR. HICKMAN: I was not on it for years.

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

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health. Again, in view of the fact that there was no mention in the Throne Speech of the government's intention to have any new hospital construction or hospital extensions this year, is that an indication that there will be no new hospital construction or extension this year?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. H. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, those matters are always dealt with in the Budget Speech and when the Budget Speech is brought down that answer will be given.

MR. FLIGHT: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary, followed by the hon. gentleman from Port au Port.

MR. FLIGHT: Of specific concern to me, Mr. Speaker, is the extension to the Grand Falls Central Newfoundland Hospital, and I would ask the minister if it is the government's intention to proceed with the extension of that hospital this year?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Health.

MR. H. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, these matters are always dealt with, have always been, are now and hopefully always will be dealt with in the Budget Speech, not in the Throne Speech.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: The hon. Minister of Health in my presence a year or so ago indicated to a committee from Port aux Basques that the new hospital for Channel - Port aux Basques was in the top three, rated top priority. Could the minister indicate if construction on that hospital will start this year?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Health.

MR. H. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, I can only give the same answer which I just gave to the hon. gentleman's friend and that is that those decisions will be made known when the budget is brought down in the people's House.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

MR. HICKMAN: Motion 1.

Motion, the hon. the Minister of Justice to introduce a bill, "An Act Respecting The Execution Of Releases Of Mortgage By Persons Who Are Not Resident In The Province," (No. 2) carried.

On motion, Bill No. 2, read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

MR. HICKMAN: Motion 2.

Motion, the hon. the Minister of Justice to introduce a bill, "An Act Respecting The Holding Of Property In The Province By The Newfoundland And Labrador Command And Branches Of The Royal Canadian Legion," (No. 3), carried.

On motion, Bill No. 3, read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

MR. HICKMAN: Motion 3.

Motion, the hon. the Minister of Justice to introduce a bill, "An Act To Empower The St. John's Municipal Council To Raise A Loan For Municipal Purposes By The Issue Of Bonds," (No. 4), carried.

On motion, Bill No. 4, read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

MR. HICKMAN: Motion 4.

Motion, the hon. the Minister of Justice to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The Provincial Court Act To Make Use Of The Services Of Retired Magistrates," (No. 6), carried.

On motion, Bill No. 6, read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

MR. HICKMAN: Motion 5.

Motion, the hon. the Minister of Consumer Affairs and Environment to introduce a bill, "An Act Respecting Unfair And Unconscionable Trade Practices," (No. 13), carried.

On motion, Bill No. 13, read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

MR. HICKMAN: Motion 6.

Motion, the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs And Housing to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The St. John's Housing Corporation Act," (No. 14), carried.

On motion, Bill No. 14, read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

MR. HICKMAN: Motion 7.

Motion, the hon. Minister of Justice to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The Commissioners For Oaths Act," (No.11), carried.

On motion, bill No.11
read a first time ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

Motion, the hon. the Minister
of Justice to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The
Industrial Standards Act," Carried. (Bill No.8).

On motion, bill No. 8
read a first time ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

Motion, the hon. Minister the
Minister of Justice to introduce a bill, "An Act To
Amend The Companies Act," Carried. (Bill No.7).

On motion, bill No. 7
read a first time ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

Motion, the hon. the Minister
of Justice to introduce a bill, "An Act To Authorize An
Impost Upon Certain Mineral Holdings In The Province,"
Carried. (Bill No.5)

On motion, bill no. 5 read
a first time ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

MR. HICKMAN:

Order 1.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order 1, the Address in Reply.

The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY:

I thank my hon. colleagues
for their enthusiastic support.

Mr. Speaker, first of all I
want to join with the other hon. members in expressing a
very warm welcome to our new leader, the hon. member for
Twillington (Mr. W.N.Rowe), who is sitting in this House
not for the first time, I might say, but for the fourth
time, I believe it is.

MR. W.N. ROWE:

Yes.

MR. NEARY:

The fourth time the hon.
gentleman has been elected, Mr. Speaker, this time by the

MR. NEARY: good people of Twillingate district. We are so happy. Sir, to see the hon. gentleman able to take his seat in the hon. House so soon after being elected Leader of the Liberal Party, Sir.

My hon. friend yesterday, Sir, in his few remarks on opening day related to the Throne Speech, the Address in Reply, handled himself exceptionally well, Sir. Exceptionally well!

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: I would say, Sir, that the future of the Liberal Party is in excellent hands.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: My hon. friend indicated yesterday in this hon. House that the Liberal Party is not going to stand any longer for a blank cheque government, that we stand for a strong Liberal government dedicated in the true Liberal tradition of service to the masses of the people. And that was the message that I got from my hon. friend yesterday. My hon. friend was probably too modest to say it, Sir, but we intend to lay out a policy and a platform over the next few weeks and few months that will involve all the people of this Province, the workers, the businessmen, the professions. We intend to get all the people involved to try and help work out the destinies of not only the Province, but of their own families. And my hon. friend is going to be the inspiration through which this will be done.

The Liberal Party in the past, Mr. Speaker, worked hard for the people of this Province. But the past, Sir, is just merely an insignificant indication of what we intend to do in the future. It is a foretaste, Sir, of what we intend to

MR. NEARY: make happen in this Province as a Liberal Party for the people of this Province, Sir, under the leadership of my hon. friend. I suppose, Mr. Speaker, you could say that we have a new leader, a new policy and a new flag. And under the leadership of my hon. colleague, Sir, I would say that there are glorious days ahead for the Liberal Party and for Newfoundland.

My hon. friend is joined, I believe, for the first time by my hon. colleague to my right, the member for St. John's West (Dr. Kitchen), another humble, and shy, and modest gentleman who probably would be too modest to blow his own horn. But, Mr. Speaker, I am going to blow it for him. That hon. gentleman up to now has played a major part in the public life of this Province.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: But we have not seen

MR. NEARY: anything yet. It is the first opportunity I believe that the hon. gentleman has had to come in on the floor of this hon. House. We have seen the hon. gentleman in action outside of the House of Assembly. And my hon. friend sitting opposite no doubt are aware of the qualifications and the capabilities and the ability of the hon. gentleman. And since the hon. gentleman became a member of the Liberal caucus and won, I believe for the first time in recent years, an election in an urban centre, in a St. John's district in recent years, Sir, since the hon. gentleman managed to win that election in St. John's West, which was fiercely contested, the hon. gentleman has proven that he really does have the interests of the people of this Province at heart and spent the last several weeks, and probably months, and will in the future when the hearings resume before the Public Utilities Board.

My hon. friend was down there morning, afternoon and-I do not believe they sat at night, did they? - but if they had sat at night my hon. friend - yes, one night - and my hon. friend was there maintaining a continuous vigilance over the evidence that was being presented in connection with the recent application by Newfoundland Hydro in asking for a forty per cent increase in electrical rates in this Province. My hon. friend was responsible for bringing out some very, very interesting facts and some interesting information in connection with that hearing, Sir, that startled the whole Province. And I will deal with the request for an increase by Newfoundland Hydro in more depth but at the moment I am heaping great praise on my hon. friend for doing such a magnificent job on behalf of the ordinary people of this Province.

That information, Mr. Speaker, would not have seen the light of day had it not been for my hon. friend, and my hon. friend is due the congratulations, not only of members of this side of the House, but members on the opposite side. And I have to say

MR. NEARY: in all fairness that the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) also spent a fair amount of time down at these hearings, not quite as much as my hon. friend, the member for St. John's West (Dr. Kitchen). The only thing that I can say, Sir, is that what I have seen of the hon. gentleman so far is most encouraging, very heart warming indeed, to see an hon. member for a change who is doing the job for which he was elected.

My hon. friend too, Sir, deserves another word of congratulations on being elected President of the Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador. I am sure that we will hear more from the hon. gentleman in this capacity in the future. And I would also like, while I am on this particular note, Sir, to express a welcome back to the hon. member for Ferryland district (Mr. C. Power). This is the second trip the hon. gentleman has made back to this hon. House.

AN HON. MEMBER: Maybe the last.

MR. NEARY: Somebody behind me says it may be the last one. Well, the only thing that I can say to that, Sir, and I do not wish to interject a sour note early in my speech, but if the hon. gentleman makes very many more statements like he made yesterday about the medical clinic on the Southern Shore in Ferryland district, it may indeed be his last trip.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman, Sir, yesterday got up in moving the Address-in-Reply, moving that a committee be appointed to draft the Address-in-Reply, the hon. gentleman made a statement praising the administration for a medical clinic for the Southern Shore when my hon. friend knows that that is not so, that is a fallacy. It is not true.

MR. POWER: Mr. Speaker, on a point of personal privilege, and I thank the speaker for his kind remarks but I have a copy of my address that I gave yesterday and Hansard will bear me out that

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MR. POWER: I did not say a fallacy, I said our government, my government, assisted local businessmen in building a clinic to solve a medical problem in our end of the district. Hansard will bear that out. That is exactly what I said. That is exactly what happened. I did not say that government put in \$200,000 or more in a building. Thank you.

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

MR. W.N. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The hon. member is new to the house and nobody wishes to come down on him hard. The point just made by the hon. member, Mr. Speaker, was obviously a difference of opinion between two hon. members. And it is a misuse of the privileges of the house for a hon. member to be jumping up on every occasion where he has a disagreement with another hon. member to be claiming a point of personal privilege.

I therefore - My point of order, Sir, is that it is not a point of personal privilege. It is a mere difference of opinion and members should be cautioned not to resort to personal privilege in such circumstances.

MR. SPEAKER(DR. COLLINS): Order please! The hon. the House Leader.

MR. I.A. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, I think it goes slightly further than a difference of opinion. But I understand the hon. gentleman from Ferryland was trying, as he has an obligation to do, to correct any misstatement that is attributed to him. Argument - by all means; Difference of opinion - by all means, but the hon. gentleman from Ferryland was simply quoting from Hansard the facts, the cold hard facts and wanted the record to be straight and that is different from a difference of opinion, I do submit.

MR. SPEAKER(DR. COLLINS): Order, please! Matters of misrepresentation do not come into the area of privilege or indeed order. The hon. member certainly has every right to ask another member to yield so that he may make a statement in terms of clarifying a point and if such a member does accede to that request naturally the Chair would recognize the member's right to take the floor. But I do not think one needs to rule here on privilege or order.

The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. S.A. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, let me for the benefit of members of the

MR. S.A. NEARY: House say to my hon. friend that I do not care what statement it was that he made. He said that his government - his government, not the Queen's Government, 'my government' the hon. gentleman said. He thanked them for assisting the businessmen on the Southern Shore - Am I quoting the hon. gentleman correctly? - thanking his government for helping the businessmen on the Southern Shore set up this medical clinic. Is that correct? Basically that is what the hon. gentleman said. The hon. gentleman is saying, Yes, that is so.

Well now, Sir, do hon. members know the history of how that medical clinic got down on the Southern Shore that the hon. gentleman is thanking his administration, his government for putting there? Well, Sir, it started out, Mr. Speaker, it started out as a group of volunteers, a representative group who got together down on the Southern Shore to come to the government to ask the government to build a medical clinic on the Southern Shore in the district of Ferryland. And at one stage the group of volunteers even convinced the government, the Minister of Public Works, I believe it was, to allocate a piece of land to have the clinic built on and that was done. And later, because of the location or the size of the land, I think it was, or getting access to the land the group ask to have the government withdraw the piece of land. This was supposed to be a government clinic but then the little group of volunteers that were so dedicated to the people on the Southern Shore discovered the milch cow. They discovered that why should we let the government build this clinic? Why do we not build it ourselves and then they delegated my hon. friend to go to his colleagues or his former colleagues, because my hon. friend was out at that particular time to see if they could get some government contracts for that medical clinic - which is more than a medical clinic. It is a shopping centre. It is a plaza. There is going to be doctors' offices in there and a drug store and a few other stores but in order to get it there they had to get contracts from the government and these contracts were awarded, Mr. Speaker, without calling public tender. I know a few

MR. S.A. NEARY: more gentlemen down on the Southern Shore that would have been glad to get a contract from the Department of health. My hon. friend, the Minister of Health, should get up and explain why a contract was slipped underneath the table to this little group for the public health nurse.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is so incompetent that he does not know what goes on underneath the table and that has been proven over the last two or three years. We have seen that in connection with the Waterford Hospital, Exon house, the Fisheries Department, Forestry. So you see, Mr. Speaker, all I am trying to do is to explode that myth, that falsehood that the hon. gentleman left with this House yesterday - thanking the government. What was the hon. gentleman thanking his government for? He was thanking his government for giving contracts to this little group of private citizens without calling public tenders. That is what the hon. gentleman was thanking as he says, "My administration, my government."

MR. NEARY:

I thought it was the Queen's Government and the Moores Administration. That is how the clinic got down on the Southern Shore. And there is not one group, Sir, in this Province or down on the Southern Shore that would not give their right arm to be able to build that clinic under the same circumstances. My hon. friend is too dangerously close to that situation. The last time I went to the Registry Office to check the shareholders of that company they were not registered. I do not know if they have been registered yet or not. If they have not I will check it before the session is too far advanced. My hon. friend is too close to the situation. And if I were my hon. friend I would not even leave the appearance of being in a conflict of interest situation. So I hope my hon. friend does not get up boasting about "my government" for helping a group of citizens on the Southern Shore to build a medical clinic.

MR. POWER: If the hon. member will yield I will clarify a few points that he is obviously very much mistaken about.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend will have -

MR. POWER: Will the member yield?

MR. NEARY: My hon. friend will have ample opportunity, Sir -

MR. POWER: That is what I thought.

MR. NEARY: - in this session of the House to straighten out the controversial medical clinic on the Southern Shore. I have laid out the facts as I know them, Sir, and as I believe to be correct.

My hon. friend cannot deny the fact that it started out - and the people, by the way, Mr. Speaker, the people on the Southern Shore still believe that that is a government medical clinic, that this group of volunteers that went around and asked for support from the people, the backing from the people to build the medical clinic, the people are still under the apprehension that that is a government medical clinic. And my hon. friend is basking in the glory, taking all the credit -

MR. POWER: If I can clarify the point, I can save you an awful lot of time.

MR. NEARY:

- taking all the credit for it, Sir, when in actual fact the people after - I hope the word will go out of this House today that that is private enterprise. I have nothing against private enterprise, building a medical clinic or a shopping complex. I am all for it. But, Mr. Speaker, remember we have a Public Tendering Act in this Province and instead of doling out contracts, my hon. friend going around on behalf of this group to his colleagues suggesting they have a contract for the public health and social services and this and that and the other thing, that public tenders should be called, Sir.

So in welcoming the hon. gentleman back to the House I hope the hon. gentleman will pay attention to the few words of advice that I have given to him.

MR. POWER: I have a bright future in front of me.

MR. NEARY: Well the hon. gentleman may indeed have a bright future.

MR. W. ROWE: We do not want to see it nipped in the bud.

MR. NEARY: That is what I am trying to tell the hon. gentleman: I would not want to see it nipped in the bud. I was one of the first when I was down where my hon. friend is now, down inside the rail there when my hon. friend made his maiden speech in this hon. House, to get up and heap great praise and congratulations on the hon. member for Ferryland (Mr. Power) for making such an excellent - it was one of the best maiden speeches that I had ever heard made in this hon. House. So I have a vested interest in the gentleman. After praising him up I would not want to see the hon. gentleman go down the drain.

MR. W. ROWE: He has your best interests at heart.

MR. NEARY: And so the hon. gentleman should not get sloppy about these matters and level with the people. That is the only way the hon. gentleman will stay in politics. And certainly there has been

MR. NEARY:

no levelling with the people on the Southern Shore in Ferryland district over that medical clinic. I hope - Mr. Speaker, I tell you one thing that we may as well face in this hon. House, that you have got a media in this Province, Sir, who, a lot of them, are operating on a shoestring. We come into this House from three to six in the afternoon and you can only expect to get about a twenty second tape on television in the evening.

MR. MORGAN: Those with a small budget do the best job, though.

MR. NEARY: The ones with the small budget operating on the shoestring, maybe they do.

MR. MORGAN: They do the best job.

MR. NEARY: Well maybe they do. My hon. friend has had some experience with the CBC, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, in rallying to the defence of the hon. the Premier and getting a young lady fired at the CBC. I will deal with that matter in due course. I will deal with that in due course, Sir. And you talk about muzzling the press!

But anyway, Sir, what I am getting at is this, that it may seem like a very insignificant point and the media may not even see fit to report the fact that that medical clinic down on the Southern Shore that started out with a group of volunteers now turned into private enterprise was not built by this administration, by this government. My hon. friend is nodding that is so. But, Sir, it would not have been built if my hon. friend had not been able to influence and his group, influence some of his colleagues, some of the ministers, to give a contract, a government contract, to rent space in that building.

MR. NEARY: And that was done without calling public tenders.

Now, Mr. Speaker, is there anybody else I have to welcome to the House?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: I certainly want to join, Sir, with the hon. the Premier who rose in his place today to congratulate Brother Gerald McHugh, who was recently elected as Superior General of the world-wide Congregation of Christian Brothers. Brother McHugh was elected at the Twenty-fifth General Chapter of the Congregation in Rome, Italy. Brother McHugh, Sir, was born in Jerseyside, Placentia not too far from where my honourable spouse was born, the adjoining community as a matter of fact. My honourable spouse was born in Freshwater and Brother McHugh was born in Jerseyside. Down in the Placentia area - I suppose every community in Newfoundland can claim the same thing - they say it is the home of saints and scholars. Well, Sir, his appointment certainly is a signal honour to this Province. It is the first Newfoundlander, and the first Canadian, by the way, ever elected as Superior General of the world-wide Congregation of Christian Brothers. Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure if the hon. the Premier indicated the responsibility that this gentleman will have, but just in case I missed what the hon. the Premier said let me say that his appointment gives him the responsibility of four provinces in Australia, several provinces - I believe all the provinces of Canada, a number of provinces in England, India, Ireland, my honourable friend's home, two provinces in New Zealand, a couple of provinces in South Africa, and the United States of America. What a responsibility for a Newfoundlander, Mr. Speaker! And that is the kind of thing that the hon. the Premier should be playing up when he goes about the world on these great binges that he has been on for the last several weeks. When you want to show the world that Newfoundlanders are not barbarians, why not use the example of Brother McHugh, who is the boss of all the Christian Brothers in all

MR. NEARY: these great countries that I just mentioned? I might say, Mr. Speaker, that Brother McPugh has a brother, Father Richard McHugh, who is a great friend of mine - the parish priest over on Bell Island, a great man who is doing a magnificent job - not exactly, I do not believe, in love with my hon. friend, not exactly. Well, it would not be fair for me to say that.

MR. DOODY: He used to be one time though - (inaudible) disillusioned.

MR. NEARY: Yes, completely disillusioned. But a fine, upstanding Newfoundlander, Sir, doing a magnificent job over on Bell Island under very difficult circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, talking about outstanding Newfoundlanders, this Christmas past I met a gentleman by the name of Gwen Dyer. I believe he is a friend of my hon. colleague, the Leader of the Opposition. I do not know if anybody else in this hon. House ever met a gentleman by the name of Gwen Dyer. Well, Gwen Dyer is the son of Mr. George Dyer, who at one time was Deputy Minister of Labour. I think from Confederation right up to 1968 Mr. George Dyer was Deputy Minister of Labour. Well, Gwen Dyer is George Dyer's son, and Mr. Gwen Dyer is a journalist, he is stationed in London, England. And this Newfoundlander, Mr. Speaker, writes for 150 newspapers throughout the world, writes articles on international affairs throughout the world - Gwen Dyer, a Newfoundlander, from St. John's, Newfoundland. And the reason I raise this matter, Mr. Speaker, is this, that the hon. Premier now is belting about the world, going off on these trips, hiring public relations firms at great expense to the taxpayers of this Province on the pro seal campaign. And I say, God bless him, we are all for it. It was the wrong thing to do, it was poor judgement on the Premier's part. He should have taken the advice of the Minister of Fisheries that was given in this House a year or so ago - last year, I believe it was.

MR. NEARY:

Well, I am not sure it was myself or one of my colleagues asked the Minister of Fisheries and asked the Premier, "What are you going to do about Greenpeace and this crackpot, Brian Davies?" And the answer religiously from the other side was, "We are going to ignore him. All they are looking for is publicity. We are going to ignore them. All they want is a confrontation," the Minister of Fisheries told us day in and day out, and we did not disagree. And then

MR. S.A. NEARY: all of a sudden they reversed their strategy and they decided then that the thing to do was to take on Brian Davies and Greenpeace head on. On his own grounds they set the stage. They gave Brian Davies a forum whereby he could get all the publicity he wanted. It was rather unfortunate. As a Newfoundlander I was deeply hurt over it and the situation instead of improving has gotten worse throughout the world. It is unfortunate. It was poor strategy.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Their hearts were in the right place.

MR. S.A. NEARY: Their hearts were in the right place. They meant well. They spent hundreds of thousands of dollars at it but the thing has been a complete and utter flop. And every time Mr. Brian Davies has walked away a winner. It would have been far better, Mr. Speaker, - I want to get back to Gwen Dyer - it would have been far better for this administration had they consulted with a gentleman, a journalist who is well-known in the international world, who writes for 150 newspapers, who is a Newfoundlander, who understands the psychology of Newfoundlanders and who understands the situation in Newfoundland, it would have been far better had they contacted a man like him and got his advice. A young man - Can you imagine? Mr. Speaker, I can hardly believe that a young Newfoundlander from St. John's is off in England for the past seven years and he is only - what?-about thirty-odd now?

MR. W.N. ROWE: Thirty to thirty-five.

MR. S.A. NEARY: He is less than thirty-five years of age right now, writing for 150 newspapers throughout the world and I am sure the hon. gentleman would have given the administration some good advice if they were willing to take it, and apparently they are not. They do not seem ever to be willing to take advice, this hon. crowd. The Minister of Fisheries now is back in his seat and the hon. minister can confirm what I am saying: When a question was put to the hon. minister from this side of the House last year about the Greenpeace and the Brian Davies goings on the minister said, "We are going to ignore him." Is that not so?

MR. A.J. MURPHY: It did not go over well with the Opposition.

MR. S.A. NEARY: I beg your pardon, Mr. Speaker. I am putting a question straight to the minister now. Did the minister not say that his administration was going to ignore Brian Davies and Greenpeace. The hon. Premier said it and the hon. minister said it. Well then, why did the hon. Premier change his strategy and get talked into it by the PR boys up on the mainland and in Europe? And that item I read in the paper the other day written by another Newfoundlander, a young lady over in London who said after the PR firm spent several weeks on this campaign there was not enough left for the booze party they had planned and the Premier in a suite that was costing how much? \$100.00 a day.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Pounds.

MR. S.A. NEARY: No, \$100, that is not pounds. Surely it could not be 100 pounds a day. Well, was it 100 pounds or \$100.00?

MR. W.N. ROWE: Let the Premier answer it.

MR. S.A. NEARY: Anyway it was the most posh, the most luxurious hotel room that the hon. gentleman could find in London in England and the Premier was really roughing it. There was no doubt about that, really roughing it. So it is tragic, Sir. It is unfortunate. It is a shame and I would be the first not to - I am not condemning the hon. Premier. The effort was there. The heart was in the right place but it was a colossal blunder and it was Davies who walked away every time a winner and not the people of this Province. And then taking off the media so they could pump the propaganda back home, trying to make a little politics out of it. You do not have to convert Newfoundlanders. We are the converted. What good would the media do at public expense over in London or Paris or Germany? What good except pump a little propaganda back home?

MR. W.N. ROWE: Luckily they were objective.

MR. NEARY: Most of them were objective. Some I think have been carried away, swept off their feet. Not so objective now, they have got to get their little darts in every chance about the Opposition being negative, about our Leader being negative, about myself being negative. Oh we are negative on everything now since they had their little trip and were wined and dined. Not all of them; The Evening Telegram refused to accept the political patronage and so did the CBC refuse to accept any political patronage and I do not know how many others in connection with this trip. I hope I will not be accused of saying that all the media are now not objective. I said one or two.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Most of them were.

MR. NEARY: Most of them are still objective and have proven since they were wined and dined by the hon. gentleman, hosted by the hon. Premier on behalf of the taxpayers of this Province, are still objective, fortunately. But I hope, Mr. Speaker, I would like to see the day in this Province when not one newsman of any media will accept a trip from the government. I think it is wrong, it is immoral and they should not do it. They should not be tripping around at the expense - and Mr. Speaker, I know especially in the middle of the Winter when the weather gets bad and it is cold and wet and miserable and dreary and it is probably the only way that most of them will see the world, but I hope the day will come, Sir, when we can find some other way, that we can find some other way to do it, to get these people off on their trips without being taken off on political jaunts by the hon. the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, I have advocated outside of this House and I am going to say now inside of this House, that I believe that money would have been better spent had it been put into the establishment of an industry in this Province to process the skins and the

MR. NEARY: meat and the products of the sealers who out there now risking life and limb at very little income, a mere pittance, that it would have been far better, Sir, if the hon. the Premier and the administration had looked into the feasibility and the possibility of setting up a real sealing industry in this Province. And I know the hon. the Premier can get up now and say now, "Well, hindsight is foresight," you know. I suppose you could say the same thing about the Upper Churchill, could you not? You know, they can say, "Oh you can look back at it now, sure we made a mistake but our hearts were in the right place. Give us credit." Well, we give them all the credit. But it is the same principle is it not?

MR. W.N. ROWE: The same one.

MR. NEARY: The same, hindsight is foresight. If they had their time back they would have never done it. They would have taken the money and followed my advice and the advice of my party, Mr. Speaker, I want to say to this hon. House in the presence of my Leader, that if and when the people of this Province elect us as the government that one of the top priorities of the Liberal Party, of the Liberal Administration will be to establish a real sealing industry in this Province, whereby the skins will be processed in Newfoundland, whereby the fur coats, the hand bags, the mittens, the mukluks, the - what else?

AN HON. MEMBER: The hats.

MR. NEARY: The hats, all the products will be manufactured in Newfoundland and identified with Newfoundland and wherever they are marketed or exported in the world they will be identified with Newfoundland without any shame. That would have been the thing to do, Sir.

MR. W. N. ROWE: That is right, boy.

MR. NEARY: Or go off and zero in on the furriers and the people who market the product instead of resorting to the emotional appeal that the hon. Premier must have known from his experience in public life

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MR. NEARY: that you could not win. How, Mr. Speaker, how can you take - let me see, let me take a member - how can you take the hon. member for St. John's Centre (Mr. Murphy) and put him up against Mary Tyler Moore?

MR. MURPHY: I would not mind, not as long as it was Mary Tyler Moore.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: I understand, Mr. Speaker, that the - I understand that all the movie stars and actresses in Hollywood are against the seal fishery and all I am saying is if Mary Tyler Moore is appearing and my honorable friend is appearing on the same platform, who is going to come away the winner?

SOME HON. MEMBER: Who is going to come out on top?

MR. NEARY: Who is going to come out on top?

Mr. Speaker, I ask.

MR. MURPHY: That would be a bum question.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, Oh!

MR. W.N. ROWE: Get on another topic, Steve.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, it is a very very serious matter, Sir, I was down at the waterfront - yes, I think the honorable gentleman gets the point - I was down at the waterfront, Sir, and I was there with my kids and I saw the demonstration of the feelings of the people of this Province toward the sealing industry.

I do not think there is a member of this House who was not carried away, who was not completely overcome with the Ecumenical service and most impressive, very emotional and it is was excellent, Sir, to say the least it was excellent. But as I stood there I am sure that honorable members, various thoughts went through the minds of honorable members. I am sure that the thought that was uppermost in all our minds was that we would lynch Brian Davies if he was in front of us or we would toss Greenpeace over the wharf if they were there.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible) pay Elliott.

MR. NEARY: Well, I am going to come to Ray Elliott because I saw something in the newspaper today, Sir, that concerns me very much, and I have been talking a number of times about the administration of justice in this Province and I will come back to it shortly.

MR. NEARY: But, Mr. Speaker, the thought that went through my mind as I stood down on the waterfront on Sunday afternoon as the sealers, and some of them happen to be personal friends of mine, stood on the bridge and on the deck of the boat is, what will they get out of it? They are going out to a hunt, they are going out to harvest seals where the skins are going to be sent to Norway. Mr. Speaker, I think my honorable friend probably misunderstands the rule. I have unlimited time leading off for the Opposition. My honorable friend sent me a note, I have five minutes left. I have about five days left.

MR. SPEAKER: The honorable member is correct in his interpretation.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, that is what went through my mind, and that is why, Sir, the next day when the honourable 'Baz', who likes to stick the darts into members on this side of the House - he must have been well wined and dined when the hon. gentleman took him over to Europe - and they will be stuck in again tomorrow. And I guarantee if he keeps sticking them in he will get a few stuck back pretty soon. He does not realize what he is playing with.

AN HON. MEMBER: Do not be threatening him now.

MR. NEARY: That is not a threat, Mr. Speaker. I may not have the mike in front of me and I have a few little bits and pieces of ammunition in connection with that crowd. If they want to fight, if they keep it up, then they had better be prepared, because I do not intend to take that kind of nonsense lying down, Sir. And, Mr. Speaker, what went through my mind was, what are these people going to get out of it? A mere pittance compared

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MR. NEARY: to what they should be getting. And that is why I say that one of the top priorities of this administration, the Liberal administration, when we move over to Your Honour's left, will be to establish a real, a genuine seal industry in this Province where we will be marketing products throughout the world that we will be proud of and not ashamed of. And that is our ambition.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. W.N. ROWE: No travelling circuses.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

First I wish to give an instruction to the Table, and that is to make a notation that the hon. member has five minutes; the last minute or two will not count as his time. He will not be prejudiced. It appears to me that what I have to do is correct a ruling given previously by the Chair. I will bring the matter to the attention of hon. members and then I will hear debate. The reason I have asked the Table to make that notation is that the hon. gentleman will not be prejudiced in his time, depending on what my decision will be after I draw to the attention of hon. members the Standing Order and invite argument from hon. members.

The Standing Order to which I draw hon. members' attention is 49(a) which reads; "No member, except the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition or a Minister moving a government order and the member speaking in reply immediately after such Minister, or a member making a motion of "No Confidence" in the government and a Minister replying thereto may speak for forty-five minutes." Now it is obviously clear that if an hon. member makes a motion of "No Confidence" then a different time frame is permitted by the Standing Orders. But without that it appears to me that that Standing Order is quite explicit. Now if any hon. members wish to submit argument on that I will hear argument and make a decision after I have done so.

But it appears to me that 49(a) is quite explicit and literal and seems to be in its entirety applicable. In doing so, as I said in the very beginning, I have not wished to prejudice the hon.

MR. SPEAKER: member and if there is no argument to the contrary then I will correct a ruling of the Chair and the hon. gentleman's position will not have been prejudiced because the five minutes will be deemed to have commenced when he again speaks. .

There being - I am sorry!

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. W.N. ROWE: I did not know Your Honour had finished, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it is my submission that 49(a) is at least ambiguous, that it is not clear that a member of the Opposition starting off to speak on the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne does not have unlimited time. I would submit, Sir, that the Clerk of the House, or other officials of the House look at some of the precedents in this hon. House because it is my clear impression, without, of course, at such short notice being able to cite precedents, my clear impression that members of the Opposition traditionally in the House of Assembly have been given unlimited time as far as the first speaker is concerned.

Now there have been occasions when the Leader of the Opposition has spoken and, therefore there was no problem, has led off the debate. I seem to recall, Sir, and I am subject to correction, that when I was House Leader I led off the debate and had unlimited time without moving a vote of "No Confidence". I believe that that precedent may, in fact, be clearly established in the Hansards of the House of Assembly.

My further argument, Sir, is with the one I started off with, that it is at least ambiguous, that the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) the Opposition House Leader is, in fact, taken by surprise having been under the distinct impression that he had

MR. W.N. ROWE: unlimited time, as I was and, I believe, other members of the House, that there is an ambiguity in that Standing Order, that the ambiguity should be resolved in favour of the hon. member and that a clear precedent be set. If it is the will of the House or the Speaker that the precedents are, in fact, contrary to what I am saying, that a clear statement be made by the Chair for the future direction of the House of Assembly, particularly the Opposition. But my firm impression, Sir, is that the leading speaker for the Opposition had unlimited time in speaking to the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. HICKMAN: If I may respond to that.

Firstly, I do not agree with the hon. the Leader of the Opposition that section 49(a) is not clear but rather ambiguous. I think it is quite clear and quite unambiguous. On most occasions, if hon. gentlemen will recall, the lead-off speaker in the Address in Reply debate has been the Leader of the Opposition and he has been speaking under the rule that applies to him. I cannot recall an occasion, but there may be one and I just cannot recall it, when a motion of non-confidence was not made, and I am not sure of that. I am not sure myself what the situation was, but when one looks at the rule 49(a) it is obvious that the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary), if he wants to exceed the forty-five minutes, in my opinion is going to have to make a motion of non-confidence, which should not be very difficult.

PREMIER MOORES: I would not exactly say that.

MR. HICKMAN: It would make debate.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: This is a matter, obviously, of quite some importance and is not something which I wish to give a decision on without having an opportunity to check the records, nor is it something which I can suggest hon. members continue and I will give my advice later; so we will adjourn for, I hope, no longer than ten minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The specific point before the Chair is whether an hon. member being of the official Opposition starting off the debate on the Address in Reply not being the Leader of the Opposition and not making a motion of non-confidence does have unlimited time or does have forty-five minutes. That is the specific question.

In the argument submitted there were two areas referred to. One, the Standing Order 49 (a) and one, the recollection of the Leader of the Opposition that this may have happened previously, that there might be precedence for such a person speaking with an unlimited time period. To check those actual precedents it was not sufficient, as I hoped it would have been, to consult the minutes. It will be necessary to consult the Hansards for the past few years. This cannot be done until tomorrow.

It is an important point and I do not wish to give a decision on it until I have had an opportunity to refer to the submission made by the hon. gentleman to my right and it will not be possible to do that until tomorrow. So I cannot make a decision until tomorrow on that.

I will recognize the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) and obviously he will govern himself accordingly.

The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have left?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. gentleman has five minutes and then I will have to cut him off because I am not in the position to say whether he has more or not.

MR. NEARY: I know Your Honour is in a very difficult and tight position at the moment so I think the best way out is to move the adjournment of the debate.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Of the debate?

MR. NEARY: Of the debate.

MR. SPEAKER: The adjournment of the debate has been moved. Agreed?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. W. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe again it is an important point. I had the advantage or the privilege of raising it with Your Honour privately. I think it should be raised publicly. And it is this question of the Speaker, whether yourself, Sir, or the man, the hon. gentleman who may sit in for Your Honour, the Deputy Speaker or the Chairman of Committees, this question of the Speaker overruling himself or correcting himself from time to time on rulings which have been given. Now I think it is an important point, Sir, and it should be cleared up, the procedures for doing that. Because we can have the situation where one day a Speaker, it may not always be Your Honour or the hon. gentleman opposite, without the skill and the toleration and so on of Your Honour, someone who can make a ruling one day and then - we found it happening in the House of Commons in Ottawa as a matter of fact - make a ruling one day and then a day or so later have him say, well I made a mistake and I am going to rule this way now.

I submit to Your Honour that some procedure should be devised - perhaps Your Honour could articulate it - on how these matters are to be dealt with in this hon. House, whether in fact if a ruling is made perhaps it is incumbent on the Government House Leader to have that ruling challenged and overturned by the House itself or whether in fact there is a precedent for the Speaker as close to the time of the ruling as possible saying that there was a misunderstanding and with the unanimous consent of the House making a correction in that particular way. But it is important, Sir, because otherwise members of the House may not know where they stand from time to time when various rulings are made.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. T.A. WICKMAN: There have been occasions in this House before where it has been incumbent on the Chair I think to clarify a ruling and I would direct hon. gentlemen's attention to a ruling that was made from the Chair by Mr. Deputy Speaker Stagg in connection with a debate on a three month or a six month hoist, and when Mr. Speaker of that day reviewed Beauchesne and realized that there was a conflict in the interpretation as elucidated in Erskine May and in Beauchesne, Mr. Speaker came to the conclusion that it would be in the interest to clarify it and it I guess resulted in a change in a ruling of a former Speaker. And there will be a rare occasion I believe where this will have to be done because certainly the doctrine of stare decisis does not apply to a parliament. But in this case where I do submit the rule is pretty clear itself as opposed an alleged practice and I am not in a position and being in this House since 1966 to say "Aye" or "Nay" I really do not know whether any hon. gentlemen other than the Leader of the Opposition in leading off the debate on the Address in Reply and who did not move a motion of "No Confidence" was granted more than forty-five minutes to speak. And it seems to me that what is very necessary here is a ruling from the Chair as to the interpretation of what I believe to be a very clear rule, 49(1)(a) I think.

But in any event, do you want me to rise the house now?

M.R. SPEAKER: I wish to address myself to the second point of order; on the original point of order a decision will be given tomorrow. The second point of order raised by the hon. Leader of the Opposition was with respect to the Chair making a correction in a ruling. There different legislatures have different procedures. In our Standing Orders of the House of Assembly there is a standing order which does permit the overruling of the Chair. It has not been implemented at least for three years. It has historically been implemented some times. It has not been within the past three years

MR. SPEAKER: but it is obviously there. In some parliaments that standing order has been rescinded. It has in fact in the House of Commons in Ottawa been rescinded.

I can only articulate the philosophy that I have gone on in the Chair during the past three years and that is that where, in my opinion, an ambiguity, an error is part of a ruling from the Chair then the Chair may correct and clarify that ruling. That is the principle I have gone on and if I were asked specifically my authority for going on that position I think my authority would perhaps be twofold. Number one, it would be my own judgement which I have to use that that appeared to me to be the appropriate way to do it and, number two, I would say that by the concurrence and co-operation of hon. members on both sides that they shared my judgement in that respect. That I think would be my authority for doing it, for making corrections in a ruling where it was necessary.

To put it briefly, number one, it appeared to me to be the best way to do it rather than the overruling of the Chair, although hon. members have the right to do so; and two, I have understood the concurrence of members on both sides with me in doing it that way as their agreeing that that was an appropriate way for it to be done.

I think that is really all I can say on that point of order.

The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. T.A. MICHMAN: Mr. Speaker, I move that the remaining Orders of the Day do stand deferred and that this House on its rising do stand adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, at three o'clock, and that this House do now adjourn.

MR. SPEAKER: It has been moved and seconded the House adjourn until tomorrow, Wednesday at 3:00 P.M.; those in favour "aye", contrary "nay", carried.

This house stands adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday,
at 3:00 P.M.