

PRELIMINARY
UNEDITED
TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
FOR THE PERIOD:
2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1978

May 25, 1978

Tape 3484

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The House met at 2:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker, on May 30 representatives

from seventeen nations who are members of the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries will meet in Bonn, Germany, to establish the total allowable catch for 1979 and to allocate fish quotas to foreign countries if in fact it is found that there is a surplus to the Canadian fishing effort within the 200 mile economic zone. Canada, because of its extended jurisdiction, has the authority to unilaterally set its own quotas and what is left over from the total allowable catch will be declared surplus to Canada's needs and allocated to ICNAF nations.

Mr. Frank Dopplinger, Assistant Deputy Minister for Development with my department, will represent the Newfoundland Government at this meeting. He has been briefed by me on the government's position regarding the setting of the total allowable catches within the 200 mile zone and the allocation of so-called surplus fish to foreign nations.

We believe, Mr. Speaker, that the amount of fish that will be surplus to Canada's needs in 1979 within the 200 mile limit will be minimal a few thousand metric tons at the most. That assumption, Sir, is based on figures that have been presented to us regarding suggested total allowable catches for 1979 and taking into consideration the expected increase in the Canadian effort during the coming year.

MR. W. CARTER: Our position, Mr. Speaker, is that there should be no foreign allocation of fish until every possible effort is exhausted to enable Canadian vessels to harvest all or as much of the total allowable catch as possible. If there is a small surplus, it should not be given to other countries as an outright gift. We believe that economically motivated conditions should be attached to every pound of fish that is allocated to foreign countries.

In return for our fish, the foreign nations should show good faith by either landing part of their catch in this country to be processed, reduce tariffs on fish entering their countries, provide access to their fish markets, offer supply contracts to Newfoundland and Canadian companies, and carry out their vessel repairs in our shipyards or some other action that would be economically beneficial to this country and to this Province.

In establishing the Canadian requirements, we have requested that generous allocations be set aside for the inshore fishery and the quotas be set so as to allow a fast recovery of the fish stocks that will best benefit our Newfoundland inshore fishermen. It is our position that there be no immediate foreign allocation for cod in the northern waters, ICNAF areas 2J 3KL, in 1979 and that our northern cod stock receive every protection possible. We have suggested, Mr. Speaker, to the Federal Government, and this position will be taken to ICNAF by our representatives, that 70 per cent of the total allowable catches for cod in these areas, that is areas 2J 3KL be allocated to the inshore fishery, that 24 per cent be allocated to the Canadian Offshore Effort, and that the remaining 6 per cent be held in abeyance until we can extract

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MR. W. CARTER: the best possible deal in the foreign countries in exchange for fish quotas. That, Mr. Speaker, is the position of the Newfoundland Government, the one that will be put forward at this Bonn meeting by our representative, and it is a position from which we as a Province and a government will not budge.

The ICNAP meeting in Bonn, Mr. Speaker, is crucial to the Canadian fishing industry and indeed to the Newfoundland fishery. We must be strong in our position, the position that as little foreign effort as possible be allowed within our 200 mile extended jurisdiction because the future of fishing industry depends on it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, first of all, Sir, I want to say that we have come now to expect ministerial statements from the hon. Minister of Fisheries on either Thursday or Friday. Usually the Minister goes for the weekend edition of The Daily News and The Telegram but the Minister is a day early this week for some reason or other unknown to us, Sir. Perhaps he has another ministerial statement tomorrow. The Minister, who will be, no doubt, a leadership candidate is steering away from the heat of battle and bringing in a fishery policy in patches, patchwork like a jigsaw puzzle; the only thing is that there is no picture in it and just bringing it in in bits and pieces. But this statement today, Sir, the Minister could have done us the courtesy by letting us have a copy -

MR. W. CARTER: I sent a copy.

MR. S. NEARY: No, Sir. Well -

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

MR. S. NEARY: Well, I am sorry, Sir -

MR. W. CARTER: I gave it, by the way to -

MR. S. NEARY: I am sorry, Sir. I retract. The hon. gentleman sent a copy. Just before the hon. gentleman got on his feet, as a matter of fact, the page came and said, "Where is Mr. Fred Powe's desk?", and I said, "Right there." But the fact of the matter is, Sir, that the statement has not been distributed by the hon. gentleman.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the statement itself involves a meeting of ICNAF to be held in Bonn next month, I believe, is it? In June month. It has to do, Sir, with quotas in the North Atlantic, especially quotas regarding the northern cod stock.

I want to say now, Sir, and I want to ask the Minister this as a question if that is the proper procedure, Sir, does the Minister really believe that there is a surplus of fish, that there is a surplus? Because we on this side do not think that there is any such thing as a surplus of fish that will have to be divided up between the

MR. S. NEARY: foreign nations. We do not subscribe to the policy that there is a surplus. There is no surplus and the Minister should get that in his mind.

MR. W. CARTER: Talk to your Federal friends.

MR. S. NEARY: There is no surplus, Sir, and we feel that the Canadian catching capability should be stepped up, especially here in this Province, to replace the foreign fleet. Our policy is, here on this side of the House, that we should over the next few years eliminate the foreign fleet altogether, get them outside the 200-mile limit. That was the whole purpose, Mr. Speaker, of establishing the 200-mile limit in the beginning. So we do not recognize the fact that there is a surplus. If there is fish to be caught, then Newfoundlanders should catch them and sell it to the foreigners.

The Minister also mentioned, Sir, and I would like to clear this up with the Minister, that we should further compromise our position, we should trade off our position with foreign nations to have the fish processed here, the Minister mentioned that.

AN HON. MEMBER: Why not?

MR. S. NEARY: No, we are against that too. Newfoundlanders and Canadians should process the fish.

Then the Minister mentioned reduced tariffs. Well, Sir, in my opinion the foreign nations in due course, in the very near future, if we can rout them outside the 200-mile limit and take over and catch the fish ourselves, that the tariffs will take care of themselves in due course.

As far as the repairing of vessels and so forth here in Newfoundland is concerned, that may or may not be a good thing. If there are any foreign fleet left, well they may be forced to have their vessels repaired either in Marystown or down here at the CN Dockyard if they ever get the syncrolift down there.

So, Mr. Speaker, I hope the Minister is not compromising our position, trading off for things. We are not trading off

MP. S. NEAPY: anything. We have the natural resource. We are in the bargaining position. We have the European countries by the throat, Sir, and we are not going to compromise our position as the Minister just suggested in this statement. We are in the driver's seat and we are going to stay there, and we are not going to rest content until the foreign fleet is eliminated from the 200-mile limit and Newfoundlanders and Canadians are catching the fish.

While the Minister is making statements about surplus, by the way, there are longliner fishermen and draggermen in this Province who cannot get a licence to catch the fish. How can we reconcile, Mr. Speaker, the two things? Your Honour, how can we reconcile the fact that we have a surplus of fish, and draggermen and longliner fishermen in Newfoundland cannot get a licence to catch that fish? How can the Minister reconcile that fact?

So, Sir, we are not accepting the fact that there is even a small surplus, as the Minister said. We believe in conservation. We want to see our northern cod stock conserved and, Mr. Speaker, we are not prepared to accept the fact that there is even the smallest surplus of fish. There is no such thing. And I believe the Minister should adopt that as a part of the conventional wisdom of his department that there is no such thing as a surplus. The fish belongs to Canada. It is inside the 200-mile limit. Canadians should be catching it, especially Newfoundlanders, and we should not compromise our position by saying that we are going to do this, or give this away, if we can get the foreigners to give us concessions. We are in the driver's seat

MR. NEARY: and we intend to stay there and we should capitalize on the 200 mile limit as much as we can.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. W. CARTER: I do not know if I am going to be permitted to respond to the question. The gentleman mentioned, Mr. Speaker, and asked me to question, Do we, in fact, have a surplus? I should remind him that I support motherhood, too. You know, the speech he made a moment ago is a motherhood speech. But the fact is, Mr. Speaker, that we have nothing at all to do with establishing the total allowable catch. That is a decision made by Ottawa, hopefully on the basis of sound, scientific knowledge. We take the position that Canadian fishing effort should be given first crack at the resource and after that, given the fact that the allowable catch is established by Ottawa, if in fact there is a surplus, then there should be economically motivated conditions attached to it. But certainly we have nothing to do with determining exactly how much of a surplus there will be, or if in fact there will be a surplus. That is a decision, Mr. Speaker, that is made in Ottawa for which we have no input whatever.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

AN HON. MEMBER: Order, please!

MR. W. CARTER: We are not asked for any input, Mr. Speaker, as to what the allowable catch would be. I do not think we are qualified to repute the figures that are supplied to the federal government by their

MR. W. CARTER: scientists. Certainly I am not. We do not have the scientific backup in the Department of Fisheries, but I repeat, the TACs are established by Ottawa, the Canadian fishing effort is established by Ottawa and, consequently, any surplus is established by Ottawa as well.

MR. SPEAKER: Now before calling the next order, I am pleased to welcome to the House of Assembly on behalf of hon. members, forty Grade VIII students. These are students on an exchange programme from Vancouver College in British Columbia, accompanied by two teachers, Brother Furey and Mr. Borkin. I am sure hon. members join me in welcoming these students to the gallery.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PRESENTING PETITIONS

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

MR. W. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour and distinct pleasure of presenting a petition to the House which I received a few moments ago in the mail from the residents of the communities of Moreton's Harbour, Tizzard's Harbour, Bridgeport and Whale's Gulch on New World Island. The prayer of the petition is that "We, the taxpayers of these communities do hereby ask to have the roads in our respective communities paved this Spring." And the petition, Sir, is signed by some 384 names of voters, residents of those communities. They go on to say, Sir, in the prayer of the petition, "Our gravel road is now twenty-five years old and we are sick and tired of eating dust and ruining our cars in potholes." The 'eating dust' and the word 'potholes' are underlined, and I do not blame them at all for putting the emphasis

MR. W. ROWE:

on those particular words.

"The amount of money spent on the upkeep of our so-called roads in the past twenty-five years could have paved them long ago and saved the government money. We have been promised pavement in times of elections, now we want action." A very reasonable request, Sir. And there is no doubt in my mind, Sir, that they received some very, very strongly worded promises around, say, the beginning of the month of December of last year while there was a by-election going on in that particular district. Probably, Sir, if we searched around long enough we would find some documents with signatures on them of high ranking, elected officials of the government regarding that commitment.

So I support this petition.

It is also supported - in fact, the petition has been sponsored by the Twillingate - New World Island Rural Development Association together with the Moreton's Harbour branch of the Women's Institute, Sir, and that has been signed by Rod Woolridge, who is the President of the Rural Development Association and Ida Reid as the Secretary, together with the President and Secretary of the Moreton's Harbour branch of the Women's Institute.

Sir, I think the prayer and the substance of this petition is infinitely and eminently reasonable. They want the roads to their communities paved this coming Spring, this Summer during the upcoming construction season. They were promised this small amount of work, Sir. I think we are talking about some fifteen miles in all, of roads not up to the

MR. W. ROWE:

Trans-Canada Highway standard by any means but roads up to the grade that usually go through various rural communities with a bit of black top of them to keep down the dust, Sir, and to make the roads passable by automobiles.

I hope, Sir, that the Minister of Transportation can find it in his heart to support the petition, live up to the commitments which were made by his colleagues six months or so ago during the by-election when the people, as I understand it, were given a firm commitment by the government, by representatives of the government that this work would be done, Sir. I have great pleasure in moving, Sir, that the petition be tabled in the House and referred to the department to which it relates.

MR. SPEAKER: Before recognizing the hon. member for LaPoile, I would welcome to the galleries three gentlemen from the Newfoundland Federation of School Boards; the President of the Federation, Mr. William Moores, the Vice Chairman, Reverend Father Michael Murphy, and the Executive Secretary, Reverend William Bellamy.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I want to just take a few moments to support the petition so ably presented on behalf of three hundred and eighty-odd constituents of my hon. colleague, the Leader of the Opposition, in Mortons Harbour, Tizzard's Harbour, Whale's Guich and where is the other one?

MR. W. ROWE: Bridgeport.

MR. NEARY: And Bridgeport. And, Mr. Speaker, in supporting the petition I would like to welcome the hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications from Claridges in London -

MR. DOODY: Not Claridges.

MR. NEARY: No?

MR. W. ROWE: The Savoy.

MR. NEARY: The Savoy?

MR. DOODY: No, I was not in the Savoy.

MR. NEARY: Well -

MR. NOLAN: You were not in the Brazil House?

MR. DOODY: I was not in the Brazil House.

MR. NEARY: Was the hon. gentleman in London?

MR. DOODY: I was not in the Roosevelt House.

MR. NEARY: Was the hon. gentleman in London?

MR. DOODY: I was not in a boarding house.

MR. NEARY: Was the hon. gentleman in London.

MR. DOODY: I am in this House and please get on with that you were saying.

MR. NEARY: Was the hon. gentleman in London?

MR. W.N. ROWE: He should be in a nut house by the sound of him.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: My hon. colleague said, Sir, the hon. gentleman should be in the nut house according to the sound of him. Mr. Speaker, be that as it may, Sir, I do hope that the hon. gentleman has recovered from his jet lag and heard the petition so ably presented by my hon. colleague, the Leader of the Opposition, asking to have another promise that was made by the Premier of this Province, made by the administration, have another promise carried out and not broken by the Tory Party and by the government of this Province, especially the leader of the government, the hon. the Premier.

Apparently, Sir, a promise was made. The students in the gallery, Sir, might wonder what we are doing right now. Well according to the member for Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan), the gentleman who resigned from the Cabinet, we are wasting the time of the House presenting petitions on behalf of our constituents. And according to the Premier we are lowering the decorum and the dignity of the House by trying to help our constituents, by working hard for our constituents. In actual fact what we are doing, Mr. Speaker, is we are presenting petitions that have been circulated with a lot of hard work, inconvenience, by volunteers, sent in and brought in and presented on the floor of this House. Petitions, Sir, are a very valuable part of the procedure of

MR. NEARY:

this House, in my opinion. Now the hon. the Premier may think differently, or the member for Grand Falls (Mr. Lundrigan) may think they are a waste of time. In this particular case, in the four communities of Mortons Harbour, Tizzard's Harbour and Whale's Gulch and Bridgeport, the constituents, the people who live there, the voters, happen to think that this is a very important matter, this matter of getting their road upgraded and paved.

So I do hope, Sir, that it will not be a waste of time, that the Minister of Transportation and Communications will take note of the request, the prayer of the petition from the voters in these four communities on Twillingate Island.

MR. W. ROWE: New World Island.

MR. NEARY: On New World Island, rather, and that the minister will be able to see his way clear in this fiscal year to allocate a few dollars, if we can ground a helicopter or two for a few weeks and make a few dollars available to upgrade and pave part of that nine or ten mile stretch of road that the government promised to pave in at least two or three provincial elections and in the by-election that was held recently in the district of Twillingate.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Before recognizing the hon. gentleman for Conception Bay South (Mr. Nolan), I would like to welcome to the galleries on behalf of hon. members thirty Grade V students accompanied by their teacher, Sister Eileen Bouzane from St. Augustine's Elementary School in the historic district of Waterford-Kenmount. I know hon. members join me in welcoming these students.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

Bay South.

The hon. member for Conception

MR. NOLAN:

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the petition as presented by the Leader of the Opposition. I look forward to the Premier of the Province certainly supporting this petition because he, too, like a number of us, spent some time in that particular vicinity during the by-election.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, and I am surprised really in a way to maybe even mention it or think of it, the hon. Leader of the Opposition, perhaps, should have mentioned this petition should never have been presented, not as far as wasting the time of the House is concerned, there is no need for it. The highest dignitaries in the land laid in on the line during the by-election. There is no need for a petition in this House for that, it is a commitment. We should be merely be standing here today and supporting a plan announced by the Premier or the Minister of Transportation that the work is going to go ahead. That is what we should be doing, not pleading on bended knees to get this badly needed work done.

Someone asked me at the beginning of the New Year if I had a fond New Year's wish, and what I replied at that time was; For the people of Newfoundland I would wish for them all the things promised to the people of Twillingate. That is what I wanted. Is there anything more in this world? So I hope then that the hon. the Premier, who spearheaded this momentous political campaign and drive for social betterment for this area out there, this historic district, will be, certainly, the first on the other side to rise and announce today that this work is going to be done as

MR. NOLAN: he and his fellows stated that it would be done. It is as simple as that. We should not be on bended knee pleading that this badly needed work be done. Let the Premier now demonstrate the social conscience that extends from sea to sea for the benefit of our students from Vancouver in the gallery, and show that this work will be done this year, and the other work that was indicated but we will get to that later, I have no doubt, in this session.

I certainly support the prayer of this petition and it is sad, in fact, that is has to be presented at all since the commitment was already made to these people in the area.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister for Consumer Affairs and The Environment.

MR. MURPHY: Mr. Speaker, I cannot remain in my seat after listening to the very formidable pleas put forward by the members on the opposite side, with reference to these portions of road.

It brings my mind back, I believe, Sir, some ten years - and I hate to bring the hon. Speaker into this but he will recall also, and the hon. member for St. Mary's - The Capes (Mr. W. Carter) - where we did a tour of the Island - we were then in Opposition - with members of Parliament. I can remember now standing in Morton's Harbour with the member for St. Mary's - The Capes by a little store. We had many people come up to us and we were discussing their problems with them and they said, "One of the worst problems we have is our roads." They said, "Since 1949 and every election since we have been promised paved roads in this area."

MR. F. WHITE: You were going to change

MR. WHITE: all that though.

MR. MURPHY: So we had hoped that we could, but when we got into paving all the roads that had been neglected, Mr. Speaker, it was quite a formidable task. But it might be all right to refresh some people's memories of the fact that this did not happen the day before yesterday or last year or since 1971. These roads have been neglected for some thirty years just about, and I have all the sympathy in world for people today who have to put up with roads in the condition that existed in that particular area. And I am sure that when monies are available, when we can get monies to do these things as compared to other things, such as the laying off of teachers, the road across Labrador, to the Quebec situation, I am sure that this government will be the first, Sir, to put the money in that particular area.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Lewisporte.

MR. WHITE: Mr. Speaker, I should like to rise to support the prayer of the petition as so ably presented by the Leader of the Opposition and the member of the House of Assembly for Twillingate (Mr. W. N. Rowe) district. Morton's Harbour, Tizzard's Harbour, Whales Gulch and Bridgeport, Mr. Speaker, are four communities that depend almost totally on the fishery for livelihood. Recently, during the last four weeks, a programme has gotten underway in Bridgeport to develop a fishery programme there but by and large most of the fish from those four communities have to be trucked over to Twillingate where it is processed.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I should like to remind the government of its resource based policies of spending money where it will enable jobs to be created and this is one of the areas, in those four

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MR. WHITE: small communities, where
this could be done.

Mr. Speaker, other members

who

MR. WHITE: Mr. Speaker, other members who have spoken in support of this petition have referred to the promises that were made during the Twillingate By-election; not just promises, Mr. Speaker, but commitments made on province-wide television by the Premier of this Province, and either Mr. Speaker, either it was a commitment by the Premier of the Province or it was political blackmail. Now you can call it what you like. Either he intended that the promises would be kept or he was just using it as political blackmail and the people I guess of the Province will have to decide and I hope, Mr. Speaker, that these promises, or those commitments that were made, will not go down in history as being political blackmail.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the petition so ably presented by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, and I do so for two reasons; Sir, One is that I was born within a couple of miles of one of the town that is referred to in the petition, Cottel's Island and I am aware what the people have gone through this past twenty-five years, the kind of roads that they have been forced to live with. And, Mr. Speaker, the other reasons in particular I rise is to lend my support and strengthen the argument made by the member for Lewisporte (Mr. White) when he indicated that those four towns, the economies of those towns are based on the fishery. I have heard petitions presented in this hon. House, and the total prayer of the petition was to provide roads over which fish products could be hauled to fish plants and what have you, in a dust free atmosphere. Now certainly if it would have applied in those petitions then certainly it applies in this one.

MR. FLIGHT: Now, Mr. Speaker, I was interested to see the hon. member for St. John's Centre (Mr. Murphy) rise to support this petition, because having spent ten days in the immediate Morson's Harbour - Bridgeport - Tizzard's Harbour area last December, it was interesting to note that that particular minister was the only one who was absent. He was the only minister whom I did not see in that area and I can only presume, knowing the man the way I do, that he was ashamed to be there to be associated with the kind of tactics that went on in that district in that by-election.

And, Mr. Speaker, here is a chance for this administration. The former Minister of Transportation has been accused over the years as being totally partisan in allowing road projects to go ahead in various districts. I am not saying it is true. I am saying it is a fact, that that particular minister has been accused of taking a look -

MR. MURPHY: Are we getting into (inaudible)

MR. FLIGHT: No. No. No. This is relevant. This is relevant, Mr. Speaker. I am saying, Mr. Speaker, that that minister, right or wrong, has been accused over the years, while he was Minister of Transportation, of being partisan in allowing road projects to go ahead. If it was in the right district, then it went, if it did not it was cut and the minister has defended himself on many occasions. Now here is a chance for this administration to prove that they are indeed not partisan. They are talking about a district that was won against overwhelming odds, the kind of battles and promises that were down in that district were unbelievable. I hear the Minister of Justice just stood back in St. John's and he tied it altogether back here. I did not see him in Trillingate either, but I figure he was back here tying it together and now he is the Minister of Finance.

MR. FLIGHT: So, Mr. Speaker, here is a chance for this administration to prove that they are indeed not partisan and that they recognize the needs wherever it exists in this Province. And I would hope that the Minister of Transportation rises to support this petition and the people of these communities, Norton's Harbour, Whale's Gulch, Bridgeport, the pavement that they have deserved and needed for so long.

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

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, I would like to stand to give this petition my very strong support as well. I got to know this area quite well back in December. I drove over these roads quite regularly, the roads referred to in the petition, and can bear witness to the deplorable conditions of the road as outlined in the petition.

While listening to the hon. member for St. John's Centre (Mr. Murphy) I was not certain whether he agreed with the petition or not. I picked up two points that the minister made that seemed to indicate that he was not supporting the petition. He seemed to make a very clear case for making frivolous and political promises suggesting that his party was not the creator of this kind of activity -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. LUSH: - but certainly indicated that they could very well be the perpetrators of such activities.

MR. LUSH: Secondly, the minister referred to the fact that this neglect of these roads did not take place over the past four or five years but rather over thirty years.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I was under the impression that with this government we were into a new era, we were into a new approach to politics and that there was going to be some very definite programmes, some very definite policies made respecting pavement and upgrading of roads in this Province. Well, it looks like, Mr. Speaker, there has been no efforts made in this particular area of the Province, although we have got the promise. I would hope as others of my colleagues suggested, that the minister would stand in his place today saying that the government will indeed honour those promises, those commitments which were made to these residents of New World Island and I would hope that the minister would rise, as I sit in my place, to announce that great news to the people of New World Island.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN:

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

MR. MAYNARD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the answer to question no. 101, asked by the hon. member for Terra Nova (Mr. Lush),

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

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. Minister of Transportation, Sir, indicated that at the earliest opportunity the hon. gentleman would table certain proposals in connection with helicopter contracts that the hon. gentleman brought into the House the other day and played games with, is the hon. gentleman now in the position to put these proposals on the table of the House?

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, to that point of order.

MR. DOODY: I indicated to the House that I would be giving a ministerial statement - the length of which has not been surpassed in the history of this House, and so far the researchers have not finished doing all the detail on how long the longest ministerial statement has been. But in the meantime they are preparing the necessary text and I will present it all to the House in good time, with complete detail when I am absolutely certain that the information will not be rejected by people opposite who are obviously not interested in finding out exactly what the story is.

MR. NEARY: A point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Another point of order? Another point of order because the previous one was not a point of order.

MR. NEARY: Yes, a point of order, Sir. Yesterday, Sir, the hon. Minister of Consumer Affairs indicated that he had documents that he wished to lay on the table of the House. Is the hon. gentleman now in a position to lay these documents on the table of the House under this heading of Answers to Questions that have already been asked?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I think the question is a legitimate oral question but I would not recognize it as a point of order. So I will call oral questions. In other words, I think that that is a legitimate oral question and the minister may answer it, but I would not regard it as a point of order.

MR. NEARY: Well, Mr. Speaker, the only thing is that we do not want to cut into our Oral Question period by referring to things that happened yesterday, Sir. And I think that the hon. gentleman, it is incumbent upon him, The hon. gentleman promised and when Your Honour called the order, Answers to Questions already asked -

MR. MURPHY: - has an answer to a question, he has no documents.

MR. NEARY: Well, put the answer on the table then.

MR. MURPHY: I have an answer to a question.

MR. NEARY: Well is the hon. gentleman going to table it?

MR. MURPHY: Sure.

MR. NEARY: Alright, table it now.

MR. MURPHY: When I am ready.

MR. NEARY: Well table it.

MR. MURPHY: I am a bit tired. I am resting for a moment, when I get the strength I will -

MR. NOLAN: Resting again?

MR. W. ROWE: Another rest.

ORAL QUESTIONS:

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

MR. W. ROWE: I hope I do not disturb the hon. Minister of Consumer Affairs and the Environment, Mr. Speaker, and exhaust him by asking him to leap to his feet, although, Sir, the distance is not very long if he does leap to his feet.

MR. MURPHY: You will never disturb me, I guarantee you that.

MR. W. ROWE: Sir, I would like to ask the hon. minister one or two questions concerning a matter which I believe he will agree is a matter raising some grave doubts in the minds of a lot of people in Newfoundland, and I refer of course to the spraying programme to combat the spruce budworm infestation. Now I am asking him the question, Sir, as our protector, as a reasonable gentleman, hon. gentleman, and as the protector of the environment in this Province, Sir, is he aware, as Minister of the Environment in this Province, of any other province or state that may be using the spray, the chemical Matacil for the purpose of infestation, spruce budworm infestation or any other infestation for that matter?

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MR. W. ROWE:
question?

Is he going to answer the

MR. MURPHY:

No.

MR. W. ROWE:

No what?

MR. MURPHY:

(Inaudible) right?

I did not like the gentleman's attitude in addressing
the question.

MR. W. ROWE:

What is the problem with the
minister?

MR. MURPHY:

The minister has some respect
for himself.

MR. WHITE:

The minister does not care! He
does not care.

MR. MURPHY:

The minister cares a lot,
perhaps a lot more than -

MR. W. ROWE:

He does not like my attitude,
Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please! Order, please!
I must point out that as a rule it is stated that the
minister is not required to answer, and his not answering
cannot be the subject of debate at this time.

MR. W. ROWE:

I ask the hon. minister with
all humility if he would answer this particular question.
Has he had discussions with the members of the town council
of Gander concerning their stated intention to go to court
to seek an injunction to stop the spray programme in the
area of Gander town, particularly the Gander water supply?

MR. MURPHY:

No.

MR. W. ROWE:

No what?

MR. MURPHY:

No meeting with the town council
in Gander.

MR. W. ROWE:

Well, does the minister intend to

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MR. W. ROWE: get in touch with the town council and ask them.

MR. MURPHY: No.

MR. W. ROWE: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this boggles the mind. Mr. Speaker, let me ask another question. Has the minister been in touch with or has he talked to any representatives of the Air Traffic Controllers in Gander who have publicly mentioned that they are reserving the right to refuse to handle aircraft, in certain instances, which may be carrying this spray or involved in the spray programme? Has he or any of his officials sought consultation or talks with these gentlemen to see what their concern is and what dangers to the environment they may be worried about?

MR. W. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, this has never been heard of in the history of the House. It is completely unprecedented.

MR. MURPHY: Did you ever hear of silence?

MR. NEARY: We have often heard of ignorance, too.

MR. W. ROWE: Yes, I have heard of silence, Mr. Speaker. I have heard the minister is an expert at it, a minister who is not the least bit concerned about one of the most serious environmental programmes and dangers this Province has ever faced.

MR. NEARY: And the health of the people.

MR. W. ROWE: He is totally unconcerned, Mr. Speaker. He will not answer the questions. I do not mind him not answering the questions, but the ones he did answer! He has not been in touch with the Gander town council to see what their concerns are. Does the minister know, for example, does he happen to know whether there is going

MR. W. ROWE: to be a spray programme, whether the spraying is going to take place directly over Gander Lake? Does he know that? Is there going to be spraying over Gander Lake? What is going to happen?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. W. ROWE: What are they doing? Are they spraying over Gander Lake or does he know?

MR. NEARY: Is the minister going to answer the question? Well, what arrogance!

MR. W. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, we know that Nova Scotia has taken a decision not to get involved in a spray programme for the spruce budworm infestation. They are going to resort to other methods, thinning and reforestation and salvage operations and so on. Is the minister aware of whether the province of B.C., for example, are they going to spray for the spruce budworm or are they resorting to other activities or what are they going to do? Does the minister know that? Can he give that information to the House?

Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question or two to the Premier?

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Premier, is this government policy for the Minister of Consumer Affairs and Environment not to answer any questions regarding the spray programme going on in this Province?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Mr. Speaker, the minister has the full right to answer any questions he deems necessary or ones that he feels are appropriate. I would suggest to the hon. the Leader of the Opposition that he direct his questions to the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture

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PREMIER MOORES: regarding the spraying programme and to the Minister of Health as regards the people of Gander.

MR. W. ROWE: No, Mr. Speaker, these are environmental questions, questions affecting the environment in this Province. Now if the Premier wants to say that the minister is not involved in the environment, that it is a misnomer, the department is not concerned about the environment and so on, I will be prepared to take his word for that. But in the absence of answers from the Minister of the Environment, I would like to direct these environmental questions to the Premier, himself, and see if he will give us an answer, grace us with an answer, Sir, or whether he will show the same kind of unheard of, unprecedented arrogance concerning one of the most important problems facing this Province.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

I must point out to hon. members the requirement of avoiding debate during the Question Period.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. W. ROWE: Thank you, Sir. Would the Premier know, since it is a very important matter, as the head of the government whether there is any other state or province to his knowledge which is using this particular chemical spray, Matacil, for purpose of combating a spruce budworm infestation? The Premier does not know.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. MAYNARD: Mr. Speaker, I am not completely sure as to whether any other province is using Matacil for this year's programme but I can certainly find out for the hon. member.

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

MR. W. ROWE: A supplementary. Let me ask the Premier, Sir, or if he wants to refer it, if he does not know the answer to it although they are very important problems, will he tell us whether he himself has contacted or been approached by the Gander town council or whether he has contacted the Gander town council to see what their particular objection is, what problems they foresee, what dangers they perceive as far as the spruce budworm spray is concerned? Has the Premier taken an initiative on that?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. MAYNARD: Mr. Speaker, I have met once with representatives of the Gander town council a few days ago and the Minister of Health and I are meeting again tomorrow night with members of the town council of Gander as well as members of the public. I understand it is a public meeting. We know their basic objections to the spraying programme and we will be discussing it in some detail with them when we meet tomorrow night in Gander.

MR. FLIGHT: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. FLIGHT: MR. Speaker, I will direct my question to the Minister of Environment. It is unbelievable that the Minister of Environment is not answering questions with regards to and totally concerned with the environment in this Province. And the spray programme is totally involved and this is why we have so much concern already. It is evident and there is more to come. So my question will go to the Minister of Environment. If he chooses not to answer it then I will refer it to the Premier.

Is the minister prepared to comment on the fact in this House that Matacil or Aminocarb is not registered for sale in the United States and is not being used? It has been registered for experimental purposes only and being sold for use in Canada in a spray programme. But in the country where it is being manufactured it is not registered for sale or for use other than for experimental purposes.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I have three or four questions for the Minister of Transportation, Sir, who is back in his seat today. Sir, would the minister inform the House if the Director of Air Services has yet returned to his position or is the gentleman still on vacation in Antigua?

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

MR. DOODY: I have not heard from the Director of Air Services. I checked with the deputy minister this morning who told me that he had not heard from the Director of Air Services. So we can only presume that the gentleman is still on vacation, hopefully in good health and enjoying himself.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Before recognizing the hon. gentleman for a supplementary I have to hear a point of order.

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, I had a couple of questions on the environment and I presume that the Premier was conferring with the minister in order to answer what I consider to be a fairly important question. I only had a couple. That is why, of course, I did not stand on a supplementary just expecting the answer.

MR. SPEAKER: I recognize the hon. member's position. There is not a great deal I can do about it now. He asked the question. No answer forth came and I did recognize somebody else. The hon. member is not precluded from being recognized again in the Question Period.

The hon. member for LaPoile, a supplementary.

MR. NERY: I was getting on to three or four questions there with the hon. Minister of Transportation. In other words, I can assume from the minister's answer that the Director of Air Services did not ask for an extra weeks leave of absence. Is that correct?

MR. DOODY: You can assume anything you like.

MR. NEARY: I am asking the minister. Would the minister confirm or deny that the Director of Air Services asked or did not ask for an extra weeks leave of absence.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, I do not know. As I indicated to the House some time ago, I have really no idea how many weeks of annual leave the Director of Air Service is entitled to. The deputy minister has assured me that he is using leave to which he is entitled. Whether he is using it all at this period of time, whether he is going to use some later on during the year, what his social plans are, I really have no knowledge of nor control over and I really have not checked into it that closely. All I know is that the permanent head of the department has assured me that the Director of Air Services is on legitimate leave, legitimately applied

MR. DOODY:

for and legitimately approved. Other than that it is none of my business and I have no intention of delving into it.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: Perhaps the car that the hon. gentleman has, the only other public servant who has a car other than the Premier, carte blanche, full time the director of Air Services, what is the status now of that vehicle? Has the minister taken any steps to see if that is true that this gentleman has a car carte blanche and what has happened to that vehicle now?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, that point was raised by the hon. gentleman opposite, and it became increasingly difficult to refer to the gentleman as an hon. gentleman but I realize protocol and tradition demands it. When it was raised at that time I made the appropriate enquiries to the permanent head of the department and asked him to look into it and if the allegations were correct to take the appropriate action. Since the gentleman to whom these questions are related, the Director of Air Services, has not, as I have indicated, returned to the Province, I am hardly in a position to give an accurate and reasonable report on that particular motor car which the hon. member alleges is being misused somehow or other.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I am not satisfied with that answer but I will deal with that later on, Sir, during the afternoon. But I want to ask the minister, does he not think it is unusual for the Director of Air Services, the man who directs the air services - not Mr. O'Brien or Mr. Simmons as the minister told us the other day, they do not direct the air services; it is Captain Piercey who directs the air services - is it not unusual for him to be away at the most crucial period in the

MR. NEARY: year, when we have the water bomber fleet flying and fighting forest fires and so forth and two new Canso planes being delivered to Newfoundland and all kinds of activity going on? Is it not unusual for that gentleman to be on leave at this particular point in time?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member opposite is aware of some serious outbreak of a forest fire somewhere in the Province, I think it his duty to inform the appropriate authorities.

MR. NEARY: No, I want to know who is directing the operation.

MR. DOODY: I myself am not aware that there is any great conflagration or any great damage to life or limb or property in the Province because the air services chief has taken annual leave. As a matter of fact, I am quite positive that it would have been brought to our attention had there been such a forest fire or other such emergency, any such emergency. Perhaps the hon. member opposite knows of some such emergency. In any event, the director of air operations, Mr. Simmons, is quite capable, quite competent and quite able to handle any emergency that might crop up in the absence of the director of air services. His immediate superior, Mr. O'Brien, the director of transportation, is a very capable and competent man who has held that position for three or four or five years, and he seems to be able to handle the situation very nicely. The immediate superior to Mr. O'Brien is the deputy minister, Mr. MacDonald also a gentleman who has had considerable experience in directing the air transport and the air traffic of the government air services during the years of his service as deputy minister and prior to that as the assistant deputy minister under Mr. Knight. All of these people, Sir, I have complete confidence in and I think the people of Newfoundland should rest assured that should a major outbreak, a forest fire occur during the next several days while we are awaiting the return of the director of air services, it shall be appropriately and competently dealt with.

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

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: I am sure that Messrs. Simmons and O'Brien it will come as a great surprise to them to learn that they are now directing the air services because that is the first knowledge they had of it as of this moment when the minister just made his statement.

MR. DOODY: That is not true.

MR. NEARY: That is true, Sir.

MR. DOODY: That is not true.

MR. NEARY: The director of air services directs the amount of time helicopters and airplanes go aloft and so forth and so on and -

MR. DOODY: Is the hon. member suggesting that if there is a forest fire somewhere -

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the hon. gentleman if the government have yet taken - I will deal with the other matter later on - if the government have yet -

MR. DOODY: Do not wave your threatening finger at me.

MR. NEARY: The hon. minister is awfully touchy this morning.

MR. DOODY: I have jet lag . I mentioned it earlier.

MR. NEARY: Is it because of that long trip across the Atlantic or because things did not go to well on the other side?

MR. DOODY: Things were fine on the other side, it is that side that bothers me.

MR. NEARY: Things were not fine. According to the reports that preceded the hon. gentleman's trip back things did not go too well.

MR. DOODY: Oh, you have your messages already.

MR. NEARY: I have the message and the Premier will get the message before the afternoon is over.

MR. DOODY: Ah ha!

MR. NEARY: Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the hon. gentleman if the government has yet taken delivery of the two Canso airplanes that were purchased in the last year by either the Department of Transportation or the Department of Forestry, a capital allowance made last year in the estimates. Have these two Canso planes been delivered to the Province yet?

MR. MAYNARD: Mr. Speaker, one Canso plane has been delivered to the Province and the other Canso plane is in the process of being readied for delivery.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary question for the minister, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: A final supplementary and then I will recognize the hon. member for Eagle River.

MR. NEARY: Could the minister indicate, Sir, to the House just how much these two aircraft cost the public treasury, the two Canso airplanes?

MR. MURPHY: An airplane or a box?

MR. NEARY: No, the airplanes.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. MAYNARD: I do not have the precise figures, Mr. Speaker, but both of them purchased, in other words converting them

MR. MAYNARD: from ordinary float planes into water bombers and standardizing all the equipment in the planes with the ones that we already had cost approximately \$1.2 million.

AN HON. MEMBER: Is that everything?

MR. SPEAKER: I have indicated that I will recognize the hon. gentleman for Eagle River next followed by the hon. gentleman for Windsor - Buchans.

MR. STRACHAN: In the absence of the Minister Labour and Manpower (Mr. Rousseau), I would like to address a question to the Premier. In yesterday's edition of the Aurora in Labrador City, statements were made attributed to Mr. Mulroney in which he stated that if IOC continues for another week or so on strike, if the mining situation continues like that for a week they will close down the mines until least April or May 1979. That means of course practically the death of the city, almost everything goes then. Would the Premier state in the House here whether this statement, as far as he knows, if he has any information whether this is correct, and whether IOC have indicated this to the government, and whether the government is prepared to take any position on this concerning IOC's stated withdrawal from the community, which is a one mining town and a very prosperous area of this Province? Regardless of the difficulties, labour difficulties, what is the position with IOC?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: We have had no official notification to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, unless the minister has - and I think I would have known if he had. We are aware of the situation and obviously and we will be in touch with IOC to get the official position, but as of yet we have not been officially notified of that.

MR. STRACHAN: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. STRACHAN: Final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

IOC has also stated a position yesterday, and again this was through the Aurora indicated to them by Mr. Mulroney, that if they did come back after May 1979 that it would not be in the form of IOCC, it would be a totally different company or different arrangement, different corporation arrangement, that IOC in fact would not exist. Could the minister tell us whether that statement is true or whether he has had any hint of it or whether the government has or whether there is going to be any position taken by the government on it?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: Obviously, Mr. Speaker, it is hypothetical question because if the first official notice has to be found out first and as I said I will be looking into it and contacting Mr. Mulroney, as I am sure the minister will as well when we have the information we will gladly let the House know.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Windsor - Buchans followed by the hon. member for Bellevue.

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, I want to revert back to my original question to the Minister of Consumer Affairs and Environment, but obviously the Premier had indicated he wanted the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture to answer the question, and that is if the minister is aware or if he is prepared to enlighten the House on the situation, on the fact that Aminocarb or Matacil is manufactured in the United States, not licensed for sale in the United States and only licensed recently for experimental purposes, but in light of that that we are buying Aminocarb and going to spray our forests with it.

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

MR. MAYNARD: I would assume he is asking the same question that has been asked a number of times by the hon. member: Why are we doing it when the United States does not do it? Mr. Speaker, the simple answer is that we do not necessarily have to follow the United States. We have our own very thorough, very qualified pesticide control system under the Federal Department of Agriculture, the Federal Department of Health and Welfare and the Pesticides Control Board, which is a joint board of federal/provincial scientists which approves of the pesticides.

I outlined in the House some weeks ago the various acts and regulations that any pesticide, before it is authorized for use in Canada, has to go through, a very rigid procedure. Matacil has gone through that procedure and because of that, because of the fact that has been approved by the Federal Department of Agriculture for aerial applications for forestry purposes in Canada, we do not have any questions about the safety of using it.

MR. FLIGHT: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. FLIGHT: This is really a question for the Department of Consumer Affairs and Environment, for the Minister of the Department of Consumer Affairs and Environment, Mr. Speaker. I want the Minister of the Department of Consumer Affairs and Environment to tell the House whether or not his officials, officials from the Department of Consumer Affairs and Environment, are going to do a follow-up study on the effects of the experimental spray? Are you going to do a study to determine the effects of the experimental spray program last year's spray? Are people going to be in the field now to determine the effects on

MR. G. FLIGHT:

the total environment, small game, fish, insects, what have you, of that program that we carried on last summer?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister of Environment.

MR. A. MURPHY: Mr. Speaker -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. A. MURPHY: I thank the hon. member for using his courtesy and respect in addressing the question. I think the same question was asked yesterday about the committee set-up and if they were competent to judge it and I had this answer here for the hon. member that I would include in the overall.

An environmental monitoring committee was set up representing three Provincial and three Federal resource protection agencies as well as the Department of Health and Memorial University. Each member of the committee was a professional scientist. No one in this Province was better qualified than these persons to design, oversee, interpret and report on the respective segments of the project. Since the study coincided with the period when university students were available, it was decided to select qualified students to carry out the field work for the project. These students were chosen on the basis of high academic standing and/or previous experience, and were put through an intensive training program before beginning their duties. Their work was supervised regularly by a post-doctoral scientist from Memorial University, and we feel there is no need to imply the members of the committee or any other professional scientists in carrying out field work which consisted mainly of routine sampling - This was the question the gentleman asked me yesterday, if I felt that the people who collected the samples were competent.

MR. G. FLIGHT: That is the question I asked yesterday. It has nothing to do with the question -

MR. A. MURPHY: All data interpretation was done by committee members, not by the students.

MR. G. FLIGHT: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary.

MR. G. FLIGHT: What I want the Minister to tell the House is whether, or not specialists from his Department are going to do a study and determine the effects, adverse effects, of the spruce budworm experimental spray program that took place last summer, this year now, now that we have gone through eight to ten months post-spray. And I have been told by knowledgeable people that in order to determine the effects on small game, fish, the total environment, we need to go in now, go back into the area sprayed and determine the extent of the wildlife and the extent of the insects, the birds and the fish. Now what I am asking the Minister, is he going to undertake to have that kind of a study done now to determine the long range effects on the total environment of the spray program carried out last year? Now that is a very clear question, Mr. Speaker.

MR. A. MURPHY: The answer is very clear, Mr. Speaker, if I may, we have set up a committee of people who are capable, some eleven people -

MR. G. FLIGHT: Are they going in this year?

MR. A. MURPHY: - who took the whole picture last year; this year the same group will be operating. We are increasing the number of people in the field, who would be senior students to compile and collect what data is available, then it is brought to laboratories. So anymore than that - and the adverse effects, we have not had any adverse effects to any great degree. I am just reporting what my officials tell me. It is not my opinion; it is the opinion of these competent, professional people whose job it is to interpret it.

Now I do not know who the expert is who gives the hon. member the information, but possibly that expert might confer

MR. A. MURPHY: with our experts, and perhaps he might be able to tell them what is happening.

MR. G. FLIGHT: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary, and then the hon. member for Bellevue.

MR. G. FLIGHT: I am going to try once more, Mr. Speaker. This is too important an issue to be glossed over the way it has been. Mr. Speaker -

MR. A. MURPHY: I agree with you. It has been made political hay of.

MR. FLIGHT: - I asked a simple question. The statement that the Minister just read indicates to the House what will happen. That is the committee that is going to monitor the 1978 spray program. I am not asking the minister that. I am asking the minister if he is going to send some members of that committee, or anyone from his department, in to do an assessment of the area sprayed in 1977 to determine the long-term effects of the chemicals used in that particular area? Now, are we going to have a re-examination in 1978 of the area sprayed in 1977 to determine the long-term effects on the total ecology? Are we going to have - Is the Department of Environment going to determine, by sending their people into the field in the area sprayed last year, the effects, either beneficial or adverse on the environment of the blocks sprayed? Now that is simple.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. minister.

MR. A. MURPHY: It sounds simple to the hon. member. It does not sound - I just answered the question that we had a group of people set up representing three Provincial, three Federal resource protection agencies, as well as the Department of Health and Memorial University, eleven people in all,

MR. MURPHY:

to survey or to appraise the evidence that was brought back from the spray programme.

MR. FLIGHT: Last year.

MR. MURPHY: Last year, 1977. And the same thing is happening this year. The only thing is we are just about doubling the number of people in the field to collect more samples and bring it back to this same committee, or a similar committee. Any more than that I cannot explain.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Bellevue.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, I intended to ask the Premier a question but he is not in his seat at the moment. He had been there all afternoon. In the absence of the Premier, Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Minister of Transportation and Communications, who represented Cabinet, I understand, in Europe, can answer this question. I understand that the First Arabian Corporation have shown some interest in acquiring the oil refinery at Come By Chance. Could the minister confirm whether this is true or not?

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

MR. DOODY: I am not quite sure if I caught the first part of the question or not. I think it was - Is it true that the First Arabian Corporation have shown some interest in acquiring the facilities at Come By Chance?

MR. CALLAN: Right.

MR. DOODY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, During the meetings in London over the past two days the holders of the first mortgage through the receiver have informed us that they are carrying on conversations with the First Arabian Corporation toward the objective of signing a letter of intent with the ultimate hope of getting an agreement whereby the First Arabian Corporation would reactivate the facility and have an ongoing operation out there, a refinery.

This is very, very far from the realization of that objective but the talks are ongoing. The first mortgagees

MR. DOODY: seen to be encouraged by the trend of the discussions and they have undertaken to keep the Province informed as they move along. We have informed them of course that our first and only object here in the Province of Newfoundland is to look after the interests of the Province of Newfoundland. They are well aware of that and hopefully we will be kept informed as we have been assured that we would, and as they come closer to the hope for realization of the letter of intent, leading ultimately to a contract, we will be in a position to answer further questions and bring more information before the House and before the people. We hope that it will not be one of these abrupt things like the Ultramar situation which caught us at a twenty-four hour bit and piece and it was most unfortunate.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, can I assume then, is the minister saying that the First Arabian Corporation may have not yet produced a written guarantee that they have the money necessary to repair and reactivate the refinery? They have not produced that yet?

MR. DOODY: That is an accurate assumption, Sir. That is quite true. They have not satisfied all of the questions that have been raised by the holders of the first mortgages through the receiver. There are a number of questions that have still to be answered to satisfy these people and until such time as these are in place then the letter of intent cannot be signed and when these things are in place hopefully we will be in a position to supply some more information.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

MR. HICKMAN:

Motion 9.

Motion, the hon. the Minister of Justice to introduce a bill, "An Act Respecting Elections, Controverted Elections And Elections Financing For Members Of The House of Assembly," carried. (Bill No. 53)

On motion, Bill No. 53 read a first time ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

MR. HICKMAN:

Motion 10.

Motion, the hon. the Minister of Fisheries to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The Fish Inspection Act," carried. (Bill No. 45)

On motion, Bill No. 45 read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

MR. HICKMAN:

Motion 11.

Motion, the hon. the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to introduce a bill, "An Act To Establish The Northeast Avalon Urban Region," carried. (Bill No. 50)

On motion, Bill No. 50, read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, before calling Orders of the Day, with the unanimous consent of hon. members it is agreed that this House not adjourn at six o'clock, and that the Late Show, which normally would commence at five-thirty, will commence at seven-thirty and that hon. gentlemen have until seven o'clock to advise Your Honour of any matters they would like to debate at the Late Show. This will enable us to still get in the number of working hours, or substantially the number of working hours that we want to get in, and would normally get in and at the same time it will allow hon. gentlemen to perform other duties. And those of us who do not have to perform other duties tonight will join all the rest of our fellow Newfoundlanders in watching a contest. I have forgotten the name of that contest but I believe it is called hockey.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, we concur with the proposal put forward by the hon. gentleman, Sir, and if it is just a coincidence that there happens to be a hockey game on tonight we cannot help that. I will not be able to watch it tonight myself until later on, I have another commitment and some of my colleagues have other commitments, but if there are people who do not have commitments in the House who happen to be free to watch the hockey game, well, I say more power to them. They are only doing what every other Canadian and every other Newfoundlander is doing and I hope there will not be any criticism about that from anybody.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: Order 3. The adjourned debate on the Budget. The hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I cannot let the occasion pass without first making a comment in relation to

MR. SIMMONS: the Question Period today which, I believe, bears very much on the concerns we ought to be talking about in this House. We are having some difficulty doing it, particularly with all the meetings going on right now.

Mr. Speaker, I am referring in particular to the Minister of the Environment. I, Mr. Speaker, in the time I have been in this House, and colleagues have been here longer - the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary), the member for Twillingate (Mr. W.N. Rowe), the member for Fogo (Capt. Winsor) - and they tell me they have never seen such an abdication of responsibility as we saw displayed by the Minister of the Environment today, a total abdication of responsibility on a very serious issue.

I know, perhaps, Mr. Speaker, with his travels limited to St. John's and Sarasota and such places that he probably does not realize the very genuine gut-concern there is around Gander, and Denton and Glenwood and on the West Coast and other parts of the Province, genuine concern on the part of people who are wondering whether after this Summer they are going to have drinking water fit to drink. That is the issue. They want to know if they are going to be poisoned by their own tax money. They want to know if they are financing some kind of a mass - I was going to say homicide but that might be too strong a term in the short run, but given the questions which relate to this spruce budworm spray then perhaps it is not too drastic a term in the long run. Yet, Mr. Speaker, with all the unknown about this chemical spray programme, all we get from the Minister of the Environment is stunned arrogance, absolute arrogance, unadulterated arrogance. Callous! I have never seen anybody so callous about a subject, Mr. Speaker. Never have I seen a man so callous about the welfare of people.

MR. SIMMONS: Absolutely contemptuous! Absolutely beyond any excuse at all. Callous, uncaring, the minister is obviously completely out of touch with an area that is affecting or going to affect thousands upon thousands of Newfoundlanders in the months ahead and, perhaps more frightfully, in the years ahead. He is obviously out of touch.

Why does the Premier not do us all a favour, Mr. Speaker? Why does he not flick the Minister of the Environment out of the Cabinet altogether? Why does he not get rid of him get rid of him him while there is time? He is costing the taxpayers of this Province unnecessary dollars. He is doing nothing for his keep, nothing whatsoever even when given an opportunity by my colleagues on this side of the House to do something, to give a bit of information along environmental lines. They were not asking him today any nuisance questions, Mr. Speaker, they were voicing the concerns of thousands of people.

I was out of the city in the last day or so on some other meetings and I was surprised at the airports, the numbers of people who will come up to you and want to talk about this particular issue. It is almost the number one or two or three topic that people talk about now. When they come up to you and they recognize you are a member of the House, of course, and they begin talking about the various issues, in no time at all they hit on the spruce budworm discussion. Very quickly they raise the issue. People this morning mentioned it to me in Deer Lake Airport, for example. They mentioned it only yesterday to me in the airport at Gander. They raise the issue and raise it spontaneously

MR. SIMMONS: and they wonder and the question I say for the Minister of Consumer Affairs and Environment, the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture, the Minister of Health and the Premier, the question that is put in one form or another is - Are they really going ahead? Are they really going ahead after all we have heard about it, after all the doubts that have expressed about it, after the shortage of answers which is now evident from today's Question Period alone?

These people out there who have to drink the water from Gander Lake without knowing whether it is going to be contaminated this Summer, they are asking are they really going ahead after all the evidence and all the frustration that has been expressed? Last year's experimental period was very inconclusive. Indeed, it now emerges that the experimentation did not get beyond the production of raw results, that there has been no real analysis yet, no definitive analysis of the experimental period last year. That is what we are hearing now. And so we are led to believe now, in the absence of answers from the Minister of Consumer Affairs and Environment, we are led to believe that the so-called experimental period last year was just a stage in a gearing-up project; that it was not experimental at all, that they did an experiment in the sense that they wanted to get used to using the equipment and that kind of thing. But this suggestion that it was experimental from a standpoint of determining the effect on the countryside and on people, this is a lot of nonsense, that is misleading the people of this Province, Mr. Speaker, again with their own tax money. We find now that is not the case, that there are no definitive results, there is no definitive analysis of last year's experimental programme except from the standpoint of an operation.

MR. SIMMONS: They have now learned how to administer the poison more efficiently.

MR. J. CARTER: Poison yourself!

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, there he is, there he is, Mr. Speaker, the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) quoting Shakespeare most of the time-I wish he would go back to Shakespeare he would be much more eloquent-but even Shakespeare, Mr. Speaker, in his diabolical moments could not invent a character like the member for St. John's North.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMONS: Then again, Mr. Speaker, if the member for St. John's North did not exist we would have to invent him.

MR. J. CARTER: That is right!

MR. SIMMONS: We would have to invent him because he is for all Newfoundland and Labrador, Mr. Speaker, an example, a clear,undeniable example to every Newfoundlander, every Labradorian in this Province,an example of what not to be.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, so we have two members, the member for St. John's Centre (Mr. A. Murphy) and the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter),both representing great forestry districts. I can understand that they find this a joke, this whole business of the spraying programme -

AN HON. MEMBER: I find the hon. gentleman's attitude a joke, because -

MR. SIMMONS: Oh!

MR. RIDEOUT: Tell him to go back to his seat.Go back to your seat..

MR. SIMMONS: That is the first move,certainly.

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

MR. J. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentlemen representing the official Opposition standpoint on this spray programme cannot seem to make up their minds. One time they were all hot for some kind of spraying. Now that the government has decided to spray, they are all very strongly against it.

MR. RIDEOUT: That is not true.

MR. J. CARTER: I wish they would make up their minds -

MR. F. ROWE: In the first place, that is not true.

MR. J. CARTER: Obviously no one pretends for a moment that spraying is the final answer for the forest, but we have to do something. Is he content to see them destroyed?

MR. DOODY: To spray or not to spray?

MR. F. ROWE: What about the -

MR. J. CARTER: That is the question.

MR. SIMMONS: The member for St. John's North will have his full opportunity to speak and I hope in addition to quoting Shakespeare, because Shakespeare did not say a lot about Matabail -

MR. DOODY: He talked about asses.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMONS: The court jester is back from Claridges temporarily.

AN HON. MEMBER: He is back from Claridges temporarily.

MR. NEARY: He did not get to Maxim's this time.

MR. SIMMONS: Now I would like when the member for St. John's North stands up to speak to talk about the alternative, that is what we are trying to get his colleagues to do. There are alternatives, I flew with my colleagues for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) and Windsor - Buchans (Mr. Flight) and Baie Verte - White Bay (Mr. Rideout) last year over some of the forest

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MR. SIMMONS: on the West Coast and it was pointed out to us that a large percentage was affected seriously, adversely by the spruce budworm. But it was also pointed out to us that a very large percentage was very overmature. It has been sitting

MR. SIMMONS: there rotting on the stump, at least ten years beyond its harvesting time. And the point we make on this is that before you rush into something that has proven to be less than a lesson in New Brunswick, for example - you cannot deny that, I say to the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) - let us at least exhaust the alternatives and then if there are no alternatives let us get a safe spray. Our argument on it is twofold: One, the alternatives have not been exhausted, namely, harvesting the over mature and the affected stands, the alternatives have not been exhausted, number one; and two, we are not at all sure whether we are using a safe chemical. Indeed we are very unsure on that particular subject; the testing is still in the experimental stages for this particular chemical called Matacil. And that is our concern. The black and white version that the hon. gentleman from St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) projects -

MR. J. CARTER: There is no black version (inaudible).

MR. SIMMONS: I can make callous decisions, spray and take the consequences, or I can ask some questions. We can buy some time as a people. We can say, "Let us do the alternatives. Let us cut some of the over mature, some of the affected stands and in the meantime let us satisfy ourselves that the spray is safe."

Now look, the member does not have to listen to me on this. I will quote to him one of his own colleagues on this very subject.

MR. J. CARTER: Is the hon. gentlemen being vague (inaudible).

MR. SIMMONS: If the member were there, yes.

Would the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) for example, spray Matacil on his savoury patch?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMONS: No, no. Not depend. Is he satisfied that it is safe enough to spray on something that is edible?

MR. J. CARTER: I would not do it (inaudible).

MR. SIMMONS: Here we go. He is hedging, Mr. Speaker. He is doing the thing he accused us of a moment ago. He would be better off hedging his patch, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I quote his colleague -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: That is very funny, you know. Very funny.

MR. SIMMONS: All the people in Gander are laughing their heads off at the member and the member for St. John's Centre (Mr. Murphy). They are very amused, very amused. The Gander Town Council are going to seek an injunction, are awfully amused with the savoury patch farmer. He finds it all so funny.

MR. J. CARTER: They are not going to take any silly chances.

MR. SIMMONS: How about the silly chances they are taking out on the airport runway in Stephenville where the stuff is running all over the runway, where the cans are beaten up, where it is not supposed to be stored outdoors at all? Do not talk to me about silly chances. How can it hurt? Read the manual.

MR. J. CARTER: Those crops are growing nicely.

MR. SIMMONS: Some people are trying to grow out.

MR. WHITE: People live there, boy, people.

MR. SIMMONS: Some people are trying to grow out there. The Minister of Forestry is not helping very much. The Minister of Health is not helping very much. But then again we have trouble getting him out of bed except when he falls. The bedridden Minister of Health the other day talking about the spruce

MR. SIMONS: budworm programme in a press release said, "In summary, I wish to make it perfectly clear," - the last man who said that had to resign his office as was President of the United States - "In summary, I wish to make it perfectly clear that government in coming to a decision has had to weigh the need to take steps to conserve our forest resources through aerial spraying with insecticide against the likelihood of possible adverse effects to health resulting from such spraying." Is that not a devastating statement, Mr. Speaker? They weighed the need to conserve the forests against the likelihood he did not say the impossibility, he admits there is the likelihood. He took on the one hand the need to conserve the forests for economic reasons and on the other hand he took the likelihood, these are his words, he took the likelihood of adverse effects to health resulting from the spray. He took these two factors and he elected the forest over the people.

He admits in his statement that there is a likelihood. He is not satisfied to the point that he can come out and say there is no possibility that it is completely safe. The Minister of Health, the chief custodian of health services in this Province, admits that there is a likelihood of adverse effects on the health of people, and yet he says, notwithstanding that, I have decided to opt for woods rather than people. A shame,

MR. SIMMONS: absolutely shameful, Mr. Speaker, that we should have that kind of a statement, that kind of an admission from the Minister of the Crown -

MR. NEARY: What was it he actually said there then, that he was not sure? Is that what he said?

MR. SIMMONS: Well, he admitted to the likelihood of adverse effects. He says "The likelihood -

MR. NEARY: The Minister of Health?

MR. SIMMONS: The Minister of Health. "The likelihood of possible adverse effects to health resulting from such spraying." Having admitted to that, having considered the economic factors, he said, "I choose" -

MR. NEARY: I wonder what the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) has to say about that?

MR. J. CARTER: population (Inaudible)

AN HON MEMBER: Your savory capers -

MR. SIMMONS: Well, Mr. Speaker, here is the old St. John's, the old city attitude again. If it is less than ten or fifteen thousand, what is four or five or seven thousand people in Gander? That is not populated. That is just a few people out there.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible) people out in Gaff.

Topsails.

MR. SIMMONS: We are not talking about Gaff Topsails. We are talking about the Gander Lake water supply, we are talking about one-sixth of a mile from a water supply down around Glovertown. Do not tell me that is the Gaff Topsails - I know the member does not know his geography but he knows the Gaff Topsails is not around Gander or Glovertown. I hope he knows that.

MR. NEARY: Or Gallants or Stephenville.

MR. SIMMONS: I may have to send him a map, too, Mr. Speaker. I wish the member did not display such stunnedness on this one, Mr. Speaker. We are talking about people in Glovertown - was it Glovertown

MR. SIMMONS: the other day?

AN HON. MEMBER: Port Blandford.

MR. SIMMONS: Port Blandford - one-sixth of a mile from their water supply.

AN HON. MEMBER: No sensible pilot is going to fly over populated areas.

MR. SIMMONS: And that is the saving grace. The member reminds us of the saving grace that no sensible pilot is going to carry out this harum-scarum scheme of the Minister of Forestry. And that is the saving grace and that is what we have going for us, Mr. Speaker, that the pilots are not going to fly this homicide missions.

The pilots are refusing to fly these homicide missions, Mr. Speaker, and that is the saving grace, whether it is the Glovertown, or the Port Blandford water supply or the Gander-Benton-Glenwood water supply, that is the saving grace. But we should not have to depend on the discretion of pilots in this matter when we are dealing with government funded projects, we should depend on the responsibility of the Minister of Forestry, except we have have learned long since that we cannot depend on that man's responsibility. Perhaps some day we will tell you the story about the Wine Cellar. Is that not an interesting story? The Minister of Forestry would like to hear that one I am sure.

MR. NEARY: We will deal with that in due course.

MR. SIMMONS: The Minister of Forestry in one of his more responsible moments, late one night in the Wine Cellar in Corner Brook. That is quite a story.

MR. NEARY: No wonder we reduced his salary to \$1.00.

MR. SIMMONS: Shameful! Absolutely shameful what went on out there! Absolutely shameful! And then they kept him in the Cabinet and now he is inflicting more on us. Not only on us, Mr. Speaker, we are the Opposition - I can understand them being very affrontive and arrogant with us. But the people of the Province, the people who have to drink the water in Gander Lake after this season is over and this spray programme has been undertaken.

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Tape 3501

EC - 1

MR. SIMMONS: he Department of Fisheries in this Province has no policy on the fishery, no policy beyond spitting out the daily press release, no policy on the fishery. The Minister of fisheries is boycotting the opportunity to formulate a policy on the fisheries in this Province. He is boycotting the opportunity, every chance he gets he boycotts it. I pointed out on Tuesday that he boycotted a major conference dealing with the fisheries of Atlantic Canada in Halifax with some of the top people from the fishing industry and all aspects of it attending that conference, people from Norway and Germany and England, the United States and Canada; fish industry people, shipping people, shipbuilding people, banking people who are investing in the fishing industry. They boycotted the conference altogether, they were not even there. This minister, Mr. Speaker, is going beyond having no policy. I can understand his predecessor, the present Minister of Health, having no policy. I can understand that, because his idea of fishing was the Gander River on the 24th of May. I can understand his having no policy, I can excuse him. I can excuse the former member for St. John's West in terms of policy because he just was so out of touch with the resource industries of this Province that he could not be expected to have any kind of a policy. But now we are talking about the present Minister of Fisheries, a man who has done much to associate himself with the fishing industry, who works really hard at it, but he has no policy, and beyond having no policy he boycotts every opportunity he has to even begin developing a policy on the fishing industry in this Province. He and his Department of Fisheries are being upstaged every day of the week by a very aggressive

MR. SIMMONS: Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries, upstaged every day. He gets frustrated about that and he blames it on the feds. And I will be the first to say to him that I dare say the feds are a part of his problem. I dare say they are. I have great respect for Mr. LeBlanc and I believe he is very much in touch with the problems of the Atlantic fishery, but having said that, I reiterate something I feel very strongly; that policy at the federal level, whether fisheries policy or any resource policy or any kind of a development policy, is too centrally oriented and their concerns, whether you have a Liberal Government in Ottawa or a Tory Government or an N.D.P. Government, their concerns, their priorities are all towards Central Canada and they have difficulty realizing that the St. Lawrence Seaway is not the Canadian boundary on the East side, a very great difficulty realizing that. And I am sure that attitude, that mentality, spills over into fisheries policy as well. So I would be the first to admit to the Minister of Fisheries that a part of his problem may well be the federal Fisheries attitude and the general federal attitude towards this Province and towards Atlantic Canada. But another part of his problem is his deliberate boycotting of every opportunity he is given to develop a policy on the fishery. Another part of his problem is that he is being regularly upstaged by a very innovative, very aggressive fisheries policy on the part of the Department of Fisheries in Nova Scotia. They are very aggressive, they are very innovative, they are very in touch with the situation. They have the latest in knowledge, the latest in expertise, the most advanced in technology, and they have the get-up-and-go to get out there and develop and push a fisheries policy, almost force a fisheries policy on the rest of Canada and on the

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MR. SIMMONS: federal government. And what do we have here sitting in the very center of the greatest fish resource in the world? We have a minister who is content with hearing his name on the radio every morning. All he cares is he can hear, 'The hon. Walter Carter said, da-da, da-da, da-da.' He does not care what it is as long as he said something on the radio today and tomorrow morning. And if you read the garbage he comes in here with, Mr. Speaker, it is contradictory, absolutely contradictory from day to day, but that matters not to that minister, Mr. Speaker - he said something. Because you see, Mr. Speaker, what he is really doing is not mouthing a policy, not giving voice to a set of orchestrated or co-ordinated concerns in the fishery, that is not what he is doing at all. Let us not

MR. SIMMONS: be deceived by this Minister of Fisheries. All he is doing, and my colleague put it well today during the Question Period, all he is doing is using every opportunity he can to mouth off and to be identified with that magic thing called fisheries which suddenly has gained some respectability in this Province, thank God, and it is respectable now to be associated with fish. It is respectable to be associated with fishermen. It is respectable to be associated with the fishing industry. Even the banking people, the financial people are finding that it is a respectable, safe bet now to invest in the fishery. So what is the minister doing? He is, Mr. Speaker, doing no more and no less, our Minister of Fisheries, doing no more and no less than riding on the oilskin coattails of the fishermen of this Province, riding on their oilskin coattails. That is what he is doing, riding on the oilskin coattails of the fishermen of this Province, riding on the policy of the federal government, generally a good policy, but it needs to be tailored more to our particular needs here in Atlantic Canada, here in Newfoundland and Labrador. He is riding on the success of Ottawa in implementing the 200 mile limit with all its implications for the potential of the fishery in the years down the road, riding on the coattails of Ottawa and riding on the oilskin coattails of the fishermen of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Mr. Speaker, none is so deaf as he who will not hear and I fear the Minister of Fisheries falls into that category. He may not want to hear what we are saying on this side about the fishery. He may not want to admit that we have said to him on many occasions, and I said to him on Tuesday, and I say to him again today- he and his government have no policy, no co-ordinated policy on the fishery. They have a lot of disjointed, disconnected ideas about the fishery, some of which, if integrated into an overall policy, would have some validity, would have

MR. SIMMONS: some value, would have some real potential to help the fishermen and the fishing industry of this Province. Like the trawler programme, for example, that the Premier has announced again and again and again, announced it back in 1973, I remember, in the Hermitage by-election in the Fall of that year. Whatever happened to that trawler programme? Neither ship was ever built and today the fleets on the South Coast and the Southwest Coast are working with even more dilapidated, obsolete, outdated equipment because one of the prongs in a would-be policy of this government never got beyond the announcement stage.

So I want to be clearly understood on this one, Mr. Speaker. I represent a fishing district. Half of the population of my district depend almost completely on the fishery, the communities of Burgeo, Ramea, Grey River, to some extent, Franchois and MacCallum, four of these communities very completely and the fifth, Grey River, somewhat, a dozen or fifteen men involved in the inshore and trawler fishery altogether.

Those people depend on the fishery, inshore, and the bank fishery for a livelihood. Their livelihood could be all the more prosperous if they had the proper equipment to work with. The Premier had the answer on that particular aspect of a would-be policy when he announced the trawler programme four or five years ago in Harbour Breton. But it has never gotten beyond the announcement stage. So today, my people in Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir, and people in other fishing districts in this Province, are less well off. They are earning less than they could because they do not have the equipment to work with. Is it any wonder, Mr. Speaker, that they are having difficulty competing with the Nova Scotia fleets, for example, another fleet, if I understand correctly, which is having some problems with equipment, but a fleet at the same time which is the benefactor of certain steps that have been taken by the Nova Scotia Government to upgrade, to update the fleet in that Province.

Mr. Simmons: Mr. Speaker, I want to be clearly understood on this one. The Minister of Fisheries from time to time has made announcements that have merit, that have merit if they were integrated into an overall policy. But as he does things in this scatter fashion, all these various announcements and these various little Band-Aid programmes do is have the effect of bridging the gap, as it were, or have the effect of undoing the last programme. They tend to counterbalance, to cancel out each other, because there is no co-ordinated, integrated fisheries policy by this government. None. None whatsoever.

Again, Mr. Speaker, you do not have to take my word for it. Go back and take the word of the first Minister of Fisheries under this administration, Mr. Roy Cheeseman, who was the Minister of Fisheries for the first year this government was in office. He was the Minister of Fisheries actually from March 1972 - to be correct about it, the first Minister of Fisheries was the Premier. The Premier held the Portfolio for a couple of months from late January and February and early March until after the election. And then after the March election of 1972, Mr. Cheeseman was elected in the district of Hermitage that I subsequently represented before redistribution. And from March 1972 until March 1973, for one year almost to the day, Mr. Cheeseman was the first full-time Minister of Fisheries, and the second minister if you keep in mind that the Premier was actually the first Minister of Fisheries, while at the same time, of course, being Premier.

And that first full-time Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Roy Cheeseman, spent a year in that Cabinet, and then he resigned in March 1973, and the Premier at that time made a statement that the Minister of Fisheries had resigned for personal reasons.

MR. NEARY: No, he blamed it on me, because I had given him a flick the night before in the House.

MR. SIMMONS: You got the blame for that, too?

MR. NEARY: I got the blame for that too.

MR. SIMMONS: You get the blame for so many things, I say to my colleague, he gets the blame for so many things that it is difficult to remember all the things that he has been blamed for.

MR. NEARY: He said it is hard for a minister, a man who served in public life, always being under attack.

MR. SIMMONS: Who said that? Moores or the -

MR. NEARY: Moores.

MR. SIMMONS: The Premier at that time said it was for personal reasons and because the minister was under attack from my colleague. Well that was in March '73. But in November '73, six months after, or whatever it is, seven months -

MR. NEARY: A by-election was called.

MR. SIMMONS: - there was a by-election and the election was to be on the Monday, I believe, and on the preceeding Thursday, about four or five days before the by-election, the former Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Cheeseman, went on an open line radio show and the announcer, the moderator there, Mr. Howie Hickman of Grand Bank at the time, said to him, "Mr. Cheeseman, now look, why did you resign?" Then we heard it.

MR. NEARY: If you remember I called him on the phone.

MR. SIMMONS: When we were on the open line.

MR. NEARY: We were down in Camp Boggie.

I called him on the open line.

MR. SIMMONS: That is right.

And he told us and told the public, the Province, or that part of the Province that was listening, and it was subsequently broadcast all over the Province, Mr. Cheeseman said then that he had resigned for a couple of reasons: One, because that crowd, or he referred to them as them I think, were so busy talking about urban problems, and he mentioned overpasses and highways and that kind of stuff, that they never had time to talk about rural Newfoundland; and then he mentioned that they were not at all interested in talking about fisheries policy.

MR. SIMMONS: Now that is on the public record, and I am sure the tape probably still exists. It is on the public record, I think it appeared in the papers a day or two after. That is the Minister of Fisheries himself for a year saying, "The reason I got out is because I could not get them to talk about fisheries policies."

Now when we hear about the shenanigans the Premier has been involved in ever since he got in power, between Scrivener and Dobbin and Walsh and all the rest of them, I can understand—and McLean and McConnell—I can understand that he would not have time to talk to a fellow called Cheeseman. I can understand he would not have time to talk about fisheries policy. And that is what is wrong with this government, Mr. Speaker, not that they lack ideas, but they are so busy falling over each other lining their pockets, lining the pockets of their friends, feathering their nests, so busy doing that that they have not got time, Mr. Speaker, to talk about the needs of Newfoundland. And that is why it is not at all out of character what the public was given a treat to this afternoon from the Minister of Environment. That is not out of character, Mr. Speaker, what we saw today. That is in character. A problem that affects drinking water, a problem that affects the health of people, "Do not talk to me about that," he says, "we are too interested in other things. We are too interested in

MR. SIMMONS:

beefing up our big, fat pensions when we leave this House."

MR. NEARY: The member for Kilbride, look, confirms that in that transcript.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, what is going on here?

MR. SIMMONS: I say to the member for Bonavista South, I do not believe there is any rule against having to table what you read to yourself while you are standing at the mike, besides which, 'Steve', I could not - I mean, I could not - the man is not even in the House now to start with.

MR. NEARY: I will get you another one.

MR. SIMMONS: He is not even in the House now, but I mean, the language alone there, eh?

MR. NEARY: All right, that is the member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells) now we are talking about -

MR. SIMMONS: The member for Kilbride.

The diocese will be looking for a new chancellor if they heard that kind of language.

MR. NEARY: Hold on now, I will get you another one.

MR. SIMMONS: No, we will wait. If I am going to read it, 'Steve', I should wait until the member comes back into the House. I do not think it is the kind of thing we should read in the absence of the member for Kilbride, the diocesan chancellor, pro tem, I would suggest, if I can judge by the language in that particular document. But surely - I do not know - it is hard to take in.

MR. NEARY: How about taking over Brinco, what he thinks of that?

MR. SIMMONS: He tends to have a fairly limited vocabulary.

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, a point of personal privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: (Dr. Collins) A point of personal privilege, the hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER: The member a member a moment ago in describing the antics, as he called it, of Cabinet, he mentioned that we are without a fisheries policy. And I will go as close as I can to quoting him - he said, 'That crowd over there are so busy falling over each other, lining their own pockets and the pockets of their friends.'

Now, Mr. Speaker, I happen to be a member of this crowd over here, and I challenge the member, if he can produce evidence that there are members on this side lining their pockets - and I presume by that he means stealing or getting money under false pretences or through means other than through an honest means - that he should be required to provide that evidence. If not, Mr. Speaker, I think he should be required to retract that statement. Certainly it reflects on all of the members over here and I do not think he has a right to make that kind of a charge without backing it up with hard evidence to substantiate his charge.

MR. WHITE: What time do you have?

MR. SIMMONS: To the point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: (Dr. Collins) The hon. the member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir speaking to the point of order.

MR. SIMMONS: I think it was a point of privilege.

It was a point of privilege as I understood the minister. The Minister of Fisheries rose on a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, and I wish to make some comments related to his point of privilege. If I can put the mind of the

MR. SIMMONS: Minister of Fisheries at ease, I did not think he would assume for one minute that I had put him in that group - he is not one of the clique over there; he has never been named in any of the charges that have been made in affidavits; he has never been the brunt of any of the questions that we have raised about improprieties in government - the Public Works improprieties, the Scrivener improprieties, the Dobbin improprieties - never named in any of these. So I set the record clear and straight, Mr. Speaker, that at no time did I even intend or wish to involve the Minister of Fisheries. He is not one of the clique over there who are lining their pockets. Now, Mr. Speaker, he says if we can produce the evidence that people are lining their pockets; well, Mr. Speaker, I do not know how much evidence he needs. I asked him to have a look at the evidence I brought out in Committee last year involving the Walsh shemozzle; the evidence involving the two Dobbin shemozzles, at least two; the evidence involving the Scrivener shemozzle. He might not recognize it as evidence, Mr. Speaker, but the fact that people refuse to recognize facts does not mean the facts do not exist. The evidence is clearly there, Mr. Speaker, indeed, I saw from a - I had better not read it, 'Steve', because we will have to table it and that should be kept for another time - but I saw that the member for Kilbride, who sits in the caucus of the Minister of Fisheries, has said in a telephone conversation that the crowd over there is a bunch of crooks.

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

MR. SIMMONS: No, it is a point of privilege, by the way, a point of privilege right now. I am speaking to a point of privilege raised -

MR. SPEAKER: A point of privilege is before the Chair.

MR. WELLS: I will then raise a point of Privilege immediately after this one is dealt with.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, that is fine.

Mr. Speaker, I am advised - I am not quoting directly from - but I am advised from a transcript of a telephone conversation, which I understand it to be, that the member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells), a colleague of the Minister of Fisheries, has himself described people on that side of the House as a bunch of crooks. Now, whether a bunch of crooks I am not prepared to say, but I am prepared to say that we have given documented evidence - even the Premier's signature, Mr. Speaker, for what it is worth in this House - documenting that there are people on that side who are lining their own pockets, Mr. Speaker, at the taxpayers' expense.

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. MORGAN: On the point of privilege, Mr. Speaker. On the point made by my colleague, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! There is a point of privilege before the Chair -

MR. MORGAN: I am speaking to that same point, Mr. Speaker, because, Mr. Speaker, I am also involved in the same point of privilege, because a charge was made quite clearly this afternoon

MR. MORGAN: by the speaker, the now member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons), speaking in the debate said, Mr. Speaker, that members of the Cabinet, I quote him and Hansard can prove what I am saying, are lining their pockets and lining the pockets of their friends. That, Mr. Speaker, reflects on each and every member of the Cabinet, including myself. And, Mr. Speaker, when my colleague rose on a point of personal privilege, in responding to the comments made by my colleague, the same speaker in the debate, who brought this point out, said that my hon. colleague, the Minister of Fisheries, was not one of the group who were lining their pockets in the Cabinet.

Now, Mr. Speaker, first of all this was a blanket category, we are all lining our pockets. Now it is a certain group lining their pockets. This is a very, very serious charge, and Mr. Speaker, the hon. member will have to prove what he is saying. -

MR. SIMMONS: We are proving it.

MR. MORGAN: Not only that, Mr. Speaker, but automatically withdraw these charges. He is reflecting in a derogatory way, inflammatory way, upon each and every member of this Cabinet, and here is one member, Mr. Speaker, who is not going to tolerate that kind of an attack. The hon. gentleman is going to have to retract, apologize or take the ultimate consequences.

MR. F. WHITE: What is that? What is that? What is that?

MR. SIMMONS: Are you threatening me? Are you threatening me? Mr. Speaker, is he threatening me?

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

MR. SIMMONS: What consequences?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. F. WHITE: That is right.

MR. SIMMONS: Are you threatening me?

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

The hon. minister -

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, could I have protection from this little yak over here?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please!
The hon. minister is -

MR. NEARY: Now who is lowering this House?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! The hon. minister is speaking to a point of privilege and I would ask him if he would wind up his remarks.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, the ultimate consequences will obviously be this House will have to deal with such an attack of one member upon another member. We are all members of the Assembly, whether it be in Cabinet, backbencher or otherwise. The attack was made, Mr. Speaker, by this dirty, filthy little politician, who can stand in the House and say I am lining my pockets as a Cabinet minister!

MR. SIMMONS: Sit down! Sit down!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I understand the hon. minister has terminated his remarks on the point of privilege.

MR. MORGAN: No, Mr. Speaker, I have not.
No, Mr. Speaker, I have not.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order!

MR. NEARY: The hon. member has -

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): Order, please! Order, please!
I must insist on order. When the Chair calls order, the hon. members will assist greatly if they will permit the Chair to make the point for which order is called.

In speaking to the point of privilege, I would ask hon. members to speak to the point at issue and not obscure the issue by getting into side issues or making remarks that might obscure the issue.

The hon. member for Bonavista South.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, I withdraw the comment 'it is a dirty, filthy politician.' I will say it is dirty, filthy statements to be made in this House, charging members of the Cabinet of lining their own pockets!

MR. SIMMONS: Not true.

MR. MORGAN: Charging the Cabinet ministers first blanketly, in a blanket way, and then when raised -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. MORGAN: Could I have protection, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister has the floor and I must insist on silence.

The hon. Minister of Tourism.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, when my colleague rose to defend his position as a minister of the Cabinet on a point of privilege, the hon. gentleman who made the charge then stood and said he was not one of the group who were lining their pockets.

MR. SIMMONS: That is right.

MR. MORGAN: Which clearly points out, Mr. Speaker, that there are members of this Cabinet who are lining their pockets -

MR. SIMMONS: That is right.

MR. MORGAN: - from government funds or otherwise.

MR. SIMMONS: That is right!

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, could I have protection? Could I be heard in silence? It is a very important issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! The hon. minister has the right to be heard in silence. I will enforce that rule rigidly throughout the remainder of his remarks. But I would ask the hon. minister if he would, I have listened at some length now, if he could conclude his remarks fairly shortly.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, I will make them as brief as possible but I want to again emphasize this is a very important issue.

MR. SIMMONS: Right.

MR. MORGAN: When Ministers of the Crown are being charged by members of this House of stealing and filling their pockets with money being stolen from government sources or otherwise, that is a very, very serious issue. And, Mr. Speaker, I again say that the hon. gentleman who made these charges must withdraw and apologize to all members of the Cabinet, including myself as one, or else the House of Assembly should deal with the matter and he will take the ultimate consequences.

What I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is his charges are unparliamentary, derogatory and inflammatory against another hon. member and therefore must be asked to retract and apologize.

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

I think I should comment upon the point of privilege at this point in time. The hon. Minister of Fisheries arose -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! The hon. Minister of Fisheries rose on a point of personal privilege.

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. J. Collins):

In commenting on that the hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) I think clearly pointed out that he was not in his remarks referring to the hon. Minister of Fisheries. So that to keep the matter clear before the House, I think that I would have to rule in view of that remark unless the hon. Minister of Fisheries has some other points to make in terms of a personal point of privilege - I have to emphasize the word personal because, as I say, we have to keep the order of events in a clear fashion - unless the Minister of Fisheries has other remarks to make on his point of personal privilege I have to rule that there is not a personal point of privilege before the Chair in relation to the hon. Minister of Fisheries.

Before recognizing the hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) again, I would point out though that I think the Chair has to take note of the fact that certain words were used which in the ordinary interpretation would be considered unparliamentary. I think the ordinary interpretation of lining one's pockets is a derogatory term at least. And as that term certainly is at least out of order, I would think that the hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir should withdraw that term from the official records of the House. I might point out in doing that that it is unparliamentary. I need only quote one little part of Beauchesne on this I think. There are many parts one could quote. But in Beauchesne, 155, subsection (2), it says examples of unparliamentary remarks are such remarks as, "that he acted basely and from base motives." It is immaterial what an hon. member thinks or what he feels or what he writes or what he says to his neighbor. The point about it is that it is unparliamentary to make such statements in the House. It is quite, as I say, immaterial any other aspect of the matter, but it is unparliamentary to make such statements and the job of the Chair is clearly to make sure that the rules do apply.

So I do have to rule that the statement that some hon. members, groups of hon. members, might be lining their pockets is an unparliamentary statement and I have to therefore ask the hon.

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins):

member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir if he will withdraw that remark.

The hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I used the remark in the full knowledge that it has been used at least thousands of times in this House. If Mr. Speaker feels it is not within the parliamentary framework of language I certainly withdraw the statement, if that is the case, and I seek the indulgence of the House that I used it in the full knowledge that it has been used many hundreds of times since my coming into this House and I can produce Hansard records to substantiate that.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

If the hon. member will permit me just to comment on that point, my understanding is that the hon. member has withdrawn the remark. If there are other examples in Hansard where this remarks was not unparliamentary, I will certainly make the necessary change in my ruling at a later stage and I will endeavour to confirm that or otherwise. But I would accept that the hon. member at this point in time has recognized the ruling and has acceded to it.

The hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir.

MR. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: Excuse me, the hon. member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells) was going to make a point of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir has the floor unless the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) is raising a point of order.

MR. NEARY: No the hon. member for Kilbride -

MR. WELLS: Mr. Speaker, I indicated that I would as soon as you had dealt with the other point of privilege raise another point of privilege. I was outside the Chamber and I am not sure exactly what he said. But when I came in I believe I heard the hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir make comments to the effect that I said something at some time, exactly what it was I am not sure. But the point is, Mr. Speaker, when an hon. member stands in this House and says something of that sort he must of himself know it to be true. So if I have said anything at any

MR. WELLS:

time about anybody that the hon. member and that member is referring to, then he has to be in a position to say that he is aware of it, that I said certain things either orally or in writing to him, not that he got it third hand, second hand, fourth hand, fifth hand or whatever but that I said to him certain things. Is the hon. member saying that I said to him certain things?

MR. NEARY: No.

MR. WELLS: He is not. Well then I would ask, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. member withdraw these allegations. He has no personal knowledge of them. He cannot give any opinion as to the truth or otherwise of anything that he alleges I said. Only the person to whom I said anything or wrote anything can give that. So the hon. member is speaking, I presume, second or third hand. Is that correct? If so, as a man of some honour and a member of this House with the confidence of the people

MR. WELLS:

in the district who elected him here and with the responsibility that all members in the House owe and bear to other members, I would ask that member, Mr. Speaker, to withdraw because he does not know of what he speaks. He has been told, I presume, something by others, but if I did not say anything to him or write anything to him whereof he speaks then as a man of decency and honour, which I presume he is, he will withdraw it, Mr. Speaker, because he has no such knowledge.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Kilbride, Sir, obviously thinks now that he is down before a judge down in the Supreme Court. The hon. gentleman is in the House of Assembly and the hon. gentleman has issued a challenge to my hon. colleague, the member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir, to produce evidence, I presume that is what the hon. gentleman is asking for, to produce evidence, Sir, that the hon. member for Kilbride did in fact make certain charges and allegations in a telephone conversation -

MR. WELLS: I am asking (inaudible).

MR. NEARY: I am on a point of privilege, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I would ask hon. members if they would kindly take their seats for a moment. Order, please! A point of privilege was brought before the Chair. At this point in time and from my recollection of remarks in the debate, I am at a disadvantage in knowing precisely the matter that is the personal point of privilege. There were remarks made that skirted around a certain subject but that subject, to my knowledge, and I am open to correction if hon. members wish us to review the tapes, but to my knowledge there was no clear delineation of a situation or no clear statement of certain remarks. I wonder if the hon. member for Kilbride would perhaps outline a bit more precisely the matter -

MR. NEARY: I am not finished speaking to the point of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! The Chair hears in terms of points of order and points of privilege as much as it considers useful. There is

MR. SPEAKER: no obligation to hear any member on either point, but the Chair has to be in a position to understand the points that are brought up and this is what I am endeavouring to do.

MR. R. WELLS: Mr. Speaker, I think the point here is that the member for LaPoile is not the member to whom I have directed this point of privilege, nor is he the member to answer this question. He can deal with whatever he wants when it involves him in his own time. The question, and it trying to be side-stepped now by the hon. member for LaPoile, the question was to the member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir if he knew or if he was aware or if he can stand behind personally what he said, not what transcripts, tapes and that sort of stuff that the member for LaPoile might have. That is quite a different matter and that too will be dealt with in due course. But the question now involves one member only, and the member for LaPoile cannot speak for him, he must speak for himself as to whether he has personal knowledge of anything that I said at any time to anyone, and this means personal. It does not involve, Mr. Speaker, the member for LaPoile. If he wants to speak on the point of privilege, I would suggest that it come after because if the member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir is not prepared to stand up and deal with this matter and tell us what his personal knowledge is, then obviously my point is clearly made and he must withdraw. But it rests with him. The member for LaPoile can deal with whatever matter he wants to deal with involving himself at a later date but we are talking about a different thing now.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! A point of personal privilege was brought before the Chair. In determining a point of privilege, as has been stated many times there are two cardinal points: One - prima facie, two - earliest opportunity. I think in considering the first aspect, that is prima facie, clearly the point of privilege has to be a distinct, self-evident one. I do have to rule therefore that at this point in time, unless the hon. member for Kilbride, and this I would certainly say that this would be within his rights, at this point in time without going to the tapes I am not aware of any clearly, distinctly well-heard series of remarks that would impinge

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins):

on privilege are before the House, at least none that I heard. There were certain remarks made but I do not feel that there were any remarks made that would establish a prima facie case of privilege. I would propose to leave it at that unless the hon. member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells) would wish that we do consult the tapes.

MR. P. WELLS: What I do suggest, Mr. Speaker, is we then leave the matter at this point. When Hansard is available I will review it and bring it to the attention of the Chair at the earliest possible time if it was said; I believe I heard it but if Your Honour did not hear -

MR. S. NEARY: What was said?

MR. P. WELLS: I am not sure. Something to the effect that I made derogatory remarks of some kind against somebody.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible) crooks. A bunch of crooks..

MR. NEARY: What were the (inaudible)

MR. P. WELLS: I have not the faintest idea what they were, Mr. Speaker, but I will examine the -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Does the hon. member remember the conversation on the tapes?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. P. WELLS: No, the hon. member does not remember saying that.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Kilbride, should he bring an extract from Hansard before the Chair this would therefore be considered at the earliest opportunity.

MR. S. NEARY: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of privilege. The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I want to indicate to Your Honour - I am not challenging Your Honour's ruling, Sir - but when points of privilege and points of order come up, Sir, it is the right of this House, members on either side of the House, to debate the matter back and forth: one on that side, one on this side; two on that side, two on this side. My hon.

MR. S. NEARY:

friend, Sir - I got cut down, I was trying to

defend -

MR. SPEAKER (Collins):

Order, please!

MR. S. NEARY:

No, hold on now, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please! Order, please!

MR. NEARY:

Why do we not get the Speaker back in the Chair -

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. S. NEARY:

- to get some order in this House.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

I would ask the hon. member if he would withdraw

that remark, please.

MR. S. NEARY:

I withdraw it, Sir, but I only wish the Speaker

were in the Chair, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

If the hon. member will permit me, I would bring

to the attention of the hon. members -

MR. NEARY:

(Inaudible) prejudiced (inaudible).

MR. SPEAKER:

- that when a point - Order, please! -

When the chair is -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

The Chair is in a difficult position if it is not permitted to carry out its duties as it sees fit. When the Chair is addressing the House it is common courtesy for the hon. members to allow the Chair to complete the remarks, and if that does not happen the only alternative would be to adjourn the House on a temporary basis, which I would hesitate to do. In completing these remarks I would just like to make this point; when a point of privilege is brought before the Chair the first duty of the Chair is to determine whether it feels there is a

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): prima facie case. In doing so, it may be assisted by hon. members from either side but this is not an obligation; this is within the prerogative of the Chair to decide whether it needs such assistance. If the Chair decides that it can make a clear-cut decision I do not feel that it is necessary to impinge on the time of the House in hearing remarks which are clearly not necessary to make a decision, and this is the reason why I proceeded as I did.

MR. S. NEARY: On a point of privilege, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of privilege. Hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, Your Honour has given the member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells) the right to examine Hansard, and after so doing, Sir, if the hon. gentleman thinks that his rights, that his privileges have been breached in this hon. House, by anybody on this side, Sir, and I am speaking for our side of the House - I can speak for the hon. gentleman, the hon. gentleman has authorized to do so, and it is not a personal thing, the hon. gentleman does have evidence and has seen the evidence but, Mr. Speaker, we will deal with that later - but we are not going to sit on our rights on this side of the House. If the hon. gentleman brings in a statement in Hansard that my hon. friend made, then we will produce the evidence, Sir - I want to make that abundantly clear to the members of the House and to the member for Kilbride - that he will lay the evidence on the table of the House to prove that the hon. gentleman did make such statements.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. S. NEARY: And we will do that in due course.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. R. WELLS: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of privilege. Hon. member for Kilbride.

MR. R. WELLS: I presume the hon. member is suggesting -

MR. SIMMONS: It is okay for him to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. SPEAKER: Again, I must try to keep the proceedings as clear-cut as possible. The hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) rose on a point of privilege. I therefore have to rule whether I see a prima facie case in terms of privilege and the other does not apply. But, clearly, there is no prima facie case of privilege. At most, the hon. member rose on a point of explanation or remark, and

MR. SPEAKER: (Dr. Collins) I do not think there was any privilege in his remarks that the Chair can possibly rule on, so I will therefore recognize the hon. the member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I hope also, in passing, the member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells) will do me the courtesy of explaining to me, perhaps privately if he would, or in the House, what his point of privilege was, because I really do not understand the point of privilege which he raised. Perhaps when he finds it in Hansard, as I assure him he will because I said in very definitive terms, very definite terms what he alleged I said, and when he gets Hansard I am sure he may want to raise another point of privilege again.

But, Mr. Speaker, the thing that befuddles me about the issue he raised - and I give him this for feedback as he might want to put it in his pipe and smoke it and then talk to me about it either in the House or outside - but he is talking about whether it is my personal, first-hand knowledge. Well, if that is the limitation of what is fact and what is not fact, then I suggest that he in his capacity as a lawyer, if he does not witness the act of murder he will not admit there has been a crime. I was not, in the first instance -

MR. WELLS: Mr. Speaker, a point of order.

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

MR. WELLS: Your Honour has ruled on something and said, 'Very well, we will wait until I examine Hansard and if I wish to raise a point of privilege, okay.' Well, that in a normal, sensible forum would settle the matter until Hansard is available. But we are still now, and the hon. member has gone back to his remarks, he is

MR. WELLS: still dealing with the very point that, because of a ruling of Your Honour, has to wait until Hansard is ready, is not to be discussed, and he is still dealing with it. I would ask the hon. member for the common courtesy to wait. If we have to deal with this matter, we will deal with it here in the House. Well, it is no good, surely, Mr. Speaker, for the Chair to make a ruling and then it immediately be ignored and the same subject started on again. I mean, this is common, orderly courtesy which one would expect.

MR. NEARY: Do not be interrupting now.

MR. WELLS: And I am speaking on a point of order and I would ask that the hon. member not be interrupting me. So I mean, I think common courtesy - and I think, if necessary, the Chair would have to remind the hon. gentleman that the matter has been ruled upon, it stands for the moment until further proceeded with and that it is really out of order now to discuss the very same thing over again. Otherwise, Your Honour, I shall have to get up on precisely the same point of privilege.

MR. SIMMONS: To the point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: (Dr. Collins) To the point of order, the hon. the member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, to the point of order. First of all, it is very ill-advised for the member to get up and lecture me on decency and that kind of stuff, very ill-advised after what I know about his limits on decency. Now, Mr. Speaker, look, the Mr. Speaker did not rule that the matter be deferred. Mr. Speaker agreed to it at the request of the member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells) that he, the member for Kilbride, would have opportunity to check Hansard before deciding whether he would raise a

MR. SIMMONS: matter of privilege further, and that is where the matter rested. Mr. Speaker did not order that, he just thought it might be an advisable step to make. I did not in any way in my subsequent comments before he rose on his latest point of order, take exception to the ruling. Mr. Speaker at no time made the subject matter of my earlier remarks out of bounds or out of limits, because it has not been established yet whether my first remarks were unparliamentary. Nobody has submitted they are unparliamentary. The member has said that he might want to raise the matter. I said to him honestly a moment ago I do not even know what matter it is he is raising, ^So how can I skate clear, Mr. Speaker, of the entire alleged matter he wishes to raise if I do not know what the matter is even? And I was not in any way wishing to raise the ire of the Chair or otherwise object to the Chair's ruling. I was just pursuing the comment I made earlier to the effect that I understood from documented evidence that the member for Kilbride has said that there are people over there ~~whom~~ he classifies as a bunch of crooks - that is all I said. I was not there when he said it, Mr. Speaker, like he was not there when the murder was committed, but does that mean that because he did not see the murder committed he does not believe a crime was committed, because he personally was not there when the guy stabbed the other fellow? Is that what he is telling me?

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

On the same point of order.

MR. WELLS: The hon. gentleman is using an analogy which does not hold water. He is waving around documents over there, which I gather from what the

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MR. WELLS: member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary)
has said earlier in the debates in this House, are
purported recordings of private telephone conversations
or a private telephone conversation allegedly made between
me and somebody else, certainly not

MR. WELLS: the member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons). I do not think I have ever talked to him on the telephone - well, I probably have but it cannot be that. I do not suppose even he is saying that there is some conversation between him and me. So somewhere they have what purports to be a recording of a telephone conversation. That in itself raises an interesting thing, Mr. Speaker, because to intercept and record another person's telephone conversation has a penalty of five years attached to it under the Criminal Code of Canada.

MR. SPEAKER: (Dr. Collins): Order, please! In getting back to the point of order, I feel that the issue will become confused and clouded unless I make a remark at this stage.

In regard to the point of order that was brought up, I would like to clarify something that the hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) said that the Chair ruled on. The ruling was that there was no prima facie case of privilege before the Chair. However, if the hon. member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells) in consulting Hansard felt that there was a prima facie case and he did bring it forth at that time, it would be recognized as being at the earliest opportunity. That was the substance of the ruling. It was not to give the hon. member for Kilbride any extra privileges, which the Chair is not in a position to do. It was just to agree that if Hansard was brought forward, which we have not got before us now, if that was brought forward at a later stage it would be considered the earliest possible time.

In regard to the point of order in talking about this matter, I do not think the hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) did discuss in subsequent remarks the substance of any possible later point of privilege. He talked hypothetically about a number of things. So I do not think that this could be ruled out of order. However, perhaps I could be permitted to say that it might be as well if we let this whole area lie until such time as a point of privilege is or is not brought before the Chair.

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

MR. NEARY: A point of privilege of the House,
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A point of privilege.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells) in his previous point of order, stated, Sir, that it would be a very serious matter indeed for anybody to intercept a telephone conversation between two people. And I want to make it abundantly clear, Sir, that my hon. friend did not intercept any telephone conversation, neither did the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) intercept any telephone conversations. So therefore, Sir, we would not be subject, as the hon. gentleman said, to imprisonment up to five years.

But the hon. the Premier, Sir, in a previous admission in this House, admitted that the hon. gentleman, Sir, did tape conversations between the hon. the Premier and one Mr. Andrew Davidson. Now is the hon. member for Kilbride, with his legal background, stating that the hon. the Premier has violated the rules of this House, has violated the laws of this land by taping conversations - incoming, I presume, or outgoing, I do not care which - between the hon. the Premier and Mr. Davidson, that the hon. the Premier has left himself wide open for imprisonment up to five years, is this what the hon. gentleman is saying?

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

The hon. member has risen on a point of privilege and made some remarks which again I cannot define as being within privilege in terms of a matter that the Chair can decide on. Certain remarks were made and certain questions were asked but I cannot see a point of privilege before the Chair, certainly in a prima facie way. So I would say that these remarks were more of an interjectory character than a point of privilege.

MR. NEARY: A point of privilege again, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. Collins): A point of privilege.

MR. NEARY: A breach of the privilege of the hon. members of this House, Sir, a different point of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. member will just permit me: If he is raising on a point of privilege, could he please state precisely what privilege and if possible cite an authority which privilege has been violated?

The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, all the privileges of the House are violated in this one. The hon. gentleman, Mr. Speaker, threatened members of the Opposition in the carrying out of their duties. The hon. gentleman said that if my hon. friend, or myself, or anybody on the Opposition benches, comes into possession of documents, transcripts, tapes, that they were not responsible for, that the hon. members would - and the hon. gentleman, Sir, Hansard can bear me out on this - that hon. members on this side of the House would be liable for five years imprisonment, which is impeding the duties of hon. members of this House.

MR. WELLS: Depending how they got it.

MR. NEARY: Depending on how they got it. Mr. Speaker, it does not make any difference how members of this House get information as long as they have not broken the law, as long as they did not break the law.

MR. NEARY:

Information, Sir, was passed to members of this House on a confidential basis, privately, and we do not divulge our sources of information, Mr. Speaker, at any time and the hon. gentleman knows that.

MR. WELLS: (Inaudible)

MR. NEARY: I am on a point of privilege, if the hon. gentleman would just sit down.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The hon. member for LaPoile is on a point of privilege. I have to hear what he has to say.

MR. NEARY: So, Mr. Speaker, I would submit, Sir, that through threats and innuendos by hon. members on the opposite side of the House, especially the member for Kilbride, that members on this side of the House are now being threatened that if they do their duty, if they table documents, if they show this House transcripts or play tapes in this House that they are liable to five years in prison. I think, Sir, that is silly nonsense and the member for Kilbride should withdraw it or the spokesman for the government side of the House should insist that that is not so. Otherwise, Sir, our privileges in this House are impeded and breached.

MR. WELLS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of privilege.

MR. WELLS: I think Mr. Speaker has to realize what has just happened. The hon. member stood up and made a point of privilege. I was about to reply to it - in which he made a speech with all sorts of allegations as is his custom, I was about to reply to it and Your Honour sat me down. Then he immediately gets up with another point of privilege, which Your Honour allows, a second speech along the same sort of lines. Now, Your Honour, either matters are resolved in this House on an orderly and proper basis. but certainly what is happening this afternoon does not appear to be that.

What I said was very simple; that when you end up with what purports to be a recorded telephone conversation of another person or other persons, the onus is on you to prove that you have them legitimately.

MR. WELLS:

In other words, the prima facie, it is a crime punishable by imprisonment for five years by the Criminal Code. I have not got the Criminal Code here at the moment but I can find it easily enough. And the onus is on the person with the conversation to prove where the conversation came with. In other words, if I, Your Honour, have your telephone conversation taped on a tape or whatever, the onus is on me to prove that I did not take it.

MR. NEARY: By bringing the tape into the House.

MR. WELLS: Well it does not matter because, the authenticity of the thing has to be proven by the person who took it. That is the whole point and that is the point I made. And to talk about intimidation of the other side of the House and that sort of thing is arrant nonsense, Your Honour, and is not worthy of being said let alone being given any credence.

Now the point is that this matter presumably is going to be dealt with and let it be dealt with. But, Your Honour, I do not think it is fair to the privileges of the members of the House to allow speeches of the sort that have been made when anyone presumably then can jump up on a point of privilege and make a speech not on the point of privilege but trying to get little digs and jabs in by the back door and that is what has happened this afternoon, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: The hon. member started it all.

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

MR. WELLS: This hon. member does not have to sit and listen to things without objecting. We all have rights in this House.

MR. SIMMONS: Nor do we. Nor do we.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. WELLS: And I would like to know what I out in the corridor said to the hon. member that constituted something that would cause him to bring up something of which he has no personal knowledge.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible)

MR. WELLS: Yes, everybody does, including the hon. member.

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

MR. NEARY: Sit down! Sit down!

MR. WELLS: Do not give your instructions.

MR. NEARY: Sit down for the Speaker's ruling.

MR. WELLS: Do not give your instructions.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

A point of privilege was brought before the Chair and the Chair has to decide is there enough substance to warrant interrupting all of the proceedings in the House to consider the matter brought forward. I think that it is clear that there is a difference of interpretation of certain events that have recently taken place. And I would also bring to the attention of hon. members that there has been some indication given that there may be a point of privilege brought up at a later date when certain information is available from Hansard. Therefore it does not seem to me that any useful purpose at this stage, nor does it seem clear to the Chair that it is necessary that all business before the House now be suspended in order to go into a matter that has been discussed at some length already and for which there may be more certain information available in the near future.

I would therefore rule that the recent remarks did not constitute a point of privilege. They clearly

MR. SPEAKER: constituted a point of disagreement between hon. members and I would so rule and ask the hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir to continue with his remarks.

MR. SIMMONS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The particular ruling I do not take exception to or I do not want to comment on but I do want to comment on the - and I want to make that distinction, Mr. Speaker, and if you think I am getting out of order I would like for you to tell me so very quickly - but I want to comment on the larger thing. The member came in here from Kilbride and used a ploy to get me off a line of discussion. He has now succeeded and I submit, Mr. Speaker, he will never go to Hansard and he will never raise it. So he has now succeeded, Mr. Speaker, in stifling my line of thought on a particular issue because Mr. Speaker has just ordered me -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! A point of order.

MR. WELLS: Mr. Speaker -

MR. SIMMONS: That was his despicable ploy in the first place.

MR. WELLS: The hon. member talks about despicable behaviour, Honestly! The point is, Mr. Speaker, that it is not permitted for an hon. member to raise these sort of allegations against other members of the House, talking about despicable ploys and all the rest of it. It is puerile, Mr. Speaker, beyond belief. It is the sort of thing that has brought this House to the state it is in. I would ask Your Honour to declare these remarks unparliamentary, rule them out of order.

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

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, what we are seeing this afternoon - I am not as good at the multi-syllabis phraseology as the member and so I use the word despicable often because I do not have grander terms that say the same thing - but what we are seeing this afternoon from the member for Kilbride, Mr. Speaker, using points of order with skill, points of privilege with great skill, attempting to manipulate the Chair with skill, with some success, I may add, Mr. Speaker, with no reflection on Mr. Speaker, with some success he has now conned the Chair into getting

MR. SIMMONS: me off a subject. That is what he came in here to do this afternoon. That is what he came in here to do in the first place. He does not want to hear it. I will tell him now, if he will allow me - and I am at the point now where I have to get permission not from the Chair but from the member for Kilbride. He calls the shots this afternoon - I will tell him that I will make no more reference to the transcript. I will tell him in more direct terms what I think his relationship is in that caucus over there if that is what he would like to hear but that is what he does not want to hear. He likes to say one thing on the phone and then get here and hypocritically say and pretend something else in the House. When are you going to stand up and be counted, boy? When are you going to stand up and be counted?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please! A point of order is before the Chair, but in speaking to the point of order the hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir did overstep bounds that I cannot let go. In commenting further I would say that clearly we are getting into an area that I had hoped to avoid by trying to keep the issues as brief and as clear as possible. But I would ask the hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir if he would withdraw his remark 'hypocritical'. This is clearly unparliamentary. I could find this quite easily and to accuse an hon. member of being a hypocrite is clearly unparliamentary. So if he would withdraw that remark, then we can dispose of the point of order quite quickly.

MR. SIMMONS: Is hypocritical unparliamentary too, now? Well, Mr. Speaker, again I did it in my ignorance. I did not realize it was unparliamentary. I withdraw it. If it is unparliamentary I withdraw it. I am pleased to note that Mr. Speaker did not ask me to withdraw the other inference I made which conveys the same message. The member should stand up and be counted.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! My understanding is that the hon. member has withdrawn the remark that was unparliamentary. In ruling on the point of order, it is a little difficult to keep all these things in mind, but my understanding was that the hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir said

MR. SPEAKER: that the hon. member for Kilbride undertook a certain action to interfere with the line of his debate and this was the substance of the point of order. I do not think there is anything to rule on in terms of a point of order in that regard. This was an opinion held and I cannot see that there is anything that I have to rule on in that regard.

The hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir.

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible) interruptions (inaudible).

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! The hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir has the attention of the House.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker,

MR. SIMMONS: since the member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells) has interjected himself into the debate to such a degree this afternoon, I think we should learn something from him; learn that at some point a man, a woman, half a man, half a woman, a child, half a child, at some point should stand up and be counted.

You cannot forever, Mr. Speaker, say one thing in this House where the window dressing has to be done, and say something else in another forum, more private - at least at the time you say it you think it is more private. You cannot say one thing in the public forum for window dressing, another in the private forum for substance, particularly when these two are mutually exclusive, when the two allegations you are making or assertions are making are mutually exclusive. They do not allow each other. They are diametrically opposed. They are opposites. One says that, and the other one says that, which is directly opposite of the first. You cannot keep doing that, Mr. Speaker, without getting caught. You cannot keep doing that, Mr. Speaker. You cannot keep doing that and hope, Mr. Speaker, to hide behind protection because we cannot use certain terminology. I know what it is, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order.

MR. SIMMONS: I cannot say it here but I know what it is.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! A point of order.

MR. WELLS: The hon. member is still trying to do exactly the same thing.

MR. WHITE: What are you talking about? He is not talking about you.

MR. NEARY: The hon. member is paranoid.

MR. WELLS: He refers to the hon. member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells) and then goes into a spiel which a man would have to have no mind in his head at all, Mr. Speaker, if it was not clear exactly what the hon. member was referring to. He talks about me, and the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) talks about me being upset; the point is if you want to know what the member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells) is upset about it is simply this - not upset. But the member for Kilbride does not appreciate private telephone conversation presumably being taped -

MR. NEARY: Well tell the Premier.

MR. WELLS: - when they were taped, by whom they were taped he does not know, and when it all took place, when it was -

MR. NEARY: - Tell the Premier that.

MR. WELLS: The other thing the member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells) objects to is members of th's House being sent here by the public to do a public duty who would lower themselves, that is the only word I can find, Mr. Speaker, to have transcripts of another member's telephone conversations, or which they say are, and make an issue out of it in the House. And if the hon. members opposite want to know what disturbs me, or worries me, or torments me about this issue, that is the issue. That is the issue.

MR. SIMONS: Too bad we are not more like the examiner.

MR. WELLS: That is the issue. We will examine it.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman has made probably a half decent point of order, not against my hon. friend but the hon. gentleman has raised a very interesting question in his point of order. The hon. the Premier, as I said previously, has admitted to taping a conversation between the hon. the Premier and Mr. Andrew Davidson. The hon. the Premier has admitted that. Now is my hon. friend saying that the hon. the Premier

MR. NEARY: in so doing has made himself into the lowest form of life? And Dick Greene, the former bagman of the Tory Party, the hon. gentleman's former law partner, did the same thing. Both gentlemen said they did it for their own protection. Mr. Davidson may say that when he was talking to the hon. member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells) that he did it for his own protection. Now is there anything wrong with that? Is that illegal?

MR. WELLS: The hon. gentleman has invited one to respond.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. WELLS: Now, you see, we have another question addressed to me and I cannot respond, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! A point of order has come up and I did allow a certain latitude which I felt was useful in making the remarks because I think that the remarks made did clearly show that we are talking here of a point of difference of opinion on a certain subject. There is not anything that is unparliamentary or anything outside the standing rules of the House that I can order on, and I would ask the hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir if he would continue his remarks.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, the member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells) and I agree on a number of subjects and one of them is that I was talking about him a few minutes ago. There is no indirect allusion. I was talking about him. Of course I was talking about him. And if it is only the tapes he objects to I will make a commitment to him now, I will not mention the tapes **this** afternoon anymore. I will not mention them **this** afternoon.

MR. WELLS: Mr. Speaker, would the hon. member yield a moment?

MR. WHITE: No. Sit down. Sit down.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I have been yielding for the last hour and a half and I still have not heard the first point of order.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

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MR. SIMMONS:

I will say a few things momentarily -

MR. WHITE:

About the Mount Pearl stadium,

MR. SIMMONS:

- about the Mount Pearl arena.

MR. WHITE:

Yes. Yes.

MR. P. SIMMONS: I have been challenged by the Minister of Fisheries and the Minister of Tourism to talk about people lining their pockets. I will respond on that one, and the member for Mount Pearl (Mr. N. Windsor) will be interested in hearing what I have to say. He might not be pleased with what I have to say but he will be interested. He is advised to take interest in it because the matter will not rest here this afternoon.

Now let us deal with the member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells) first since he has been at me for the last hour and a half trying to get me off the subject, I suppose. I do not know what he is trying to do. I thought he was trying to do something. As soon as I assign another motive he is up again and I play into his hands again and he gets us nearer the adjournment hour without getting back to the guts of the issue I want to talk about this afternoon.

Now I will not talk, Mr. Speaker, I will give him the undertaking if that is the touchy subject this afternoon that I will not talk about the tapes. I ask him now to view my preceding comments before his most recent point of order without reference to the tapes, and I ask him to take the dichotomous situation I was setting up where a person says one thing in a public forum - and let us stop talking about 'a person' - when the member for Kilbride says one thing in this public forum, I say for window-dressing, and says another thing in a private forum, and I am not necessarily talking about telephone conversations; I am talking about conversations for sure, and he keeps saying these things, they being mutually exclusive, contradictory -

MR. R. WELLS: (Inaudible) do you?

MR. P. SIMMONS: Oh, he is onto this trick again, Mr. Speaker, that the only truth is what you personally hear yourself. Do not believe it is daylight out there, Mr. Speaker, because you cannot see the window. I can tell him but, you see, that is second-hand. If I tell Mr. Speaker it is daylight out there, that is second-hand and therefore he should not take my word for it, therefore it is not true - if we follow the line of thought laid out this afternoon by the member for Kilbride.

MR. WELLS: Anybody can say anything (inaudible).

MR. R. SIMONS: Mr. Speaker, it comes back, and the member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells) knows full well, that it comes back to the question of whether the information being given can be considered reasonable. And if I say to Mr. Speaker right now that it is daylight outside, his knowledge and looking at the clock, his knowledge of matters relating to daylight and dark, will tell him that I am probably telling him the truth. If, Mr. Speaker, in the discussion I am pursuing, if I hear over and over and over again what the member for Kilbride is saying in smaller, less public groups, eventually I say to myself, 'You know, perhaps there is some truth' because it confirms, there is a certain consistency in - he has a reputation around the City and around the Province for taking the Premier apart, for example, not here in this House, Mr. Speaker, he votes with him here in the House, and that is what I am talking about, Mr. Speaker. All I am saying is that eventually that kind of inconsistent behaviour where you do one thing here and something else quite different outside this House is eventually going to catch up with you. And that is all I was trying to say a minute ago, that we should learn a lesson from the member for Kilbride.

MR. P. WELLS: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Point of order. Hon. member for Kilbride.

MR. R. WELLS: You see, these are allegations which the hon. member admits that he has no personal knowledge of and yet he stands up, second-hand, pure hearsay, and says something which he, himself, admits he has no knowledge of the truth of, and that against another member of this House, Mr. Speaker, is unpardonable and now allowable. Because if it is allowed, Mr. Speaker, then I or any member of this House can say absolutely anything about any other member of this House sitting here and saying, 'Oh, somebody else told me, a dozen people told me, I heard it all over the place'. If that is allowed, Mr. Speaker, then all semblance of orderly, sensible debate goes out of this House

MR. R. WELLS: and this House becomes a pit then, a snakepit, in which allegations of all kinds are made without any substantiation. That is what I am fighting here this afternoon. That is fundamental because if one day it could be me, the next day it could be the member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons). Anybody can be fair game. I can go home and write up a transcript of an alleged conversation that the member for Lewisporte (Mr. White) or anybody made -

MR. S. NEARY: Can you play the tape?

MR. R. WELLS: The people with more technical expertise than I, Mr. Speaker, can doctor tapes, can make tapes say anything. This is a known fact.

MR. NEARY: Ah ha!

MR. R. WELLS: This is a known fact. I certainly do not trust these allegations and the hon. member himself does not know if they are true, or not. This is the point I am making, Mr. Speaker, if that is allowed, then this -

MR. NEARY: There is somebody who knows they are true.

MR. SIMMONS: How long do you need to make it?

MR. R. WELLS: Well, apparently, until it is heard.

MR. SIMMONS: Well at some point, give up so that we can go on with (inaudible).

MR. R. WELLS: No, at some point it must be heard. At some point it must be recognized that any human institution, more particularly a House of Parliament, runs on some basic rules

MR. WELLS:

and these are rules of decency and rules of fairness and rules of conduct of one member towards another based on hearsay. And this is the point I am making, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMMONS: To the point of order, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult after the exchange and the name calling we have heard from the member about my Tow behaviour and that kind of thing, it is very difficult to hear a lecture from him about dignity and decorum and that kind of stuff but, you know, sanctimoniousness, I guess, varies with the individual and some people have a fuller load of it than others. And 'load' is the proper word, Mr. Speaker.

But to the point of order, Mr. Speaker, we can clear this up very quickly. The member has been asking questions of me all this afternoon. We can clear this point of order up very quickly. Will the member for Kilbride now tell the House without qualification that he has never made any of the kinds of remarks outside this House that I indicated he had? I am telling him and I am telling the House that I have it from literally dozens of sources. Now perhaps all my sources are wrong, but I am asking the member will he say without qualification that he has never said anything disparaging about the Premier outside the House? Will he say that without qualification? Will he say that?

MR. WELLS: Not only that, I would go and frankly say that I have made remarks critical of this government in this House many times. You know, after all it is a free country. But that is not the point of order. The point of order, Mr. Speaker, is repeating things of which one has no personal knowledge in this House by one member against another. That is the real point of order.

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

MR. SPEAKER: I will hear one more hon. member.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Kilbride, Sir, has been under a little bit of an attack by my hon. friend, the member for Burgeo and the hon. gentleman, Sir, keeps interrupting my hon. colleague, keeps interrupting his speech. For some reason or other the hon.

MR. NEARY:

gentleman does not want to hear what my colleague has to say and the whole idea is to destroy the continuity of my hon. friend's speech. Now if the hon. gentleman does not like to hear it, the hon. gentleman can go out in the common room and have a coffee. But, Your Honour, it is not in keeping with the spirit and the rules of this House and the decorum and the dignity of the House for an hon. gentleman to come in and keep deliberately raising points of order and points of privilege interrupting my hon. friend who is trying to speak in the budget debate. That is unfair, unkind, uncouth. And my hon. friend should be asked by the Chair to restrain himself and not be abusing the privileges and the rules of this hon. House.

MR. WELLS: Mr. Speaker, to that allegation.

MR. NEARY: Your Honour said one more -

MR. SPEAKER: Since the hon. gentleman was so closely related to the remarks of the hon. member to my right, I think it is only fair.

MR. WELLS: Mr. Speaker, Your Honour has sat in this House with me for I think six years partly and part of the time as a member and more latterly as Speaker. So has the hon. gentleman over there. If anyone can point to any occasion at any time when I have ever abused the rules of this House or any member in it, then either today or at any time I defy him to find it because this is one thing that I am most meticulous about, Mr. Speaker, and I have never contributed to the lowering of the standards of this House. But I am up today because I feel that an approach is being taken which is out of order and I am within my rights in raising it and I am not raising it with language that is contrary to the decorum of this House or in any way brings disrepute upon this House. And I have not this afternoon or at any time, Mr. Speaker, and my record can stand there.

MR. SPEAKER: The point of order and my decision on it are as follows: The point of order is related to the responsibility members have for what they say. That is how I understand it. The essential privilege, of course, of the House of Assembly is freedom of speech. There are certain responsibilities which go with that and certain

MR. SPEAKER:

restrictions on it. They are quite limited and quite specific. I am only aware at the moment of three: One, sub judice. In certain instances when a matter is sub judice - there is no need to go into detail on that - that is obviously a curb on freedom of speech.

Another

MR. SPEAKER:

is that a person is responsible for what he says. He is responsible for what he says when he offers it as his own and he is responsible for what is said indirectly; in other words, that is the rule that one may not allege indirectly what one may not allege directly. If something cannot be said directly, then it cannot be said indirectly or rhetorically or any other way. And the third area is offensive language. I think that it is basically the last two on which I draw the attention of hon. members. All hon. members are responsible for what they say with respect to one another. The laws of libel do not operate here and what one may say of somebody outside of the House has immunity from libel, but one is responsible for what one says about another hon. member, either directly or indirectly. I think that is what hon. members have to bear in mind, and also the absolute need of avoiding offensive language. I think those are the two matters which I draw to the attention of hon. members.

MR. SIMMONS:

Mr. Speaker, perhaps I ought to raise the following point as a matter of privilege, but I do not want to prolong the time of the House and I do not want to be accused of misusing the point of privilege so I will just raise a question, if I can do it this way. The Speaker has made reference to insulting, offensive language and I would just like for the record to know if I have said something during the course of debate which the Chair finds in the category of offensive language, because if so, I would like to have it pointed out to me so I could make the appropriate withdrawal.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. SIMMONS:

There may be an inference there, that is my question.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I feel required to intervene here. What I was endeavouring to do was, with respect to the point of order, to point out what I consider to be a most important and essential privilege of members, and that is freedom of speech, and then to indicate the three restrictions on it -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!
- that goes without saying, even up here - the three restrictions on it, the sub judice restriction; the restriction that one is responsible for what one says about another hon. member directly or indirectly, by inference or by direct statement, however it is said; and also the area of offensive language. That was what I was pointing out. I was not stating that since I have been in the Chair, the past five or six minutes, however long it is, that there has been offensive language, but merely showing the three restrictions under which we all operate.

MR. SIMMONS: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Now that we have cleared the air on that particular issue, perhaps the member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells) will take some feedback in what even might sound like a kinder vein. He may feel that I have had motives this afternoon in pursuing the line of thought - I get the impression from his interjections that he feels that way. He may feel that, and that is his entitlement. But aside from that and apart from that, he would be well advised to hear the substance of what I have said, to cogitate on it, because the impression is clearly abroad that the member communicates to very different, diverse and mutually exclusive lines of argument, I guess, or lines of thought about the government. That impression is clearly abroad and he would be well advised to think on that one. Very widespread that impression is. It may only be

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MR. SIMMONS: an impression, he may be the victim of circumstance, but there are many people who follow politics very closely in this Province who believe what I just said very genuinely. It has nothing to do with motives and it has nothing to do with being low or despicable or anything of that nature. The member can hang those labels on it and dismiss it, or he can protect his rear and he can just go out and talk to some other people who do not have as partisan a label in the member's eye as I do, and he will find that there are others who are saying the very same thing that I have reflected here this afternoon. Now it took a while to get that through, Mr. Speaker, it took just about an hour, but being an old schoolteacher at heart, sometimes if you

MR. SIMMONS: have a recalcitrant pupil or one who has rose colored glasses on -

AN HON. MEMBER: You would be proud to have him.

MR. SIMMONS: to have the member for Kilbride as a student, Mr. Speaker, yes, if I were getting the appropriate fee for it. If I were getting the appropriate tutorial fee, I would be doubly proud, but I am singly proud just having that gentleman for a student. I have learnt a lot from him over the years and I hope today he has learned something, from me, or if he has not yet I hope he will take my advice and cogitate on the point I have put to him.

MR. WELLS: (Inaudible) sad.

MR. SIMMONS: I see. I see. Now there you go, Mr. Speaker, saying -

MR. NEARY: If the hon. member says it is sad, it is sad. We all agree.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, there is not even the hope of talking to that member or communicating to the member in any kind fashion. He has to go talking about - What did he say this afternoon? Despicable, low and now it is sad. You know, Mr. Speaker, there is one thing about pedestals, I say to the member for Kilbride, they have a tendency to topple and if you happen to be standing on one, particularly a high one, particularly a precariously high one, particularly a high, precarious one the fall is going to be all the greater and you could smash your halo at the same point. Never heard such unadulterated, santimoniousness as I have heard this afternoon, unadulterated - there were so many words but I am finding that the parliamentary list gets narrower and narrower.

Now, Mr. Speaker, - Oh, my friend from Bonavista South has gone. I had some notes there going back about an hour ago when we had a little exchange involving the Minister of Fisheries when he rose on his point of privilege and subsequently the member for Bonavista South and there were some things that needed to be said to clear the air on the member for Bonavista South lest anybody feel that I was doing him the dubious honour of putting him in the clique either. Now, Mr. Speaker, I will come back to those issues. It has been so long since we were back on track here this afternoon I thought I had my

MR. SIMMONS: notes lost. Here they are. What I have been trying to do, Mr. Speaker, for the last hour or so I have been the brunt of considerable harassment. I suppose we set a record this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, for the number of points of order over a given period of time and if we had the NHL system of publishing all the records, you know, who had the most penalties, the most major penalties, the most fighting major penalties, the most game misconducts, there would be a record today. Tomorrow morning's paper under the little score box would show that one member of this House today got a game misconduct for raising the most points of order and privilege in one sitting of the House.

MR. NEARY: It is the most ever I have seen in my sixteen years in this House raised by the hon. member.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, but those points of order and privilege aside, Mr. Speaker, what I had been trying to do, and I think I owe it to the House now to give account because they have certainly lost the trend of thought thanks to the member for Kilbride in particular, what I had been trying to do, Mr. Speaker, in alluding to the goings, on - and remember the interjections started with the Minister of Fisheries who rose on the matter of whether or not he was in the clique or not and we confirmed that he was not indeed in the clique - but at that point I was leading into a line of thought as follows: I have been trying, and I hope to succeed, in getting at what I believe is the root cause of the disease which afflicts this government. Now it would be the easy thing to say, Mr. Speaker, that they were a bunch of stunned people who had no ideas and they were all morons and that kind of thing. I do not believe that. I do not believe it so I cannot say it. I know many of them personally most of them to some degree personally, some better than others, some for longer periods than others - and it cannot be said of this group, Mr. Speaker, who formed the administration, it cannot be said of them as a group that they lack ideas. It cannot be said that they are particularly stunned. They might not be as a group be particularly brilliant either, but at least they are an average bunch

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MR. SIMONS: of people with some bright stars there and some not so bright stars there. But on the whole they cannot be scored for being without ideas, for

MR. SIMMONS:

being without a whit of knowledge or inspiration. That is not their sin. It is not that they as a group lack ideas. They have advanced over the four or five or six years they have been in power a number of ideas which have merit. The Rural Development Authority had a lot of merit. The Premier's trawler programme I made reference to earlier had a lot of merit. It is hard, you will see, Mr. Speaker, to think of any long list of ideas that have merit. That is not because the ideas were not conceived. It is because the ideas never saw the light of day in a public sense. It is because the ideas never got any Cabinet approval, like the hospital for Grand Falls never got Cabinet approval. It is not that the expansion is a bad idea for Grand Falls, it is that the idea never got to the point of being implemented policy. That does not make the idea any the worse.

They are not a group, Mr. Speaker, who as a group have no ideas, who are a group who are bankrupt in the idea sense, in the philosophical sense. They are not even a group who can be scored for being all from one segment of society, all uppity, all too well off, all urban or all urbane. As a group they come from a fair cross section economically. Mr. Speaker, none of these are their sins. The sin, Mr. Speaker, is not that they lack energy or lack ideas but that their energies are misdirected, absolutely and completely misdirected.

Now, Mr. Speaker, you take this afternoon during Question Period, for example. If you had bottled up the energy of the Minister of Forestry, the Minister of Health, the Premier, the Minister of Environment, the energy they directed in a combative way against any question over here about the spruce budworm, if you had that same energy directed towards trying to solve a problem, be it the spruce budworm problem or any other, I am sure you would have a solution in a fairly short time. If they applied such enthusiasm to doing the things which need to be done in this Province instead of defending in a rear guard action all the time, today in the Province we would be a lot better off. The energies, Mr. Speaker, are completely misdirected.

MR. SIMMONS:

Those over there who will not go into Cabinet because it would interfere with a lucrative law practice, those who will not do that, go into the Cabinet, in some cases it is because it is a very lucrative thing more lucrative than a law practice. And being part of the Cabinet, Mr. Speaker, some of them, not the Minister of Fisheries, not the Minister from Bonavista South though for a completely different reason - one because he would not, the other because he cannot - but some of them in the Cabinet, Mr. Speaker, misdirect their energies doing things that are not at all in the common good or if in the common good only accidentally. They direct their energies, Mr. Speaker, doing things which are designed to feather their own nests, if you like, to see that they themselves are well looked after.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I cannot be accused of being malicious in this comment because you only have to look at the pension scheme this crowd brought in. Shameless, absolutely shameless! The Province cannot afford it. We should not have it. Absolutely shameless, the pension scheme for members of the House of Assembly. Absolutely shameless!

MR. HOUSE: Did you vote for it?

MR. SIMMONS: Oh, that is the catch, did I vote for it or did I not vote for it. Perhaps some day, Mr. Speaker, I will tell the House and the Province the barrels that we were put across by the Premier on that particular one. That story will come out one day and even the Minister of Education will be surprised and sorry to hear it.

The pension scheme for MHAs, Mr. Speaker, is shameful. It is a ripoff of the taxpayer again. It is a good example of where those in power,

MR. SIMMONS:

Mr. Speaker, are feathering their own nests. They are misdirecting their energies that could be so well applied to solving some of the various problems we have in this Province. Now if we could only get in Cabinet some of the right people on that side who are not there, because they have got more lucrative outlets, and if we could only get out of the Cabinet some people who have too lucrative outlets, t-o-o, too lucrative outlets, then we would have, Mr. Speaker, a team of half decent people. I do not know if as a team they would solve the problems, but I would withhold judgement, I would wait and see, Mr. Speaker, if that new combination of those who are not in Cabinet who should be there by virtue of ability, but I am not obviously, I am not obviously talking -

MR. J. CARTER: List your nominees.

MR. SIMMONS: He says, Mr. Speaker, the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) says list my nominees, I am obviously not talking about the member for St. John's North. He was weighed in the balance and found wanting by his Premier, weighed in the balance and found wanting. So any list of nominees for Cabinet posts would not include the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter). Not that he does not have ability, Mr. Speaker, he does not have Cabinet type ability. He has other abilities well and often demonstrated in this House and would to God that he would use those abilities more often because we could well do with a break from the serious routine of this House with the kind of frivolous, half serious and eloquent remarks which we often get from the member for St. John's North. They will never solve the problems of state but they keep the men of state sane while they are solving the problems of state. As I said before, Mr. Speaker, if the member for St. John's North did not exist we would surely have to invent him.

MR. SIMMONS: If we could only get that combination of person, Mr. Speaker, even on that side of the House, even in the so-called Tory Party, the mix mash of quasi Liberals, half Liberals, apologetic Liberals, Tories, rank Tories, outright Tories, dyed in the wool Tories, if we could only get them all - you know, the best of the bad lot if you like, Mr. Speaker - if we could only get those over there who are not in the Cabinet but have more ability than those who are in the Cabinet, if we could get a few of them in, and then of those who are in the Cabinet, get those out for whom Cabinet is by far too lucrative -

MR. J. CARTER: Give us a list of those.

MR. SIMMONS: A list of those who should go. I have a list, by the way. I have a list and I would not mind showing it to my friend from St. John's North on a private basis, but I remind him that his colleague from Kilbride (Mr. Wells) would then put some very serious restraints on what he could do with the list. But I would certainly show him the list, with the new protection now I have from the member from Kilbride (Mr. Wells), I would certainly be willing to show the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) my list of those in the Cabinet who should not be.

And I have it further categorized, too. Not only those in the Cabinet who should not be but for what reason they should not be.

MR. J. CARTER: I would take that with a grain of salt.

MR. SIMMONS: And I say to him that of the reasons they should not be there, ability is least among them. Indeed one of their crimes, one of their sins, one of their misdemeanors is that they have too much ability in certain areas, too much ability, so much ability in fact that they are spending all their time applying their energies to pursuing those abilities at the expense of the taxpayer, at the very direct expense of the taxpayer.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, what I want to do, and it might take me a few minutes yet to do it, what I want to do is demonstrate, if I may, I may have to take a fairly wide range to do this, but I hope to be able to demonstrate, and I think this is central to any discussion of public expenditures, any debate of a budget for this Province, is to be able to ferret out the root cause of the disease which afflicts this government. It is a disease of misdirected energies. It is a disease of being preoccupied so much with your own private, selfish self that you have not got time left to compare notes about the affairs of state, to compare solutions to various problems that exist.

MR. R. SIMMONS:

We had it demonstrated here today, the spruce budworm problem, I could see what was going on. The coach sat in his chair, the Premier, and he tried to give some direction to the member for St. John's Centre (Mr. Murphy). Now even close up, Mr. Speaker, giving the member for St. John's Centre direction, even close up, is a monumental task, but to do it four seats away is an impossibility. Perhaps what the Premier ought to do over there is rearrange the chairs, rearrange the seating plan over there, much the same as rearranging the chairs on the deck of the Titanic, mind you, but nevertheless rearrange the chairs so that right around him instead of the Minister of Justice, whom he has the occasion to argue with every day of the week now - I would love to know what they are arguing about - but everyday of the week now they have a big fight over there during Question Period about something. I guess the Minister of Justice, being a just man, insists we ought to have a Question Period because it is in the rules and the Premier insisting that there ought not to be a Question Period. Perhaps, it is something more substantive than that, perhaps the argument is deeper than that. But whatever the argument, Mr. Speaker, it is a very involved one and it goes on now, it is like a serial, it is like Another World, Mr. Speaker, like a soap opera. For weeks now we have been treated to the antics of this. We do not hear the voices, Mr. Speaker, we try very hard, it is not for lack of trying, but we see the visual, the audio is missing, but the visuals are in full play, properly adjusted we see it in full colour every day, the ongoing saga of Frank and Alex.

The Premier could do without having the Minister as his seat-mate, and I say that in no disparaging way to the Minister of Justice, but he could do well to have around him people like the Minister of Forestry, the Minister of Health, and the Minister of Environment. As a matter of fact, we might even agree in this House, if agreement is needed, to arrange a daily change. We could give the Premier notice, for example, what the subject of the Question Period is going to be

MR. P. SIMMONS: an hour before so that he could get around him those he would have to orchestrate during that particular Question Period. Like, for example, today we would send to Mr. Speaker, with a copy to the Premier, the subject for our Question Period today, the spruce budworm subject, and then the Premier would have an hour to call the Sergeant-at-Arms to have the seats properly labelled for today, particularly the seats right around the Premier. Indeed, we would even allow a little round table in place of the Premier's seat so that he could have full consultation during the answering in the Question Period. So you would have the Minister from St. John's Centre, I would say, just fairly close to him, and then the Minister of Forestry and the Minister of Health, and they could confer and they could all give the same answer. Because, you see, the problem we have now is space, distance is getting in the way. The ministers are spaced out, as it were, and the result is that one fellow kicks over the traces and says, 'I am not going to answer at all if you do not ask me in the kinds of words that I would like you to ask me in'. Then, having been asked the question, the minister is told by the coach that perhaps he should not answer or perhaps another minister should answer.

You know, Mr. Speaker, if they run Government like they try to run the Question Period, well, is it any wonder that there are 40,000 people without jobs, is it any wonder that the welfare recipients of this Province are being starved to death, are being slowly starved to death by the death camp commandant from Trinity North? Is it any wonder, Mr. Speaker, that the -

MR. J. CARTER: That is unparliamentary. 'Death Camp commandant' is unparliamentary.

MR. P. SIMMONS: Is it any wonder, Mr. Speaker - The member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter), you see, succeeds at times with his court jesting in getting me off track but I am on track for the minute, I assure him, I am on track. I was saying in my sequence of questions is it any wonder that the Rural Development Authority got so badly, badly off the track? I say it is no wonder at all when I watch the way that they

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MR. R. SIMMONS:

operate here in this House.

Mr. Speaker, I want to come to a subject that is quite unrelated in the direct sense to what we have been talking about this afternoon but, nevertheless, a concern of mine and a concern which obviously relates to the overall budgetary priorities of this Province, the overall financial considerations of this Province,

MR. SIMMONS: and that is the way that we in this Province treat older people. It has been a concern of mine for some time. All of us in this House can identify with older people, usually in the immediate family, fathers and mothers, grandparents who are aged, some in institutional homes and some others at home, in a home situation either living with offspring or living with relatives or friends or keeping house for themselves either as singles or as couples. In my own case, I have an aged parent, a father who is over seventy years of age and who still keeps house for himself. And using him as an example, I often find myself wondering what he would do if he were in an institution; how quickly, I think, he would go to pieces not having the daily routine of getting his meals and getting firewood and that kind of thing. Not having that daily routine, I wonder how quickly he would go to pieces, because the daily routine does give a certain order to his life and a certain purpose. I am not suggesting that is the only purpose he has, but I just mention that as a way of making my point, that it tends to order his life in a way that an institution could not. He is lucky in the sense that he is physically healthy, and in that case, he is typical of many people who are seventy-three years of age.

I have something here which I will come back to in a moment at the request of my colleague from Eagle River (Mr. Strachan).

But first to pursue my line of thought on older people, I believe, Mr. Speaker, that what is happening in terms of our policies towards older people is absolutely frightening. I expressed some concern a year or so ago about the large numbers of people who are in very large institutions and their only sin is that they are old.

MR. SIMMONS: They are physically quite able, they do not have a pain in their bodies, they do not have an aching bone, as we say. They can well look after themselves, but for whatever reason, they have been put into a home, into an institution. And the reasons, Mr. Speaker, are fairly well known, some of them. Sometimes it is the attraction on the part of the older person himself, that perhaps it would be easier in the home and perhaps more comfortable, and he would not have to worry about looking for the necessities of life as long as you pay the board and that kind of thing. But very often, Mr. Speaker, the motivation is very different. It is the case of relatives who see the home as a way of being rid of the older person. That is putting it fairly bluntly, but I think that is the case in many thousands of cases. Well, if there are people, offspring of these older people who, for whatever reason - they have their reasons and it is not for me to condemn them - but if there are people who cannot look after their parents or their older relations, and if the only way out is for them to have these older people put into homes, then we have to look at the kind of homes, whether they are in the center of a city with traffic lights and four lane highways running right beside them, as is the case down here on Portugal Cove Road, near the Holiday Inn where we have two such homes, or whether they ought not to be in a situation such as the Grand Bank Home, for example, which I think of, the Springdale Home, which are smaller homes where people are more acclimatized to the type of surroundings, they even know some of the people in the community itself or they can identify with the type of community. I mentioned

MR. SIMMONS: Grand Bank and Springdale, these are two that I know, but obviously, the St. Anthony example is another one. There are many other examples of the fairly small home where the same anonymity is not inflicted on the people concerned. That is one option and we are beginning to pursue that option somewhat. But, Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is any deliberate thrust on our part to educate both the older people and their offspring, who are often involved in the decisions about whether they go into homes or not, I do not think there is any real, deliberate effort on our part to show them both sides of the coin, to tell them the full story, not only of the advantages of these homes, but the disadvantages - what they are going to miss in terms of their present lifestyle where they live on their own or just with one or two relatives. In short, Mr. Speaker, what I am saying is that I believe, insofar as the care for the aged is concerned that we have to fairly drastically reorder our priorities. We have to get away

MR. SIMMONS:

from what I would call the tendency towards the geriatric ghettos, those large institutions whose only function - I am thinking in terms of the ambulatory residents there - whose only function is to provide three meals a day and a bed, really. I oversimplify it but just to make my point. I am not subtracting from the role of these homes and I do not want to be quoted in that context or understood in that context. But what they are doing in effect, Mr. Speaker, in the case of those people in those homes who have no physical disability, who are still well able to look after themselves physically, what those homes are doing, and nothing more is just providing bed and meals really.

Now some people in those homes enjoy it - the large homes, the small ones - they tell me that they never had it so good, that they have established a new group of companions, they have built up a whole new set of companionships and friendships. That is good. My argument is this, that they should do it more freely than perhaps they are doing it at the present time and too many, either by relatives or others would-be do-gooders, are being told, too many of these aged people are being told that the institution is the answer to their problems. In some cases it undoubtedly is the answer to their problems, and I would suggest that not nearly in all the cases is that so.

I believe what we have done in effect, Mr. Speaker, and perhaps we have done it unwittingly, I am not accusing anybody in government, either this government or the previous or the federal government or any other provincial government in Canada, I am not accusing them of deliberate mischief on this point but I am saying, Mr. Speaker, that as a government and as a people - perhaps it is the attitude of the people that I want to sketch here rather than the policies of government - that as a people I believe we have fallen into the North American trend which is towards the institutionalization of the aged, a trend that has to be changed. Perhaps we have not realized it is happening around us because we are being so busy with what we regard as higher, bigger, more important priorities. Part of the problem is that there

MR. SIMMONS:

has never been any real strong lobby for the aged people. That is beginning to change.

I have looked with encouragement at the associations of elderly people which are now growing up including the provincial association headed up by Mr. Melvin Rowe whom many of us are familiar with in this House. I have been encouraged by that kind of development because in addition to its other roles that kind of association is a lobby for the elderly people and I believe an increasingly strong lobby for those people and for their needs.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps what we have been doing in relation to elderly people is part of an overall pattern of what we do with any deviant group, and I use that word in its broadest sense, deviant in the sense that it is not the majority, deviant in the sense that it defines a particular group which is not part of the majority of the population. Our attitude generally and our treatment of deviant groups, of minority groups, whether the aged minority group or the physically handicapped minority group, our stock answer for those groups as a society is to put them in a special institution because in that way we do two things. We satisfy our social conscience that somehow we have taken care of them, - they are in a nice place; they are being looked after - when in fact some of them may well be more miserable either physically or emotionally in that institution than they were in their previous environment.

When I say we do it for two reasons; we do it first of all because by putting what I call, and I use it in its very broad context, by putting this so called deviant group, the aged group or the physically handicapped group, for example, into those homes

MR. SIMMONS: we satisfy our social conscience that somehow we have done something for them - you know, the building is expensive therefore it must be good, that kind of an attitude. We satisfy ourselves that we have put them in a nice place and therefore everything is okay. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, I think we do it for another reason, perhaps unconsciously. We do it to get rid of them, to remove them from the mainstream, as it were, out of sight, out of mind type solution to a problem. That reason is one we do not often admit to and that one will invite some comment or some opposition, I am sure. But I believe it is a very real factor in terms of the way we treat older citizens. As a result, Mr. Speaker, because of these two reasons we have rumbled down the road as it were, rumbled down the road towards greater and greater institutionalization of the aged and the other groups I have mentioned, but I particularly want to focus on the aged today at this time. As a result we have witnessed a veritable industry constructing old age homes. You look at the construction pattern in this Province in the past few years and you will have to agree that the construction of senior citizen homes, both large and small, has provided a fair amount of the impetus for the construction sector in this country in the last five, eight, ten years. It has become a real industry because of our attitude towards treatment of the aged.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as we are getting off this subject just let me say that I have nothing at all against the institutional approach insofar as it solves a problem, and there are many people out there for whom the institutional mode is the appropriate solution to their problem. But I am submitting, Mr. Speaker, and I am doing it with some first-hand evidence of having talked to many of these people in homes in Clarke's Beach, in Grand Bank, in St. Anthony. A month or so ago or two months ago my colleague, the Leader of the Opposition and I were in St. Anthony and we went into the senior citizens home at the invitation of some of the people there and we were able to talk to most of the people in the home. And so from talking to people there and in

MR. SIMMONS: the home at Springdale and the two smaller homes, at Harbour Breton, I have come to the conclusion that some of these people would much rather be in their former situations, living with a relative or living on their own or in couples, two or three to a house as the case might be. I believe, Mr. Speaker, while I am not advocating that we throw out the baby with the bath water, I think it is too late for that now with these institutions we have and will have and they will continue to serve a good function, but at the same time, Mr. Speaker, I believe we have to kick the habit, this habit of the institutional mentality as the solution to all the problems of all the aged people. I believe we have to find ways of letting the older people remain in their homes as long as they possibly can - not using coercion or duress, I am not suggesting that - but at times when the home looks very attractive to the older person to have somebody thoroughly explore with them the pros and cons of the move that they are contemplating making. Now if they are going to remain in their homes of course it presumes that there will be certain care available to them. Some of them, while they cannot be classified as physically disabled or bedridden, may have medical problems that need some regular attention; not so regular or so frequent that it would require them to be in a home every day of the week but the kind of care that would have to be regularized, I do not know if it would be weekly or monthly, I am not thinking of any particular cases, but the kind of the care which with improved transportation connections I am sure can be made available to a larger number of them in the home situation and I submit, Mr. Speaker, at greatly reduced cost to the Province.

A gentleman whom this House will know, the former Minister of Health, Dr. Gus Rowe

MR. SIMMONS: has done a fair amount of work on this particular area. I have followed with interest his statements. I have not heard him recently on the subject, but a year or so ago at some kind of a seminar at the university, Dr. Rowe was making some reference to it, I remember. And I remember some of his ideas along this particular line that I now raise, the line of adapting our medical care programme to cater to the aged person in the home, in his own home or her own home rather than bringing him into an institutional environment for the sole reason of providing some kind of medication perhaps on a weekly or a bi-weekly basis.

Mr. Speaker, on the subject of the aged, I understand from Statistics Canada that between the years 1971 and 1986, in that fifteen year period, Statistics Canada projected a fifty per cent increase in the numbers of people sixty-five years of age and over, a fifty per cent increase from 1971 to 1986.

I think that statistic more than anything else I have said would drive home the need to place more priority on this particular issue. In the next ten years - we are now in 1978, so we are half way through that period now - in the next few years we are going to be continuing to see a dramatic upsurge in the numbers of persons over sixty-five years of age, due to, of course, a number of factors that we are familiar with, the sheer longevity of our people, the better medical conditions we have as compared to a couple of decades ago, the reasons are well known.

I am told also, Mr. Speaker, that if you look at the period from 1971 to the period 2031, over that sixty year period Statistics Canada is projecting a 300 per cent increase in the numbers of persons sixty-five years of age and over.

Now what we are talking about, 2031, I suppose is in the lifetime of - sure it is, it is in the lifetime

MR. SIMMONS: of a number of people in this House potentially.

MR. WHITE: I will be sixty-five in 2011.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes well you will be - in 2000 and when?

MR. WHITE: 2011.

MR. SIMMONS: Oh you will be eighty-five at this time.

You are one of the fellows we are talking about. The member for Lewisporte (Mr. White), as spry and healthy and vigorous as he looks today, is one of the statistics I am talking about, one of the fellows we are going to have to look after a few years down the road. And we have a choice of bottling him up into a home or allowing him to live his present breezy -

MR. J. CARTER: Do you realize that time is flying?

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, the member does. He is now going on by leave of the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter).

Everytime I actually get into a situation that I really want to express myself on, the court jester reads his script and comes into play as he should, Mr. Speaker. If your assignment in the House is to obfuscate, to obstruct, to delay, then of course - and you are a good script reader, and writer in this case - then you come in, Mr. Speaker, you just take your cues, particularly when you are the cuee or the cueer at the same time, you take your cues and you come on stage at exactly the right time.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have not dealt with the particular problem of what we do with old people like the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter). But I have covered my tracks, Mr. Speaker, by saying several times that institutions for the aged have their place, and they have a very particular place, a particular -

MR. J. CARTER: (inaudible) retired Liberals.

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MR. SIMMONS: Liberals never retire. Some of them jump the traces and try and call themselves Tories, and if the member is not conversant on that subject he should lean over and talk to his buddy in front of him who knows all about that business. But they never retire. They just jump traces or stay put. And Tories never retire either. Tories never die. They just smell that way.

AN HON. MEMBER: There are five thousand (inaudible).

MR. SIMMONS: Shocking, eh? And I could be writing for 4,000 of them, Mr. Speaker, the subject I have been pursuing for the past few minutes is one that is fairly close to me and I think one that we ought to give a lot more recognition and priority to and that is the subject of the aged people. I believe there are a number of compelling facts and I have alluded to some of them this afternoon, the statistics, the sheer rise in numbers of aged people over the next few years, the dissatisfaction of some people who are in homes. I do not want to be represented as saying that all people in homes are dissatisfied; a lot of them are very, very happy there but some of them wish their cake dough. Some of them wish they were back in their former setting. These facts, Mr. Speaker, are compelling facts which point to the need for an imaginative reorganization of support services, good support services for the aged people.

We must stop thinking that the institution is the only solution. It certainly is a very large part of the solution but it is by no means all the solution. We have to find new techniques in the delivery of health care to senior people, the techniques related, for example, to even the creation of day hospitals, if I could call it such. I alluded to this earlier. There might not be a requirement to have the person in bed all the time or to have them assigned to a bed on a day in, day out basis. Perhaps the day hospital concept where the person comes in for a limited time during the day to have his medical requirements met and then goes back to his own domicile, his own home in the evening. We have to develop that kind of new technique, the meals on wheels concept, Mr. Speaker, as it applies to the aged. It has hardly been touched if it has been. Well, it has been touched because there was a programme here in St. John's funded by some kind of a Federal programme in the last year or so, if I remember, but the surface has hardly been scratched on that one and there is a great need.

I know of some co-operative efforts in some of the small communities that do this for a half dozen or so older people in a

MR. SIMMONS: given community, but it has never been promoted with any vigour the possibility of meals on wheels for older people who may not be able to attend to the rigors of cooking on a regular basis, but if they could get one solid meal a day provided from outside the home they could otherwise manage in the home situation. Do you realize, Mr. Speaker, that very often these people go into institutions not because they are invalid or because they are tired of living alone or even because they can afford to be in those homes. They go in very often, Mr. Speaker, because of a nutritional problem because they cannot in their aged years provide the nutritious meals that they could earlier. Perhaps the meals on wheels concept ought to be developed for people like that.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are other possibilities I am sure that members of this House who are more conversant with the medical fraternity could talk to us about. But I just wanted to lay before the House the general concern that I had on the subject of the care of the elderly.

DR. COLLINS: Would the hon. member permit me?

MR. SIMMONS: Sure, sure.

DR. COLLINS: I think the two basic things that people have in life are one, their relationship with their family and, two, their work, their vocation, their trade or whatever you want to call it in life. Now of course the way we treat old people is we tend to, first of all, at a certain point in time separate them from their work in a very definite and sharp way and we are going more and more towards that all the time. And the second thing is that there seems to be a breakdown of the so-called extended family. We do tend to have each generation to itself. Would you agree with those two basic defects in the way we organize our society and our attitude towards our society and that is that we have a person, we separate him from his family, we separate him from his work when he gets old and he really has very little to live for and many of these people are rather sad and they feel rejected, they feel rather useless.

DR. COLLINS: If they have medical problems or other problems they get accentuated because of this feeling of rejection and uselessness, and it is a difficult thing to rectify. Would the hon. member have any comments along those lines?

MR. SIMMONS: I thank the member for St. John's South (Dr. Collins). I did not understand him when he said the two, he was talking about separation of two kinds, from the home and the work. Oh, yes, I get what he meant by the two. Yes, he re-enforces very well, and I thank him, what I have been trying to say in the last few minutes that, and again I think of my father in this situation, or a number of other fathers and mothers who had been locked into a particular pattern, say, a work pattern, for example, and then came retirement and that alone was a jolt, I think it is going to be a jolt to all of us if there has to be a cut off day, a day when you stop taking the lunch can and going to work, as was his case.

Then if you superimpose on that the separation from people that you know, very often the end of the so-called working life, the employed working life, if I can call it such, also coincides with a move from community. My colleague for Windsor-Buchans (Mr. Flight) is not here now, but I know for a number of years, perhaps it is still the case, the day you finished your job in Buchans you also had to move out of Buchans. And so you had spent thirty years with your friends, and then you had to go back to some place in Trinity Bay where you remember the names but not the faces any more, where everybody had gotten thirty years older. It is that kind of a shock imposed from the work standpoint and the social standpoint that makes the need to minimize the institutional approach as much as possible. That is what I have been saying in effect, that there are cases where the institutional approach is the solution.

A case in point, I remember a man in Ramea who last year approached me and he has been a skipper on a dragger—well not only a dragger, but a skipper on various kinds of boats for all his working life. And he retired, I think, around Christmastime and he approached me just before then to see if he could get into the home at Grand Bank or some other place. And he is actually here in a home

Mr. Simmons: in St. John's now. And I was surprised when I heard it, I did some interceding on his behalf in terms of the Grand Bank home, but that was not possible at the time. But the next thing I heard the guy was here in a home in St. John's. And I ran into him fairly recently; he tells me he is as happy as can be, very happy in the situation. Before that he was in St. John's three times in his entire life, and he is over here in one of the homes near the Holiday Inn, and he is as happy as can be. He lived on Ramea all of his life. And I guess he is a case of where you should not jump to conclusions, because I would have thought that the last place that fellow would be happy was watching the lights change over at Portugal Cove Road, I am not suggesting that is the only thing he is doing, but that is certainly one of the things he is doing because every time I see him that is where he is standing.

But I thank my colleague for Trinity South- I am sorry, St. John's South (Dr. Collins) because he re-enforces what I have been attempting to say this afternoon and he draws attention to the reason why it needs to be said, ~~that~~ sometimes in our haste to find the cure we overlook what is the real problem. My own situation, again, we had grown up in Bishop's Falls and then all of us had moved away from there, and suddenly my father was living alone, and at first we could not understand why he was not going anywhere any more, he was sitting watching out of the window all of the time, but then we realized that while the physical environment had not changed for him, the faces around him had changed very much, and he was just seeing everybody once a year. And in that case the solution was not to move him into an institution, but as my friend from Humber Valley (Mr. House) knows well because he is in his district right now. The solution is not to move him into an institution but to get him to sell his house back in Bishop's where he had no longer had any close friends or relatives, and go and build one over near some of his sons of whom he has ~~his~~ many in Pasadena. In that particular case that was a solution.

Mr. Simmons: Well, I would hope perhaps the member for St. John's South (Dr. Collins) particularly might have some comments on this when he speaks because it is an issue that I think we are skating over to some degree.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to get on to some other issues just the same, Mr. Speaker, if I may. I would like to talk for a minute about the financial position of the Province, the very difficult financial straits in which we find ourselves, Mr. Speaker. I believe it is much more desperate than we are being told. If you look at this document called the Budget for the want of another term,

MR. SIMMONS: I had submitted earlier in debate that it is hardly a Budget because it is not a plan for the future, it begs the whole question of planning, it pretends that everything is so rosy that we do not need a plan.

MR. J. CARTER: The hon. member likes to pretend we are bankrupt.

MR. SIMMONS: The member for St. John's North is finally, albeit belatedly, getting the message. He is getting the message. The credit is to him because -

MR. NEARY: Seven hours later.

MR. SIMMONS: - while it takes time - it has only taken me seven hours to get through to the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter). I am not sure if I got through to the Minister of Fisheries yet. I did not last day, I read in the paper, so I tried again today. He will probably go out today and say I said nothing about fisheries. I remind him that I said the government has no policy. I will not go through the whole spiel again because I have said it earlier, but the government has no policy on the fishery. He is riding on the coattails of the - I think I think I called it the oilskin coattails of the fishermen of this Province, the Minister of Fisheries is with his announcements, his plethora, his diarrhea of announcements, he is riding on the oilskin coattails of the successful fishermen of this Province. But he will say again tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, because it makes a subject for a press release, he will say again tomorrow that I said nothing about the fishery. And I believe what the Minister of Fisheries is saying is that I said nothing about the fisheries that he can agree with. Well, surprise, surprise, Mr. Speaker!

Now let us go back to the member for St. John's North. Why is it every time I think about

MR. SIMMONS: the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter), among other things I associate him with Shakespeare all the time?

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. SIMMONS: But I have convinced him after seven hours, Mr. Speaker, that -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. SIMMONS: No, Mr. Speaker, I do not like the Budget and I have a thousand good reasons not to like the Budget. First of all, as a patriotic Newfoundlander, I believe that we should do our writing right here in the Province, particularly with something that should be as native to our needs as a Budget. We should write the thing here - we should concoct the thing here, but we did not. It was concocted in New York, as I said the other day.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this Province is in a serious financial position. The Budget does not tell us that. The Budget tells us to be lulled to sleep, tells us to rock on, to get lulled to sleep with the idea that everything is going to be okay tomorrow, tomorrow there are going to be 40,000 jobs. Maybe there will be, but not because of anything this Budget does. And those 40,000 jobs are based on a lot of 'ifs' - if Churchill Falls goes ahead we will have 6,900 - the Lower Churchill, I mean, Gull Island; if Stephenville gets back in production we will have 1,000; if the government does nothing at all we will have an additional 21,000 jobs, the blueprint tells us that itself, but that is a digression, Mr. Speaker.

I want to talk for a moment about the financial position itself, because it is, Mr. Speaker, a lot more desperate than we are being told. And that is the first thing that concerns me. We have not been told

MR. SIMMONS: the real truth about where we stand financially. The story we are being told in 1978 is completely different, completely opposite to the story we are being told by the same people in 1971 and 1972, namely, in 1971-1972 we were told that the \$900 million was a shockingly high debt, an unforgivable debt, a bankrupting debt, a debt that we could never live down, we could never live to pay off, that we would be down the pipe, we would be bankrupt, we would be without any money, we would be without any opportunity to develop our resources because we were paying so much in 1971 and 1972 in debt retirement, in meeting the capital repayment commitment and the operating repayment commitment of the Province, because now we are borrowing to repay our borrowings. That was 1971 and 1972. Now here we are in 1978 with two-and-one-half times the fare, but underestimating somewhat, two-and-one-half times the debt of 1971-1972, and now we are told it is okay. Now we are told that she is all going to be okay tomorrow morning; give us another five years and we will have jobs coming out of your ears, we will have great high per capita incomes - which we know, Mr. Speaker; we know just by looking at the few facts there are in this document - they are there more by accident than design I would suggest. We know by looking at the few facts in this document that the projected increase per capita income of about 26 per cent over five years, I believe it says, is not even

Mr. Simmons: equal to the per capita increase over the past five years. Over the past five years it has been about 40 per cent, or an average of 8 per cent a year, in the next five years an average of 5 per cent a year or less than enough to keep up with inflationary facts of life.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I say we are in desperate financial straits, and the question is; how did we get there? How did we get there? Well, there are several versions, Mr. Speaker. One version, and this is one that my friend for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) can well subscribe to, one version is best summed up in one word, Smallwood. One version of how we got where we are is called the Smallwood version, not Smallwood's version, not Smallwood's version, but the Smallwood version, what the member for St. John's North, I am sure, would call the Smallwood version, if he could bring himself to mouth that word without proceeding it with some descriptive adjective, the Smallwood version.

MR. WHITE: He loves him.

MR. SIMMONS: Love! I saw it demonstrated in this House the last day the member for Twillingate, as he then was, was here. Such love - what does the song say? - "Did e'er such love" -

AN HON. MEMBER: and sorrow meet.

MR. SIMMONS: The song says, "Did e'er such love and sorrow meet." Well that was that day, love and sorrow together. Sorrow on the part of the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter), love on the part of everybody else in the House who had a spot in their hearts for the man responsible for the so-called Smallwood version of where we are. The Smallwood version of our financial situation. And I say, Mr. Speaker, not Smallwood's version, but the Smallwood version as the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) would talk about.

You see, that version says this, it says up until 1972, January 18, the day the millennium began, January 18, 1972, up until that day there was a man called Smallwood who squandered every cent he could get his hands on, who dillydallyed with all kinds of large industries, who made no effort to create jobs, who went out of his way

Mr. Simmons: to drive the public debt sky-high. That is the Smallwood version. We could elaborate on it. I am sure the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) will, and can. That in essence is the Smallwood version. I might have left out a couple of the titillating details, but that is the Smallwood version.

Now, Mr. Speaker, one other point in the Smallwood version is this, certainly a tangent to the Smallwood version is this, that on January 18, the first day of the millennium everything changed, the skies opened, and St. Frank came down-and he has been going down ever since, but that is another story - and everything changed, Mr. Speaker, then came absolutely proper fiscal management like you would not believe. January 18 was the beginning. All efforts at large industry were shelved. No more large industry. It is out. It is gone. That is associated with Smallwood. We have to do away with large industries. Now while they did not do it right on January 18, they set out to do it, and they killed the bit of large industry we had that Smallwood brought in. The only thing they have not killed and, of course, they have not finished yet, Mr. Speaker, unfortunately they have another year or two in office, the only thing they have not killed that Smallwood brought in was the Marystown Shipyard. Well, thank God that Don Jamieson is more powerful than the Minister of Industrial Development, and the Minister of Fisheries, and anybody else who would fool up the project with their nonsensical announcements, their premature announcements about programmes and new boats for the shipyard and new construction contracts. Thank God that Jamieson, perhaps not incidentally because it is in his district, has been able to save that one Smallwood monument despite everything this crowd has been able to do. But it is the only thing, Mr. Speaker, it is the only thing really that stands that they could have anything to do with destroying, it is the only thing that still stands.

They put the blocks to Stephenville for one reason, not because there were not enough jobs there, not because it was costing us too much money - and it was in the end, thanks to this crowd, thanks to

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Mr. Simmons: sweet deals they gave their buddies on shipping wood from Goose Bay to Stephenville. I admit, I will be the first to admit it was costing us too much at the end, not so much that we should have closed it, but too much, because when the former member

MR. SIMMONS:

for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie) was the minister responsible for that linerboard, he arranged - arranged is too kind a word - he arranged some deals on shipping, scandalous deals, absolute scandalous is the only word for it. So we got to the point where we could ship wood from Goose Bay to Norway more cheaply than we could ship it from Goose Bay to Stephenville. What an insult! But he is not the only fellow who was involved in scandalous deals in Linerboard. You will remember a question I asked the Premier in the House, and the same old tactic, he denied it first, but then the truth came out. I asked him a year or so ago did he know a fellow called Guy Bailey? Well, first he thought he might have heard the name somewhere when he was reading through a telephone book and he saw the name somewhere.

MR. RIDEOUT: He has been suffering ever since, discriminated against ever since.

MR. SIMMONS: Well, we found out after that the Premier had not only seen his name in a telephone book or on a telephone message even, he had also been introduced to the person, he had also interceded for the person in an improper way. The person got a great, big, fat logging contract worth several times - I forget the details - about twice, I think, what it was supposed to be worth. You know that one. Now then, I have nothing against or for Mr. Bailey for that matter, but now I understand that that same gentleman, who, after all, was only the victim in this situation, Mr. Speaker - he was not the perpetrator, the Premier was the perpetrator - he was just an innocent businessman trying to earn a living, I suppose; I do not know all the facts, but that is my knowledge and I will say that until I get more

MR. SIMMONS: information. But to my knowledge he was just an innocent businessman trying to pedal his wares, trying to pursue his trade. And the perpetrator in all this, Mr. Speaker, now gets his vengeance, I understand, the Premier of this Province now gets his vengeance by taking it out on the poor fellow who was just a victim of circumstance. Is that not correct? Is that not what I hear these days? Shameful! Absolutely shameful!

Well, Mr. Speaker, you see, this so-called Smallwood version, otherwise known as the Gospel according to the member for St. John's North, this version had to do with large industry and great debt, as I said a minute ago. And then came the millennium, then came Tory times, then came January 18, 1972, and they had three or four priorities. We would say, obviously they did. They obviously had priorities to create jobs, to manage the Province's finances well, to develop the economy. Do not be so foolish, Mr. Speaker! Nonsense! These were not their priorities. Their priorities had nothing to do with jobs or developing the fishery or economic development or small industries or rural development or providing more services to our people or providing a better, more convenient way of life for our people. We heard the former Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Cheeseman, say they never had any time to talk about rural Newfoundland. These are not their priorities, Mr. Speaker. Their priorities from day one, from January 18, 1972 was one - make Smallwood and all he stood for non-existent, wipe it off the map completely. But you say, How could they get rid of something as large and monstrous and physically apparent as Stephenville Linerboard? Well, they did, Mr. Speaker. They managed it.

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MR. SIMMONS: Oh, the hulk of buildings is still there. The fifty-six harvesters that have been sitting on the tarmac or in the yard for two or three years are still sitting there unless somebody peddled them off, and I think some of them have been peddled off. They were bought by a company associated with one of the former Cabinet ministers over there, without tender, fifty-six of them - or was it fifty-two? Fifty-two, I think, was the correct figure - I will say that since it is the lesser figure, it was at least fifty-two - sat there. What did they cost? A ridiculous amount of money each. I think \$35,000 or \$40,000 each, and they sat there. They were only moved when they were brought off the ship in Port aux Basques or wherever they came from - St. John's, I think - driven to Stephenville and parked. They were never used after. Fifty-two of them at a cost of \$35,000 smackeros each - \$1½ million.

MR. SIMMONS: So you say. How could they wipe Stephenville off the face of the earth, Stephenville Linear-board? Well, they managed, Mr. Speaker. There are a few physical embarrassing reminders there, Mr. Speaker, like a few \$35,000 forest harvesters, tree harvesters; like a group of buildings there lying idle; like a lot equipment inside; like a stock pile of bark and other by-products and waste. But by and large, Mr. Speaker, in terms of a vital reality, a vital contributing enterprise they did manage to wipe it off the face of the earth.

MR. NEARY: Putting money in and at the same time saying it cannot work. What a contradiction!

MR. SIMMONS: They're number one priority, Mr. Speaker, is wipe it off the face of the earth anything connected with Smallwood at all.

MR. NEARY: But pretend they are going to try to make it work.

MR. SIMMONS: Now, Mr. Speaker, we have over here been somewhat guilty, I suppose is the word, somewhat acquiescent about the matter of Come by Chance, because somehow we have allowed the Premier and the former Minister of Finance, and the fellow before him who was Minister of Finance and the present Minister of Finance, give the impression that somehow the Come by Chance shemozzle that the blame should rest elsewhere, and I suppose a fair amount of it should rest elsewhere. But some of it, Mr. Speaker, some of it must rest at the doorstep of the coach, the team coach. Some of it must rest at the doorstep of the Premier of this Province because he played the vilest, most vicious kind of politics with Come by Chance. And we all remember him out in Clarendville, Mr. Speaker, my colleague for Bellevue will remember because his district was most brutally affected by the Come by Chance shemozzle, he will remember, as the Province will remember and will particularly remember when the next election comes, that it was only a week or so before the general

MR. SIMMONS: election of 1975 that the Premier was out in Clarenville saying, 'Come by Chance'. Not one Come by Chance, we are going to have two Come by Chance's. We are going to have another refinery. We are going to have a petrochemical plant; I think he called it. He likes those big words polytechnical institute, petrochemical plant, loves those words - does not understand them but loves them. And so we are going to have another refinery and a petrochemical plant, the Premier says. This is a week or two before the election. Mr. Speaker, he and the then Minister of Finance, Mr. Crosbie, were, I say for him in his hearing, were sitting on information about Come by Chance. They knew, and I have proof, Mr. Speaker, that they knew before the election at the time the Premier was making the great expansionary announcements about Come by Chance out in Clarenville, about another Come by Chance, another refinery, a great petrochemical plant, at that very point in time when he was making that announcement he knows the handwriting is on the wall, he knows the handwriting is on the wall on Come by Chance.

AN HON. MEMBER: You have the proof?

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, they are playing with the affections, with the good trust of the Newfoundland people when they make that kind of a diabolical statement.

But to my theme, Mr. Speaker, for the last few minutes the millennium arrives January 18, 1972 and the priorities of the new government are set in motion; one, wipe off the face of the earth everything associated with Smallwood; everything associated with the former regime - whether it is good or bad it is not important. And so they do the job on Linearboard, it takes some time but they do the job on Linearboard. They helped to do the job on Come by Chance, so they cannot take all the blame there but they were party to it, Mr. Speaker, because they played politics with it. They

MR. SIMMONS: played politics with it and in so doing, Mr. Speaker, sat on information that had it become public knowledge sooner than it did it could have salvaged the Come by Chance situation.

And there are other stories, Mr. Speaker, of where they attempted to wipe off the face of the earth everything associated with the former Premier, everything! That was there number one priority. Now, Mr. Speaker, you ask what is wrong with that? Well there is absolutely nothing wrong with it if what you are wiping is something which is only harmful, negative, detrimental in the first place, and perhaps if they succeeded during that period of time, Mr. Speaker, in getting rid of some of the weaknesses of the former regime they are to be complimented, to be congratulated, Mr. Speaker, because I am sure I was not part of that regime I was not in the administration at all. The member for Grand Bank (Mr. Hickman) was in that administration, he would know.

MR. SIMMONS: I was not part of it. But I would think, Mr. Speaker, that from what I hear they were all human beings and therefore, I dare say, they made some mistakes. So if this administration got rid of some of the harm that might have been done or inflicted by the previous administration, more power to them. But I dare anybody in this House, Mr. Speaker, on any side to get up and tell me that Come By Chance was a harmful thing, that Labrador Linerboard was a harmful thing. The concepts, Mr. Speaker, in both cases were good.

Last week I heard a gentleman involved in, I believe, the shipping industry, a man from Bermuda involved in Worldwide Shipping Limited, and he was asked - he was a member of a panel - and he was asked about some question to do with oil refineries generally. Come By Chance was not particularly mentioned, the question related to oil refineries and shipping and so on, and in his reply he made reference to Come By Chance and he said these words, Mr. Speaker, and I quote him almost exactly, I believe. He said, "Come by Chance did not fail because the concept was wrong. It did not fail because the concept was wrong." I say to you, Linerboard did not fail because the concept was wrong. It did not fail because the concept was wrong.

Mr. Speaker, if we in this Province cannot take one of our most abundant resources, wood, and make it into a finished or semi-finished product and sell it and make a dollar, then there is something wrong with us. Nothing wrong with the concept, Mr. Speaker, a lot wrong with the monkeying around that this administration did. And I say for the guidance of members who are tutting at this one on the other side, that they ought to look at the two contracts, the shipping contract that the former entrepreneur, Mr. Doyle, had and then the contract that was foisted on Labrador Linerboard by this

MR. SIMMONS: government.

MR. NEARY: By Mr. Crosbie.

MR. SIMMONS: By Mr. Crosbie, yes. Let us name names. Now he had good reason, Mr. Speaker, not admirable reason but he had good reason from his standpoint for doing what he did. Not very admirable but good from his standpoint. From my standpoint, despicable reason.

MR. NEARY: Yes, from mine too.

MR. SIMMONS: Foisted a contract that cost the taxpayers of this Province millions of bucks and in effect, I suppose, Mr. Speaker, was the largest contributor to costing the Linerboard with their jobs, directly in the mill and indirectly in the Bay St. George Area, thousands of jobs, about 3,000 jobs altogether.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I heard the Premier up in Halifax the other day - and by the way now that he is in the House let me repeat a sentence that I said the other day when I was talking on this subject because I like -

MR. NEARY: Do not go too heavy on that now.

MR. SIMMONS: I will not go too heavy on it, my colleague from LaPoile advised me, but I think it needs to be said that I saw the Premier in one of his finer moments, Mr. Speaker, in Halifax. I thought his prepared speech - I do not know who wrote it for him and I do not mean to subtract, he might have written it himself but that is beside the point that I want to make. I thought he represented the Province very well with the content of the speech he made and I wanted to say that I said it the other day but he was not here. But I also, Mr. Speaker, heard the Premier say on that same occasion, I believe in the answer to a question, something that I very much subscribe to, that government should not get involved in free enterprise except by default. I agree

MR. SIMMONS: very much with that and I could not help but have the sneaky thought that he may be covering his bets somewhat when he added as a parenthetic expression, 'except by default'. And I said to myself, ah ha! perhaps he is trying to tell us, perhaps he is trying to convince himself that he got involved in Linerboard by default. I say to him now, and the Premier may not have known, Mr. Speaker, at the time that he was being dragged in, that he was being suctioned in, that he was being sucked in.

Mr. Speaker, he was in the middle of two John C's. He was smack in the middle! He was the pawn, the Premier was, the pawn smack in the middle of two John C's on Linerboard. One is called John C. Doyle and the other John C. Crosbie and the Premier was smack in the middle. The two John C's, the John C saga. Smack in the middle! He was the pawn. I would say, Mr. Speaker, giving him credit where credit is due, I would say he was the unwitting pawn in the first instance.

MR. SIMMONS: Because from what I hear, Mr. Speaker, if my sources are at all good, from what I hear, Mr. Speaker, the Premier is one of the few fellows who did not particularly benefit from that schemozzle, at least that is our information. But he should know there were people who did benefit from that particular schemozzle. He should know that and he found out perhaps a bit too late. And then he had to put out the political line that we did it because we had no choice.

Well that is why they did it, Mr. Speaker, because they had no choice. But not the kind of a choice you would think about in the normal free enterprise versus government ownership. That was not the kinds of choices that were set up. It was the choice that was brought on, Mr. Speaker, by John C. Crosbie, one of the two John C.'s in the title roles, brought on by John C., and he pulled it off beautifully from his standpoint, Mr. Speaker. The only people who suffered were the people of the Province. The people who had jobs there, they were the real victims. Crosbie is not crying in his beer for what happened in Stephenville.

MR. NEARY: He is still carrying on his personal, political vendetta up in Ottawa now.

MR. SIMMONS: Now, Mr. Speaker, let me come to the other John C., not a favourite subject of mine, John C. Doyle, He was involved in linerboard until the government stepped in. Now the Premier in some of his more emotionally charged moments in the last few days, particularly after the all night sitting, said something to the press which said that there were people on this side, and he did not say one person - I know he has been pointing a finger at one person over here and that person is well able to take care of himself.

MR. NEARY: Have no doubt about that.

MR. SIMMONS: He did not say 'he' that day.

MR. NEARY: He is just beginning to find out.

MR. SIMMONS: He did not say 'he' that day and that is why he was covering his bets because if he said 'he' that day outside the House my colleague for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) would have had a case.

MR. NEARY: Right.

MR. SIMMONS: But he said they. And he has never qualified that, Mr. Speaker. He said that they are the spokesman. Well let us not quote him incorrectly, Mr. Speaker. Let us get it right from the horse's mouth.

MR. NEARY: Hansard.

MR. SIMMONS: No, Hansard was not recording this but the CBC and the various other media were recording it and I have a transcript of certain remarks that were made. I think the transcript, I am subject to correction here, but it is my understanding that it is a transcript of the entire press conference that he held that morning about nine o'clock, after the famous all night sitting, where he gave the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary), the Leader of the Opposition and myself, the flick. He did not do it for the reason he said he did it, it has nothing to do with the unparliamentary language we used, because if so he would have given nine others the flick as well because they said the same thing, gave the flick because we are hitting too close to home on two or three issues that he would rather not hear about, like Walsh and Scrivener and Dobbin.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the Premier said, after referring to the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary), the member for Twillingate (Mr. W. Rowe), the Leader of the Opposition and myself, he said, "What you are looking at," this was at a press conference, Mr. Speaker, the morning after that long night, "What you are looking at is people like John Doyle, Andrew Davidson, or whoever it may be pulling strings, whereby

MR. SIMMONS: members," plural, "members of the House speak on their behalf."

MR. NEARY: That is what he told the caucus when he tried to justify his actions and the caucus believed him.

MR. SIMMONS: Well, Mr. Speaker, the Premier, having referred to me and the two other colleagues as the three ring leaders then, goes on and talks about members who are the spokesmen for Mr. Doyle.

Well now we have heard all kinds of sanctimoniousness in the past few days from the Premier and from the Minister of Justice and from the member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells) as late as this afternoon, about how we ought not to be low and scurrilous and despicable and all these other terms that I cannot pronounce too well. Well, Mr. Speaker, I do not believe ever I have seen anything quite as scurrilous and low as that statement right there. And I invited the Premier subsequently in this House to clarify it and he has not seen fit to do so yet. So I can only assume he stands by it, which makes it all the more scurrilous. Now, Mr. Speaker, let me tell him and let me tell the people of this Province that I would not know John Doyle if I tripped over him. I have seen pictures of him. I suppose I might know him in that situation. I believe during 1971 or '72 when he virtually took up residence at the Holiday Inn, I understand for a while - I believe he had some reasons for that I am told - I happened to be in the lobby one one occasion and this man was pointed out to me and was represented to me as being Mr. John S. Doyle.

MR. NEARY: I was there the same night with my wife.

MR. NEARY: I was there the same night with my wife.

Mr. Simmons: Probably so, yes. But otherwise to my knowledge I have not met the individual, to my knowledge.

Now, Mr. Speaker, having cleared the air on that one let me make what I think is the larger point. I happen to agree with the Premier that Mr. Doyle is a case for the courts to deal with. It is the courts that should deal with Mr. John C. Doyle. And I hope they will, and deal justly with them. I hear all kinds of reports about him from the press and so on, and I have even perhaps drawn certain conclusions about the man, some of them which may not be very kind. But that is a job for the courts, Mr. Speaker.

And that is where I come back to the Stephenville situation. The government in 1971, and I am not talking about Mr. Crosbie who had his own axe to grind and his own agenda, I am not talking about him, because he knew very well what he was up to and he achieved it, but I am talking about the government decision which had to be predicated on some kind of a rationale, the decision of the Premier, the decision of the Cabinet as a whole had to be predicated on some rationale, and a rationale that they were sold hook, line, and sinker on was that it was in the public good to take over Lab Linerboard. What better argument than that, Mr. Speaker? What better than motherhood and apple pie. So the apple pie, and the motherhood argument worked. The government took her over.

And the public argument was that this fellow Doyle is a fugitive from justice, he is a crook, and we cannot have a fellow like that running our business and that kind of a thing. I am a greater believer, Mr. Speaker, in the free enterprise system. I am a great believer in that part of the system which says that a corporate entity is governed by a board of directors, that decisions are made by the majority of shareholders. I am a great believer that if one of the shareholders, even if he be president of the company, steps out of line and does something which is not in the corporate interest he will be dealt with and swiftly. And Canadian Javelin proved me right on that one. Canadian Javelin, and let us forget that

Mr. Simmons: it was Javelin rather than Doyle as such who was involved in the Linerboard operation. I am not splitting hairs, I am just pointing out that the interest was Javelin's rather than Doyle's particularly, although, of course, he had an obvious and a very real interest in it.

But the company demonstrated, the corporate entity demonstrated ultimately that it could take care of its own, that it would deal swiftly with those who did not do what was in the interest of the corporation, in their view, not mine, not necessarily mine is what I mean. The company dealt with Mr. Doyle in that context. But not this crowd, Mr. Speaker. They had to get in, and not only solve all the problems that a government has to solve, but they also had to get in and do a few favours for Canadian Javelin, too. They had to start doing the internal housekeeping for a nationally incorporated company in this country. How haughty! How almighty, Mr. Speaker, a crowd are they?

I believe, and I believed for some time had the government not touched the Linerboard operation, the Doyle involvement would have been taken care of in time, as it was, by the people who should have taken care of it, the Canadian Javelin shareholders and the courts. Who is there among us today, Mr. Speaker, who thinks that Mr. Doyle would be actively involved today in the Linerboard operation? Who is there? Anybody? I predict, Mr. Speaker, that with or without the action of this government in 1971 or 1972, or whenever it was, 1972, with or without that action Mr. Doyle would be exactly where he is today. And we could have had, Mr. Speaker, a continuing operation by a free enterprise. And keep in mind, Mr. Speaker, the point of my argument.

The argument is not, in 1972, the argument was not that Linerboard could not work. The argument was not that free enterprise could not operate it. That was not the government's argument. The government's argument was that a crook is running it and we got to get rid of a crook. That was the only argument we heard, Mr. Speaker,

AN HON. MEMBER: A whipping boy!

Mr. Simmons: A crook is running it, we have to get rid of the crook. That was the argument. The argument was not that the government should take it over. The argument was not that the free enterprise could not run it. The argument was simply and only that Doyle is a crook, we have got to get rid of Doyle. And I say to them that they were so sucked in by the Crosbie agenda, so sucked in, so anxious to destroy, to wipe off the face of the earth everything connected with Joe Smallwood's regime.

MR. NEARY: You know, by the way,

MR. NEARY: When they were dealing with this bloke they paid him \$5 million for the Linerboard mill, they paid him \$2½ million more, and there was a couple of more million in the dispute gone to arbitration?

MR. SIMMONS: My colleague from LaPoile (Mr. Neary) just reminds me of the absolutely insidious way in which this crowd operates. They are so two-faced about it, Mr. Speaker, so two-faced that they actually sit down and they say, 'Now look, we have to package this and we have to package it two ways - we package it first of all for substance, for what it is and for what we want out of it, and secondly we package it for the public. Now what do we tell the public on Linerboard? Now, Newfoundlanders, good, law-abiding Christian people do not like crooks. So we tell them Doyle is a crook. That should get him. That should hold him for a while, all those law-abiding, Bible-thumping fundamentalist, religious Newfoundlanders. That should get them for a while - Doyle, a crook! Got to get rid of him!' And so the new crusade begins, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: That means Smallwood was a crook and all his ministers were crooks, too.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, well, that is the bonus part of the message. The bonus part of the package, that is, that everybody associated with Doyle is a crook. And before I get back to the thought I am pursuing, if you want to see the absurdity of that, Mr. Speaker, crooks in the gospel of this administration can change, you know. A crook today is a saint tomorrow. I thought, Mr. Speaker, I would puke on October 10, 1973 when I went to the opening of the Come By Chance refinery. I thought I would puke. And who was singing the solo? Who was mouthing the eulogy to that

MR. SIMMONS: great crook, John Shaheen, the crook that Crosbie had told us all about, the crook that the Premier had told us all about when he was in Opposition before he came into the House, when he was the leader of the party, before he was Premier? Remember that crook? The number one was Doyle. There were three of them, and Crosbie used to call them LSD - Lundrigan, Shaheen and Doyle. Shaheen is smack in the middle. Doyle was even last, he was the least of their worries. Shaheen, this big crook that the Premier told us about before he became Premier that he was going to rid the Province of once and for all, and then you go October 10, 1973 to the Come By Chance refinery site and who is up, choirmaster, organist, conductor, who is the one man band? Who is singing the eulogy to the fugitive, Shaheen? Who? Smallwood? Hardly! Neary, perhaps? Fellows in the Cabinet in those days? Maybe Roberts, who took over from Smallwood? Who was singing the eulogy? The Premier! The coach himself!

MR. NEARY: And who was waltzing up the deck of the Queen E. II but Mr. Crosbie!

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, and that trip, that famous trip from New York, I will always be bitter about that. They did not invite me, Mr. Speaker. I will always be bitter, Mr. Speaker, about that. My friend from Lewisporte was there.

MR. NEARY: I went to Come By Chance and went down, went one way.

MR. SIMMONS: Oh, yes, my friend from LaPoile went one way. There were others on the trip, but these two fellows admit to it, so I will stay with those two.

But, you see, on that trip, as my colleague reminds me, there was the other fellow who

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MR. SIMMONS: said that Shaheen was an awful crook, waltzing - I suppose that is a good term - waltzing his way and drinking Mr. Shaheen's, the crook's champagne. I wonder did they test it for poison content or what? I wonder.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think we have demonstrated in the past few minutes just how a crook today can become an angel, that which you abhor today you embrace tomorrow. So that is the transformation that Shaheen underwent. Had it not been for the astuteness of my friend from LaPoile (Mr. Neary), there was another crook, Mr. Speaker, about to undergo the same kind of transformation, I suspect. Let me say first as a preamble, Mr. Speaker, who is there in this House, who is there in this Province who believes for one milli-second that

MR. SIMMONS: this administration wants to get John Doyle back here?

We were told the other day that they have not even requested extradition. They have not even asked, Mr. Speaker. All the noise, remember all the wind, all the noise they made about Doyle and what a crook he is?

MR. NEARY: He knows too much.

MR. SIMMONS: They do not want him back here, Mr. Speaker. Imagine if he talked!

MR. NEARY: That is for sure.

MR. SIMMONS: Imagine if he talked, Mr. Speaker, the last people in the world -

MR. NEARY: We would find out about rings and Bill Saunders (inaudible).

MR. SIMMONS: The last people in the world who want Doyle back here is this administration. And I will go a step further, Mr. Speaker, and say that he was destined for sainthood. He was destined for the Shaheen type sainthood. Now albeit because the refinery has slipped, Shaheen's halo somewhat slipped too, but that is a matter of circumstance. Saints go through their highs and lows, too, you know. But Doyle, Mr. Speaker, was destined for sainthood, absolutely destined for it. It was all being set up, all being set up. Decisions were made, Mr. Speaker. First the Minister of Justice is told, "Do not you ever dare in your best and most sanctimonious moment, when you are on your highest pedestal, do not you ever dare say we are going to request extradition. Avoid the subject like the plague. Then if it ever comes up, get the Minister of Transportation, who is good at a witty remark, get him to say, 'Is that all you want, an extradition? We will see to that.' Knowing full well of course that it is not the Minister of

MR. SIMMONS: Transportation who expedites these matters, it is the Minister of Justice who to this day, Mr. Speaker, has still been silent on the subject of whether they are going to request Ottawa to extradite Mr. Doyle. But the most unbelievable thing is that all these years, with all these rantings and roarings, we now find - two weeks ago, was it? - two weeks ago we find that the government has not requested extradition.

MR. NEARY: Had not.

MR. SIMMONS: Had not requested extradition. This is about two week ago. After all what - I was going to say a word then but it is unparliamentary. But he was destined for sainthood, Mr. Speaker, and so the scheme was this, first make sure nobody in the government mentions extradition. Do not ever mention it. If the public think that we have taken all the steps and it is those stubborn Yanks down there, those technocratic Yanks those legalistic Yanks who are holding up things, there are Panamanians or whatever the case is, Panamanians in this case, if that is what the public thinks is holding up Doyle being brought back in here, being dragged in to face charges, if the public think that is what is holding it up let them think that; but do not let us in this administration, they say, ever breathe a word about extradition because somebody out there might get an idea.

MR. NEARY: If he did come back would he get a fair trial in this Province, I wonder? That is a good question.

MR. SIMMONS: Now, Mr. Speaker, that is the first step. And the second step, dispatch the Minister of Industrial Development. Dispatch him. Dispatch him down South for a softening up process, a week -

MR. NEARY: First the Premier in Granada.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, the Premier first, that is true. The Premier in Granada to see -

MR. NEARY: And then that telephone conversation last year.

MR. SIMMONS: Obviously, Mr. Speaker, with a plot this important, Mr. Speaker, with a script this meticulous, there are little details that we cannot go into now for the sake of time. But just touching the high spots: First, do not breathe a word about extradition. It could rock the boat and some smart person could start asking questions and get him back here and then what a can of worms we would have on our hands;

Second, after all the intermediate ploys, the telephone calls and the preliminary visits, let us send somebody down there on a full state visit, a full dress rehearsal, Who better than the Minister of Industrial Development? Now let us get them on neutral ground, mind you. Get him someplace where he will not be compromised. Let us not put him in a hotel down there because Doyle might know more of the people in the Hotel than he knows. Let us not have him stay with any of our friends down there because somehow that might not seem too fair and square. Let us get him on completely neutral ground. Let us have him live with Doyle. Let us put him literally in bed with him.

MR. NEARY: That is where he spent -

MR. SIMMONS: How stunned, Mr. Speaker! How long, how long will we be asked, Mr. Speaker, to swallow this garbage? How stunned must they be to think that the

MR. SIMMONS:

people of Newfoundland are so stunned! So he goes down and sleeps in Doyle's bed. The record does not show whether he slept alone in Doyle's bed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: Do you think Mr. Doyle was in with him?

MR. SIMMONS: We do know, Mr. Speaker, and I am being figurative only here, I assure you, we do know I figuratively he must have slept with Doyle. We do know that the marriage was about to be consummated. We do know that the sainthood was ready for the anointing period, the stage was set, the canonization calendar was drawn, they were all ready. But then, you see, even saints have to be bounced around by the vicissitudes of bad fortune at times, and bad fortune reared its ugly head a form of my colleague for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) who began asking the most embarrassing questions

MR. NEARY: First of all it was as a result of the members on the other side asking me questions.

MR. SIMMONS: Now, Mr. Speaker, let us get this straight what is happening here now, Mr. Speaker. The member for LaPoile often tells me things that I have difficulty believing and he has just told me now, Mr. Speaker, that he asked the questions after being asked by people on the other side of the House the same questions.

MR. S. NEARY: The Minister of Tourism (Mr. Morgan), the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter), the member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall) and two or three others: Who is the spokesman for Panama? Who is the spokesman for Doyle? That is what the members kept asking me and I kept reminding them that the spokesman was on their side of the House.

MR. MORGAN: Come on! Come on! Come on!

MR. S. NEARY:

Right.

MR. S. NEARY:

No, the hon. gentleman -

MR. SIMMONS:

Mr. Speaker, I appeal to my colleague. I mean my colleague is an intelligent fellow and there is no way he expects us to think, expects the member for Bonavista South (Mr. Morgan) to think for a minute that somehow the Minister of Industrial Development (Dr. Farrell) could in any way be the spokesman for Mr. Doyle. The Minister of Industrial Development, he did nothing! He only stayed into Mr. Doyle's house for a week. He only had a hotel bill paid by Doyle but he did not know that, he did not know he had the bill paid by Doyle

MR. NEARY:

The Premier was running up hour long conversations on the phone and meeting in Granada.

MR. SIMMONS:

He did not know that. I say to the member for Bonavista South in his defence, in the defence of the Minister of Industrial Development, he did not know the bill was paid by Mr. Doyle. I mean, I do it every day. I go over to the Holiday Inn every day and order a meal and then walk out and nobody asks any questions or sends me any bills. It happens all the time, it is easy. Imagine, Mr. Speaker, being asked to believe that a person can stay in a hotel for a week, live high on the hog - and if you saw the bill you would see how high and how big the hog was.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMONS:

And then you walk out of the hotel! I go over to Holiday Inn and if I order a cup of tea and then go to the bathroom a fellow chases to make sure I do not go outdoors before I pay for the cup of tea. And so you go to a hotel in Panama and you stay a week, and you run up a bill and you walk out, and not only does nobody accost you but there is not anybody to stop you and say, 'How about this bill, old man,' but you forget about it all together, it is only nine hundred bucks! What is

MR. SIMMONS: John Shaheen made it and Saint John Doyle almost made it. It has a certain ring, does it not? Saint John Doyle. And then, Mr. Speaker, we had the gall to ask embarrassing questions, little embarrassing questions, Mr. Speaker. Did the minister ever see Mr. Doyle? 'No.' The answer proved to be 'Yes' eventually. Did the minister ever have any hospitality at the hands of Mr. Doyle? 'No.' The answer proved to be 'Yes' eventually. Did the minister spend any time with Mr. Doyle lately? 'No.' The answer proved to be 'Yes' eventually.

MR. NEARY: Bumped into him in a hotel.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, if I leave here tonight - and that is not at all sure - if I leave here tonight, Mr. Speaker, and go to your house, Mr. Speaker, and bump into you I would not be completely surprised. I would not ask you what you were doing there. I would not call your place a hotel. Perhaps Mr. Doyle's place is bigger than yours, Sir, and we can call it an hotel. But we know the hotel that Mr. Doyle was at when the Minister of Industrial Development bumped into him, and I would not be thoroughly surprised if I went to Mr. Doyle's private hotel, otherwise known as his home in the sunny South, I would not be exactly surprised to see him. Yes, Mr. Speaker, he was destined for sure sainthood but circumstance intervened and today he is still a fugitive from justice, albeit, Mr. Speaker, a very, very safe fugitive from justice. If I were wanted in Newfoundland on some misdemeanor I would like to have the kind of guarantees Mr. Doyle has.

MR. NEARY: You have not heard about Transshipping Societe lately. have you, from the member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall)?

MR. MARSHALL: Societe Transshipping.

MR. NEARY: What about it? Is that still the big issue?

MR. MARSHALL: Yes.

MR. NEARY: It is? I have a couple of documents that I am going to give the hon. gentleman about a decision made on the Quebec Superior Court wiping the slate clean. Do you not want to hear about that? I will table it in due course if I can find it in the pile of junk that I have here.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! The hon. member for Burgeo is speaking.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, I thought my colleague wanted to say a few words while he and the member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall) are on speaking terms. Well, anyway, while he searches away, Mr. Speaker, I will continue my sainthood plea for John Doyle. I was saying that if I were wanted on a misdemeanor, all I would ask is that I have the same guarantees that Doyle has. I would not have a worry in the world, Mr. Speaker, would not have a worry in the world about ever being dragged back here screaming to face the charges. And as I say he was destined for sainthood. Let me clue up on that thought in this sense, destined for sainthood. He was destined to be recreated up here as a decent fellow on certain conditions, one, that he would not come back here, not come back because we want you to face a charge, but do not come back; if you do not come back we will make you a deal. That was the first condition, Mr. Speaker, that he not come back. The second condition was that he not come back in the sense of talking through other people, and so that is why the Premier gets so paranoid about this possibility that somehow he is hearing voices. He keeps talking and muttering on about spokesmen. And had the Minister of Industrial Development been just a little more circumspect, a little more proper about his trip to the sunny South, his paid for jaunt to the very boudoir of the future saint, had he been just a little more circumspect the sainthood would have gone through. Doyle

Mr. Simmons:

would be safely ensconced in other parts without any fear of extradition, though that fear today is minimal thanks to the inaction of this government, thanks to the failure of this government to request extradition.

Mr. Speaker, I have been saying this about extradition for the last fifteen minutes. Do you notice, Mr. Speaker, that nobody on the government side has rushed to his feet to assure me that my information is wrong, that they did it in the last two weeks or something. One would think, Mr. Speaker, that even if it were a gross oversight that it would have been attended to by now, but no such information, Mr. Speaker. Because I say to you the last thing they want, the last thing they want, like the ghost of Christmas past, Mr. Speaker, to Scrooge, the last thing they want is for Doyle to be dragged screaming back here. Had the sainthood been conferred Doyle would be safely ensconced where he is now even more safely, and those here who were part of that nefarious scheme in Stephenville would rest easier at night than they do.

Stephenville, Mr. Speaker, I say in response to the statement of the Premier in Halifax last week, Stephenville is not an example where government steps in by default. Stephenville is an example where a government is sucked in by design. And I qualify, not the design of a government as a whole, but the deliberate design of one person. That is the story of Stephenville. And that is the shame of it. For just a few bucks, Mr. Speaker, we would recover as a people, recover quickly as a people. But it is more than that, Mr. Speaker, it is the soul of the people of Bay St. George, the economy of the people of Bay St. George, the jobs of 3,000 people directly and indirectly. That is what is involved there and that is why it is all the more criminal. And then we are asked to believe that government stepped in by default.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I was saying a minute ago, or a few minutes ago when I was talking about the financial position of the Province that there are several versions, One is the version that

Mr. Simmons: I alluded to, the version that Smallwood is responsible for all our troubles. Then there is the involvement of this particular government that we must look at. And, I suppose, if I may connected it up, that same version that says Smallwood is responsible for all of our troubles, also says that this administration is responsible for our salvation. Mr. Speaker, if this is salvation, if this is salvation I elect to be damned.

MR. MORGAN: (Inaudible) now, folks?

MR. SIMMONS: The member for Bonavista South (Mr. Morgan) is back in his seat.

MR. MORGAN: I do not want to be here but I got to be here.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, well that is the way we like it. That is the way we like it. I hope, Mr. Speaker -

MR. MORGAN: (Inaudible).

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

MR. SIMMONS: - I hope it is pure unadulterated punishment for the member, ~~that~~ is the best compliment I could get, the absolute best compliment because what I am saying about that administration and the skulduggery in Stephenville, Mr. Speaker, -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMONS: - the skulduggery in Stephenville, and I say to the minister if he had been here he would have heard since 6:00 o'clock alone a discourse on the subject of the need to care for the elderly; the past fifteen minutes the subject of sainthood, the fifteen minutes before that, the subject of skulduggery, in forty-five minutes, Mr. Speaker, forty-five minutes rather than repeat myself I have gone to three new subjects, care for the elderly, skulduggery in government, sainthood in and out of government.

MR. MORGAN: (Inaudible).

MR. SIMMONS: Now, Mr. Speaker, the member for Bonavista South (Mr. Morgan)

MR. SIMMONS: is back again. And he was concerned a few minutes ago about whether I was including him in the clique. I do not include the member for St. Mary's The Capes, the Minister of Fisheries, in the clique and I told him that. He is not part of the clique I talked about. And I have some news - I am not sure good - I have some news for the member for Bonavista South (Mr. Morgan) as well. He is not, Mr. Speaker, a member of the clique. Now, Mr. Speaker, the difference in the two members I have just mentioned is that one would not be in the clique and the other could not be in the clique.

Not lack of desire, Mr. Speaker, that keeps the Helicopter Kid grounded. Now, Mr. Speaker, as grim as it is, I would rather any day talk about our financial position than the position of the hon. member, because our financial position, Mr. Speaker, has a hope of recovery, has some hope of regeneration.

MR. J. CARTER: You are being paid for this?

MR. SIMMONS: I am being paid very well, I say to the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter), very well for this. I have no complaints whatsoever. I have no complaints for another reason. As a full-time member, I earn my salary.

Mr. Speaker, I have certain things I want to say about the financial position of the Province, about the unseemly goings on, and I am saying them. It takes a while to say them. It would only take about half as long, I would have been finished long since, Mr. Speaker, today, but I was harassed for an hour and a half by the member for Kilbride (Mr. Wells). He raised about thirty points of order. He was going non-stop, Mr. Speaker, just like a jack-rabbit. Now the member for St. John's North, while he does take my time, he is such a pleasant diversion,

MR. SIMMONS:

such a nice fellow, Mr. Speaker, such a pleasant diversion, that you do not mind once in a while, Mr. Speaker, digressing to cater to his immediate needs because he has only very few needs, Mr. Speaker. He is paid well, that is not one of his problems. He has got very few needs but once in a while he wants to be recognized. So every fifteen minutes - you do not need a clock, Mr. Speaker, do not need a clock at all. He blows every fifteen minutes -

MR. NEARY: Just like a whale.

MR. SIMMONS: -like a whale coming up for air. All right? And then after you cater to him - you have to cater to him, Mr. Speaker. There is a certain psychology involved here. You do not treat him too snarkily because he stays up too long. But if you invoke certain terms like nice fellow, savory and Shakespear, then no problem, he is okay then for another fifteen minutes. He is like weeds in a garden. He has to be tended to, Mr. Speaker, but not continuously, just regularly.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as pleasant a fellow as he is I would much rather give most of my time to the subject of the financial position. I hope - I have seen the Minister of Finance make some fairly copious notes - I would hope that when he gets up, apart from his diatribe which I fully expect and am prepared for and shall come properly protected to endure -

MR. NEARY: Be careful of that now. He might give you a (inaudible)

MR. SIMMONS: I suppose before that even we can expect the letter writer from Green Bay to give us orally what he does so well in writing, some of his colourful language. Mr. Speaker, there is nothing more impressive than a fellow

MR. SIMMONS:

who, going to the gallows, not only says, 'Yes, I did it,' but, 'I am not sorry.' The minister from Green Bay reminded me the other day when he was up defending the indefensible, talking about those letters, I thought fully he would say, 'Look, I had a bad moment, a bad day. The girl was getting on my nerves, the typist, she was having a job taking the shorthand down. The transcribing unit, the dictaphone was acting up, the batteries were low. She misunderstood a garbled remark and there was a word inserted, a negative where it should have been not a negative.' For some reason, you know, there could have been some kind of an alibi, some kind of a mea culpa, as it were, some kind of a rationale.

MR. SIMMONS:

But no, he not only did it, Mr. Speaker, he has the gall to tell us that he is proud of it. He is proud of insulting a poor lady in Baie Verte who happens to be concerned her husband might die of cancer before he reaches old age. He is happy about that, Mr. Speaker.

So I was going to say, Mr. Speaker, I want the Minister of Finance in time to give me some information about the real financial position, and I hope that he will understand the point I am making here, that we know so little. The only time you hear about our financial position, and you will hear then only about it on the surface, is when somebody is going over to Germany or France or wherever - or Alberta - to sign another \$50 million loan. Then you will get some dribble about how it is going to meet our ongoing commitments and that kind of thing, but you get nothing of substance about the financial position. I would hope when the Minister of Finance gets up he will tell us something in detail about where we stand in real terms.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that brings me to a point that has not been made, not only in this debate, but in this House this year and that is the credibility - credibility is not the term - accuracy, the accuracy, what is the accuracy of the books of this Province? How accurate is the reckoning? Do we really know as a Province what our real financial position is? And I say that with reason, Mr. Speaker. I remember about December of 1976 or January of 1977, I believe it was, in the Public Accounts Committee in one of our first few meetings - my colleague from Mount Scio (Dr. R. Winsor) the vice-chairman of the Committee is not here now, but he will recall the occasion - I remember we had as witnesses before the Committee a number of the Finance people

MR. SIMMONS: including the then Comptroller of the Treasury and Deputy Minister of Finance and others and we discovered, partly from the Auditor General's information but also from questions in Committee, we discovered that there were book entries, incorrect book entries and/or failures to enter at all to the tune of \$200 million. Can you credit that?

My colleague from Lewisporte (Mr. White) will recall - he was on the Committee and still is. My colleague from Baie Verte - White Bay is now on the Committee but was not at that particular time. My colleague from Carbonear (Mr. R. Moores) was at the time and is now not on the Committee - \$200 million. Incorrect entries or absence of entries altogether totalling \$200 million in one fiscal year. How, Mr. Speaker? That figure, Mr. Speaker, accounts for 20 per cent of our expenditure. And expenditure of \$1 billion and \$200 million of it is written down in the wrong place. Coupled with that, Mr. Speaker, there were deposits in banks in New York that were not even recorded totalling, I believe - I will not mention the figure because I forget the actual figure right now. I will not mention the figure.

Now, Mr. Speaker, at that particular time there was quite a kerfluffle involving myself and the then Minister of Finance, the present Minister of Transportation. Quite a kerfluffle, Mr. Speaker, because somehow I had misrepresented some of the facts.

What I said at the time, Mr. Speaker, and I do not think you will blame me for saying it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, we have no shortage of leadership on this side of the House. Not

Mr. Simmons: We know who is leader number one , leader number two, leader number three, leader number four. Alright? We know all of that, Mr. Speaker. We know all of that. The problem is that on the other side of the House the infighting goes on. Here we settle all of our differences. We have had some sweet make-ups, Mr. Speaker. It is fantastic over here. It is just like one continuing love story, one continuing love story. It is so overwhelming, Mr. Speaker, it is almost too much to take. You have to go out and get into a row just to bring you down to earth once in a while. You have to go out and pick a row with somebody on the government side just to bring you down to earth. It is just sweetness and light over here. It is fantastic.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I was talking about this unforgivable, unforgivable business in government where \$200 million is either written down in the wrong place or not written down at all. Can you credit that? Imagine if you had a budget, a household budget and one-fifth of it, you not only spent it, but you did not know where you spent it.

MR. NEARY: The hon. member for (inaudible) does not want to hear that.

MR. SIMMONS: Oh no, he cannot take it. He cannot take it. Because now we are suddenly saying something that he should identify with. We heard about that free vote last week. It is the kind of free vote, I guess, the poor fellow got the other day in his trial in Moscow. You do not have to plead guilty. Of course, you do not. Do you want to hear your choices? It is the kind of freedom the Premier allowed his Caucus the other night. Freedom! What an abortion of the word 'Free'.

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I asked the question a moment ago, and I hope the Minister of Justice, Finance will be able to answer it, do we know our real financial position? I know it is pretty bad, and it is a lot worse than he is saying, but do we know how bad it is, Mr. Speaker? Do we know if we have such slopping bookkeeping down there? And I am not pointing the finger at the whole public service in Finance. I know who the culprits are, and I said so in Committee, Mr. Speaker. I said so in Committee. And when I said it the Minister of Transportation came out and took me on publicly on the radio, and then wrote me letters, and for a while -

MR. NEARY: Go out and get the minister.

MR. SIMMONS: - it was a vicious thing. The stuff he said to me in letters, I do not know if I got the letters here now, but my goodness, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DOODY: What? The letters?

MR. SIMMONS: Oh boy, oh boy, what that man did not say!

MR. NEARY: Do you mean he actually wrote you nasty letters, did you say?

MR. SIMMONS: Well, I did not say they were nasty. I am going to let you judge for yourself on that particular subject. But he said at one point- I wrote him a letter and the letter was a fairly factual thing. I could read the letter if I want, if the House wanted, Mr. Speaker, but the letter was relating to some goings on in Committee and on the air where I had been involved in it, and I thought it was a fairly gentle thing. As a matter of fact, I even closed the letter on a very kind note. And the letter I got back from the minister at the time said, among other things, and it said some fairly strong things and I had to swallow a few times, but the letter at one point, and this is devoted - a paragraph devoted to this, Mr. Speaker, said that your letter to me, your letter to me, and I remember the letter saying, and I am not quoting from it because you would want me to table it, but I suppose if I have

Mr. Simmons: to I would, but it says, "Your letter" - now he is writing the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, Mr. Speaker, I will tell you in a minute what he is writing about - "Your letter to me he says confirms my worst suspicions of your intentions."

AN ION. MEMBER: Oop! What?

MR. W. ROWE: He is as bad as the member for Green Bay.

MR. DOODY: Who said that?

MR. SIMMONS: The minister said it, on January 19.

MR. DOODY: I thought it had a familiar ring to it.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, indeed it does. "Your letter to me," he said, "confirms my worst suspicions of your intentions".

MR. DOODY: A great reference - precise, concise.

MR. SIMMONS: Can the minister tell me now what the intentions were?

MR. DOODY: Pardon?

MR. SIMMONS: He said he had some bad suspicions of my intentions. Does he want to tell me now what those suspicions were?

MR. DOODY: They were confirmed.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, but what were they? What was confirmed?

MR. DOODY: Give me a copy of the letter (inaudible).

MR. NEARY: Go down in your files and get it.

MR. SIMMONS: Anyway, Mr. Speaker, I did not mean to bring this up as such. I have another letter that I want to refer to. I got a lot of letters this week.

MR. DOODY: (Inaudible).

MR. SIMMONS: I replied to the minister and I said in part that "My letter of January 14 to you - to the Minister - was written more in sadness than in anger," as is this one. And then I went on

MR. SIMMONS:

to tell him why I was more saddened than angered. I was saddened, Mr. Speaker, because the minister failed to either get or recognize the main point and it revolved around this whole business of government accounting. I do not know, Mr. Speaker, and I am asking the Minister of Finance to talk about this when he gets up, if there has been any change. I know that when I mentioned the possibility that there were some inaccuracies in government accounting a wall went up and everybody stood together and said, 'What! Us make a mistake!' Then the Auditor General and the auditors tell me when they go checking that indeed they did make a mistake. They made a \$200 million mistake. Then, Mr. Speaker, along the same lines I made a statement, and I am only giving you part of the background but if members would want more of the background I can give more. I realize it is a year ago. But it illustrates one of the big problems we are facing with government now is that we do not know where we stand because the books were not kept properly and, I submit now, may not be kept properly to this day. And again I am not pointing the finger at the accounting staff or at the bookkeepers or at the clerk who makes the entries, I am pointing the finger at the people who supervise this.

I said a year ago, and it might have changed now with a new comptroller. We have a new comptroller in the position of Mr. Fern. But I do know what I said at that time. I said then, Mr. Speaker, that I felt that with these entries as they were, with the expenditures about which I can give you all kinds of detail if you like, with the nature of the expenditures and the entries as they were I said that the comptroller of the day had broken the law. That was the term. That

MR. SIMMONS:

is the term the minister took exception to. I said he had broken the law.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the rest got lost in the sound and fury. The rest got lost in a diatribe back and forth concerned only with who could shout the loudest, and the real issue has never been answered. The real issues, and there are two, are our books in the kind of shape that could even tell you what our financial position is? And two, is the comptroller still breaking the law on this point? He surely was then, absolutely and surely was at that particular time. He was not, Mr. Speaker, satisfying the requirements of section 29 of the Financial Administration Act. It says this, this is the law of the land passed by this House of Assembly, 1973, since this government took office, Mr. Speaker, section 29, 'the comptroller shall see that no payment or commitment for the payment of any public money is made, (a) for which there is no legislative appropriation, (b) for which no other appropriation has been provided pursuant to this act, (c) which is in excess of such appropriations or (d) which is in excess of such sums as may have been deposited with the government in trust for any person. And he shall report to the board any case which comes to his notice in which liability has been incurred by any minister, deputy minister or other officer or person which contravenes the provisions of this act. And the board may take action in the matter as it deems necessary.'

Now, Mr. speaker, I only wish - it is a bit of an awkward situation in that the person who was comptroller at the time I made these remarks

MR. SIMMONS:

and at the time the fiscal year I am talking about was gone through, that individual is no longer in the employ of the government. I suppose even if he were he would not be present at this particular time. So in either way I am obliged to make -

MR. DOODY: He was not employed by the government anyway.

MR. SIMMONS: Well by the House.

MR. DOODY: Exactly, but that is another minor matter.

MR. SIMMONS: No, no. The minister reminds me that he was employed in two capacities, one by the government and one by the House. So we are both right.

MR. HICKMAN: He was paid by the House.

MR. SIMMONS: Oh, that is different. You did not say paid. The minister said employed. The minister knows full well that he has a dual employment appointment. He has a dual employment position. He is appointed by the House insofar as he is Comptroller of the Treasury capacity is concerned. He is appointed by executive council, by Cabinet, insofar as his job as Deputy Minister of Finance is concerned. He is a two headed monster. He is the Deputy Minister of Finance, for which he receives no salary, and he is the comptroller of the treasury for which he receives a salary which is voted as a statutory item by this House.

MR. NEARY: The minister said different.

MR. SIMMONS: Well, the minister latches on to what he thinks are inaccuracies because, you see, it gets us off, he thinks, the main subject. And the main subject is this, that through lack of supervision - we are not talking about supervising a nursery for an afternoon or supervising the expenditure of \$1.55 on scribbblers. We are talking about the supervision of \$1 billion and we are talking about the misrecording, the wrong recording of \$200 million. Now I have not seen the figures for subsequent years and I want the Minister of Finance to tell us, has it improved since or are we still in that shoddy situation where, yeah, we know where most of the money is but there are \$200 million we are not sure of.

MR. NEARY: How would he know? How would the minister know?

MR. SIMMONS: Only \$200 million, you know, we are not sure of. It is here somewhere. We know it is in a bank in New York but we do not have any record of it. That was the case. That was not all the \$200 million now but that was the case in some of the money. There was no record. There were actually deposits in the bank. There were no records of it and the only thing we had to go on was the good will of the banker who said, by the way, you have a deposit down here. And we are not talking about one deposit, we are talking about several.

MR. NEARY: You have got to be kidding.

MR. SIMMONS: No, I am not kidding, Mr. Speaker. You check first of all the Auditor General's report for 1975-1976, check with my friend from Lewisporte (Mr. White) - you remember this one well - check with my colleague, the Vice Chairman of the Committee from Mount Scio (Dr. Winsor) as well as from Placentia (Mr. Patterson) who was then a

MR. SIMMONS:

member of the Committee, my friend from Pleasantville (Mr. Dinn), who is a member of the Committee and my friend from Mount Pearl (Mr. N. Windsor), who is a member of the Committee. And the Committee was told that there were \$200 million in wrong entries and in failures to enter altogether.

Then, Mr. Speaker, I, as a public servant, as a member of a House, as a legislator, trying to do my job I draw attention to this fact and I say, that is not good enough, \$200 million. I go on the radio and I say it and I get rapped on the knuckles in the most scurrilous fashion by the Minister of Finance. He went on the radio the following day and he took me apart in no uncertain terms and then I wrote him a letter, as I say, more in sadness than in anger. Then he came back with a letter. Then I wrote him a second letter, again more in sadness than in anger.

MR. DOODY: You are not going to read that trash.

MR. SIMMONS: No, I will read the second letter and the House can decide whether or not it was an angry letter.

MR. DOODY: My reply was more in anger.

MR. SIMMONS: Oh, I know the minister's reply was more in anger than in sadness because he wanted to skirt the main issue and the main issue was that his deputy had broken the law.

MR. DOODY: Make that charge elsewhere (inaudible).

MR. SIMMONS: I did.

MR. DOODY: (Inaudible)

MR. SIMMONS: So then I sought a legal opinion but the minister would not be interested in that, would he?

MR. DOODY: That is your legal opinion.

MR. SIMMONS: I am not a lawyer. It is not my opinion.

MR. DOODY: I thought you said you sought a legal opinion.

MR. SIMMONS: Oh yes.

MR. DOODY: Someone gave you a legal opinion.

MR. SIMMONS: But not my legal opinion.

MR. DOODY: You gave your opinion -

MR. SIMMONS: Oh no.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

I wonder if the hon. member would yield and I will announce the Late Show. There are three questions to be debated. One by the hon. member for LaPoile to the Minister of Transportation and Communications; the hon. member for Windsor-Buchans concerning the spray issue; and the hon. member for Bellevue to the Minister of Transportation and Communications on the reopening of the Come by Chance oil refinery.

MR. DOODY: What is the first one?

MR. SPEAKER: To the Minister of Transportation regarding the purchase of two Canso planes and air services.

The hon. member.

MR. SIMMONS: Now, Mr. Speaker, we have a few minutes before we get to the Late Show and I think it is important to highlight the two issues I am raising here. One is that a couple of years ago - and it may have changed now - but a couple of years ago our books as a Province were in a very shoddy situation. Our books were so shoddy that we had \$200 million recorded in the wrong places or not recorded at all. Now that is a fact, Mr. Speaker. That is not a charge, that is not an allegation in any partisan sense, that is in the record, Mr. Speaker. You can find it in the record, \$200 million recorded in the wrong places or not recorded at all. That is

MR. SIMMONS: point number one. Point number two, this shoddy situation was allowed to continue and a number of other related matters because the Comptroller was not complying with the requirements of section 29 of the Act.

At the time, Mr. Speaker, I said that and I was viciously attacked for saying it. Everybody on the other side closed ranks and so I agreed to a moratorium. I agreed at that time to say nothing further about it- I said it in Committee- I agreed to say nothing further about it until we had dealt with the issue and the report of the Committee was tabled. Well, that has been done now, Mr. Speaker, that has been done.

I did make the charge outside the House, Mr. Speaker, so I wanted to be certain, particularly in view of the violent reaction I got from some people. I wanted to ask myself, is this reaction for partisan reasons only? Is it the same old diatribe we get from this crowd all of the time that everytime anybody says anything on this side they have to disagree with it? Because, you see, I thought I was going them a favour, Mr. Speaker, by pointing out that the Comptroller had broken the law. I thought they would latch onto that and say, Well, how did he break the law? Let us either change the law or have a talk to the fellow so that the law is not broken in the future. I never at any time said, nor do I believe, that it was any malicious, willful breaking of the law. I think he was knowingly breaking the law. I think he was aware that what he was doing was not in accordance with section 29 so he cannot plead ignorance. I think he was aware of it. If a man is not aware of what section 29 says he certainly should not hold the position of Comptroller of the Treasury in this Province.

MR. SIMMONS:

But despite that, Mr. Speaker, he was not doing the things that he was required to do under that act. And what that act says there, Mr. Speaker, in section 29, is very, very specific. "The Comptroller shall see that no payment or commitment for payment of any public money is made for which there is no legislative appropriation, for which there is no other provision etc." Shall see that no payment is made. The fact is, Mr. Speaker - and you do not have to take my word for it; take the Auditor General's and his auditors and independent auditors otherwise - that there were many cases where the Comptroller allowed payments to be made. And the result, Mr. Speaker, is that we had contraventions of the act in that particular year. I want to know whether there have been contraventions since. We had shoddy book-keeping in that particular year which comes under the direct supervision of the Comptroller, direct in the sense that he is responsible, obviously, for the state of the books of the Province and particularly when the state is so abysmal that we have \$200 million in the wrong places.

Mr. Speaker, in the last few minutes I have been fairly direct and fairly adamant in my statement that the Comptroller of the day did not meet the requirements of section 29 of the act, in other words, broke the law in a matter involving millions of dollars. It is not a very pleasant thing to say, Mr. Speaker, but it is true. An examination of the records will show that it is true. But in addition, Mr. Speaker, I needed a little extra assurance that it was true myself because I had made a fairly serious charge and, as I say, I got quite a violent reaction and I was not sure whether it was just the usual partisan stuff or whether, indeed, they were legitimately appalled about something I had said.

MR. SIMMONS:

So I consulted a lawyer, a lawyer who I believe will be known to a great many people in the Province. He has been involved in a number of cases which have come to public light. This was the only occasion on which I have had to go to him in the legal sense. I sent him the documents, or I gave him the documents, the act, the Financial Administration Act, the various transcripts of the Public Accounts Committee, the public accounts for the year under review, anything that was at all bearing on the subject and I said, Look, give me an interpretation of this act. I told him

Mr. Simmons:

the background, and I showed him the transcript of a radio programme that I had been involved in, and I showed him the letters from the Minister of Finance, as he then was, the present Minister of Transportation. And I said, give me an interpretation. And I got an interpretation. It reads as follows, and I am prepared to table this letter, Mr. Speaker, addressed to me, "In response to your request for a legal opinion on Section 29 of The Financial Administration Act, Statutes Of Newfoundland, 1973, Chapter 86, please be advised that our firm has carefully considered the provisions of this Section. It is our considered legal opinion that it is the duty of the Comptroller to literally follow the provisions of that Section, and to report to the Board any case in which a department has committed itself to excess expenditure. In our view, the mode and time of payment is not material or significant, and any subsequent retroactive approval by the Legislature would not alter the fact that there had been a previous commitment for expenditures above the actual amounts appropriated.

"We feel that any contrary interpretation of that Section would render it totally absurd, and no safeguard or check on the actions of various departments, which that Section was obviously intended to be.

"In summary, it is our opinion that the Section must be interpreted literally, and is placing an affirmative duty on the Comptroller to report to the Treasury Board any excess allocations or expenditures or commitments for same. If the Comptroller - I am sorry - if Comptroller were to fail to comply with this duty, we feel that he would be in violation with the terms of Section 29 of The Financial Administration Act. If you require any amplification or elaboration to this matter please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned."

Mr. Speaker, I go back to the last paragraph but one: the penultimate paragraph.

MR. HICKMAN: Will the hon. gentleman (inaudible) and table it, please?

MR. SIMMONS: I will, I will. I will do both.

Mr. Speaker, I go back to the last paragraph but, one the penultimate paragraph here, which says in part -

MR. NEARY: Do not hold it against them now (Inaudible).

MR. SIMMONS: "If the Comptroller", he says, "If the Comptroller were to fail to comply with this duty we feel that he would be in violation with the terms of Section 29 of The Financial Administration Act."

Now, Mr. Speaker, in laying out the information for this letter I should have also informed the House, as the records of the Public Accounts Committee will bear me out, that the then Comptroller told the Public Accounts Committee in answer to a direct question that he had on many occasions failed to inform the Board of such expenditures.

MR. NEARY: What?

MR. SIMMONS: And it was on that basis that I made my statement.

MR. NEARY: What kind of a crowd are running the place?

MR. SIMMONS: He had failed on numerous occasions, he informed the Public Accounts Committee, to inform the Board although the Financial Administration Act, Section 29, specifically required him to do so.

So there are two things, first, there is no doubt that he failed to do it, we have his own word on that, that he failed to do it on many occasions. He went so far as to say that he did not see the need to do it, you know. And we are talking, Mr. Speaker, about financial controls and where the controls rest, whether they rest with this House.

MR. NEARY: What did he think he was running, his own little bullseye shop?

AN HON. MEMBER: Who are you talking about?

MR. SIMMONS:ardon?

MR. NEARY: The Comptroller of the Treasury.

MR. SIMMONS: We are talking about the former Comptroller of the Treasury. Not Mr. Hearn, the present -

MR. HICKMAN: Not Mr. Fern.

MR. SIMMONS: No, no, no, the immediate predecessor of Mr. Fern.

MR. HICKMAN: The man who now heads up the largest concern.

MR. NEARY: : Mr. Martin, yes. Mr. Crosbie's (inaudible).

MR. SIMMONS: Pardon? Who?

MR. HICKMAN: The man who now heads up and is president of the conglomerate and the integrated National Sea and -

PREMIER MOORES: Nickerson's.

MR. HICKMAN: He is President. And Nickerson's.

MR. NEARY: The former Comptroller.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, the man who is involved in the fish business right now.

MR. HICKMAN: President of the new conglomerate.

MR. SIMMONS: The Minister of Finance makes much of the fact that now he has quite a good job, or I think that is the inference.

MR. HICKMAN: Well he has, He is a very competent man.

MR. SIMMONS: Of course, he does. Of course, as I understand it he was a very competent man-as I understand it. But in one particular at least, or in several particulars he broke the law. In one particular he broke the law several times, and

MR. SIMMONS:

in another particular he did an awful sloppy job of keeping the books of the Province to the tune of \$200 million. \$200 million now. I am saying to the Minister of Finance we are not talking about a mistake or a bad day, we are talking about somebody who was administering a procedure that produced a set of books that were completely unreliable because \$200 million was either in the wrong place or not recorded at all, because there were deposits in banks in New York that we did not have any record of, that we had to depend on the good will of the banker in New York to tell us, 'By the way we have a deposit down here for you for so many dollars.' A man who, Mr. Speaker, by his own admission told the Committee in answer to questions from myself that he did not carry out the provisions of section 29, that he did not report to the board although he was required by law -

MR. NEARY: He was Crosbie's buddy, he did not have to do that.

MR. SIMMONS: Well, Mr. Speaker, we can talk about how the gentleman got into government in the first place, but that is another issue really and one that perhaps we will get into at some other point. But right now I want to pursue two really serious points and I think perhaps we have made the point enough for the time being until we hear an answer from the Minister of Justice.

The questions are these, two questions for the Minister of Finance: Is the present Comptroller breaking the law in relation to section 29 as the former Comptroller was doing routinely and on a continuing basis? As I have said and as has been concurred in by a legal opinion from a lawyer - I will table the letter -

MR. SIMMONS:

the letter is from the law firm of Miller and Hearn in Labrador City, two lawyers there, Arthur F. Miller, B.A., LL.B. Bars of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, Edward M. Hearn, B.A. LL.B. Mr. Hearn I believe is the man who is, I guess you would call it, counsel for the Bartlett Commission. Is it counsel? Or the lawyer attached anyway to the Bartlett Commission involving work conditions in Labrador West. Mr. Hearn is a gentleman who signs the letter, Miller and Hearn, E. Hearn, Edward M. Hearn.

Mr. Speaker, the only opinion -
pardon?

MR. MARSHALL: Is he the person who gave the opinion on taxation?

MR. SIMMONS: Well even the Premier now, Mr. Speaker, is telling us, he told us last week in Halifax, that he would be in favour of an export tax. Can I tell you the other thing he would be in favour of, or would that be fair in present company? Perhaps he should tell his colleagues privately what the alternatives were. One was the export tax.

PREMIER MOORES: If Quebec separated.

MR. SIMMONS: If Quebec separated.

PREMIER MOORES: Yes.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, that is right. It was in that context. If Quebec separated, that is right, he was talking about an export tax and my friend from St. John's East (Mr. Marshall), of course, wrongly says it was an opinion on the export tax. What we were talking about was a resource tax.

MR. DOODY: You have it mixed up (inaudible).

MR. SIMMONS: In the context that it is an export tax. Well, let us get back to the Premier now. Is he going

MR. SIMMONS:

to tell us the other half of his comments?

PREMIER MOORES: I forget it. Go ahead.

MR. SIMMONS: No, I think it is not for the House really. It is the kind of thing he could tell his friends privately. If Quebec separated the Premier said he would have an export tax or he would do something else with it.

PREMIER MOORES: (Inaudible)

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, it went over very well I must say and I understand it was said in that vein. The essence of his remark, if he does not mind, was that either an export tax but if that did not work he would turn the whole thing into a ferris wheel. Something like that.

The member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall) mentions that this lawyer might have given an opinion -

MR. STRACHAN: He did.

MR. SIMMONS: Is that correct? Did this lawyer give an opinion on the resource tax?

MR. STRACHAN: Yes.

MR. SIMMONS: He did. Okay, my colleague from Eagle River (Mr. Strachan) tells me that this same lawyer who gave - I have talked to this gentleman on a number of occasions about the resource tax like I talked to Mr. Blakeney about it and Mr. Blakeney, the Premier of Saskatchewan, gave me and my colleague from Mount Scie (Dr. Winsor) last April in a meeting in Premier Blakeney's office in Regina, gave both of us the same advise as we got from Mr. Hearn. Without putting it that way, let us say what Mr. Blakeney said. He felt that we had - I do not have my notes in front of me - a good case for a resource tax on Churchill Falls power in the present context, not if Quebec separates, the present context.

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Tape 3546

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MR. SIMMONS:

And my friend from Mount Scie (Dr. Winsor) will remember that just before we left the office I put this question to him. I said, 'Mr. Blakeney, if you were the Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador today, what would you do?' And he said, 'On this Quebec

MR. SIMMONS:

thing, or this Churchill Falls thing? I said, 'What would you do?' And he said, 'I would not wait another damn minute.' That was his answer.

MR. HICKMAN: That is right and I can tell you why he said it. And now he is -

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I cannot get caught up like the Minister of Justice by looking at motives everytime a fellow opens his mouth.

MR. HICKMAN: No, no, I am not talking about motives. It was a fact that the Saskatchewan Legislature had just before that passed an act imposing a similar tax. And at the time the hon. gentleman was meeting with Premier Blakeney that issue had been taken to the Supreme Court of Canada. Unfortunately for Mr. Blakeney, Premier Blakeney, the Supreme Court of Canada set aside the legislation as being ultra vires the Province so he now has no tax.

MR. SIMMONS: The minister is talking about one of the two taxes. There is another tax battle going on there. And there are examples in Alberta and B.C. involving gas and oil where there are taxes which have been ongoing for years.

MR. HICKMAN: Anyway, Chief Justice Laskin has settled the issue beyond all reasonable doubt now.

MR. SIMMONS: The potash - Mr. Speaker, before I forget it, this letter from Miller and Hearn -

MR. HICKMAN: You are not serious about that, are you?

MR. SPEAKER(Collins): Order, please!

MR. SIMMONS: It is okay, Mr. Speaker. We are getting a little ratty, it is late in the day.

Now this letter from Miller -
Hearn, Mr. Speaker, I would like to table and I would

MR. SIMMONS: I commend it to all members of the House because it does point up a serious problem. Perhaps it is a problem in the act, Mr. Speaker, in section 29. I said earlier I do not think the breaking of the law was willful or malicious. I think it was a knowing breach of the law. I think the Deputy Minister, the Comptroller, knew exactly what he was doing and continued to do it on a continuing basis and we cannot have that kind of thing, Mr. Speaker. Either this House are the legislators or not. We cannot have a public servant, however competent, however trusted, we cannot have a public servant saying these are the laws I will obey and these are the ones I will not bother to obey. You cannot have yourself maneuvered into that kind of situation, it just cannot happen.

So I raise the matter now for two reasons: One, on the matter of principle itself that the authority for changing laws rest here, not on the eighth, or seventh or sixth floor or any other floor of this building. The authority for changing laws rest right here and has to be guarded jealously at all times. And secondly, Mr. Speaker, this continuing breach of the law and the sloppy bookkeeping I talked about brings into question the whole matter of if we even know where we stand financially.

I have said in general terms that I think we are worse off than we are being told and I have two or three specifics I will get into one of these days about why I say that. But also, Mr. Speaker, I am not sure anybody really knows where we stand financially if the same conditions apply, the same bookkeeping arrangements apply, the same bookkeeping results apply as applied a couple or three years ago when we had the \$200 million in the wrong places or not recorded at all.

MR. SIMMONS: Now, Mr. Speaker, the other day I meant to mention when I was talking about budgetary measures, I meant to mention the issue of Hydro, Newfoundland Hydro. As a people and as a group of legislators we are going to have to do something about Hydro. We do not have a lot of time, Mr. Speaker. It is becoming a law unto itself. Every jurisdiction, every legislative jurisdiction is experiencing the same problem in some measure. Some jurisdictions have had the courage to do something about it, some have moved rather lately to do something. Quebec is probably at the point now where it is going to have real difficulty doing something. There they have in Hydro-Quebec a real supermonster. Ontario is having real problems with it. I saw some remarks from the former Energy Minister in Ontario, Mr. Taylor, a few months ago and he is a former Minister of Energy but he is still very much a part of the government, at least a supporter of the government in Ontario. I am not sure if he is in the Cabinet or in the backbenches now, but he is certainly a part of the governing party, the governing caucus, the government caucus. He said a few months ago that he had some very serious misgivings about all the power that had been vested in Ontario-Hydro or whatever the company is called. I think it is Ontario-Hydro, it is a Crown corporation much the same as our own.

So in a number of jurisdictions people are having real difficulty, people in government are having real difficulty wrestling with this monster called Hydro. It is not different here. Hydro is now getting - I suppose big is not the term, diverse is, perhaps the better term because bigness itself does not frighten me as long as I know what the company's assignment is. If it has to be big to perform that assignment well, that is very good, that is fine. But Hydro, apart from being big, has become very

Mr. Simmons:

diverse and its tentacles are reaching out in some weird directions. I will give you just a simple example: The matter of inspection of an electrical service before it is hooked up to Hydro. That has become so complex. Mr. Speaker, it is easier to make a major purchase of any kind, you can buy a house in less time than you can get a house inspected for electrical hookup. If you live in St. John's where you have the advantage of population you can get an inspection in a day or two. But, Mr. Speaker, if you happened to live in a place like, for example, Bay d'Espoir or Springdale, and I am picking areas around the wheel of which Grand Falls or Bishop's Falls is the spoke, if you like, if you live in Lewisporte or Bishop's Falls—not Bishop's Falls—but Lewisporte or Gander or Bay d'Espoir or Springdale or Baie Verte, those areas, you will get an inspector once a week, and not just any inspector, Mr. Speaker. You will get the most meticulous, I was going to say 'contemptuous' but that would tar everybody with the same brush; inspectors somewhat are like other people, though not completely, I assure you, but somewhat they are like others where some of them are reasonable fellows and others are not very reasonable. As inspectors go, as people go, I should say, none of the inspectors that I find are that reasonable, if I may judge from comments I get from my constituents. They do not understand that a week waiting to have your house hooked up costs a lot of people money, particularly if they are paying carpenters to have it finished and that kind of thing.

Now there are two points here too, Mr. Speaker. The first is that there is an easier way. Who is an inspector? He is just a qualified electrician who has to get aboard his car in Bishop's and drive one hundred miles to St. Alban's and look at a connection and decide whether it is suitable for hookup or not. Mr. Speaker, we have in other disciplines, we have all kinds of examples where we depend on the private practitioner for opinions on various

Mr. Simmons: matters relating to government decision. We go to the medical field to get medical reports, for example. We go to the business community for various reasons. We go to people for references, banks do before they make loans to them and so on. But in government for some reason, Newfoundland Hydro, which has a role in terms of the dispensing or the distribution of hydro, it has a role. I say it has no role in the inspection function whatsoever. And it should be taken out of Hydro altogether and put in private hands.

We have licenced marriage officers who decide who should get a marriage licence. That is a fairly long hookup, I would say. So we farm that out to various communities.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. SIMMONS: Now albeit we farm it out to Tory hacks in most cases. But it is farmed out, the marriage licence role is farmed out to people. Why not farm out the inspection role? Why not say to a fellow in St. Alban's, and a fellow in Milltown, and two or three fellows in Gander, and a fellow in Windsor, and so on and so forth, why not say to him, a qualified electrician, you are also licenced as an electrical inspector. And there is only one condition on that, you cannot inspect your own work. That is the only condition.

So, Mr. Speaker, if there are two qualified electricians, for example, in St. Alban's then they know, of course, they should not go in partnership because they are going to hurt each other because they cannot inspect their work then. So there should be at least in any general vicinity a couple of electricians or also inspectors. And if I am the electrician who wired your house then I cannot inspect my work, I have got to get you over, or the other inspector, also the other qualified electrician, to inspect my work and vice-versa. Why go to the expense, Mr. Speaker, of putting a man aboard a car in Bishop's Falls and driving him down to St. Alban's to check three houses and then drive back to Bishop's? And if there is something wrong with one of the houses the poor fellow

Mr. Simmons: on the receiving end has to wait another week before he can get his house inspected.

Why not make qualified, I say to the Minister of Energy he may want to respond to it when he speaks in the debate -

MR. PECKFORD: And long waits.

MR. SIMMONS: Yes, and they are waiting long periods of time, because sometimes through the ignorance, not only the ignorance, but the changing rules sometimes.

MR. SIMMONS:

own experience involving myself where we had a place hooked up— and I am not talking about something that was hooked up twenty years ago; I am talking about something that was hooked up about eighteen months before the second event. The second event was that we wanted to put in a larger service, a 200 amp service instead of 100 amp service. Then the same inspector, the same body who had approved the first inspection eighteen months ago, came in and approved the larger panel, the 200 amp panel replacing the 100 amp, but found something wrong with the original installation that he had approved eighteen months before. So because I wanted the second inspection, for another reason altogether I was held ransom then through no fault of my own and I subsequently got the inspection through about three weeks after. That kind of thing is what frustrates a lot of people.

I say to the Minister of Energy he could iron out one of the bad kinks about Hydro by separating the inspection function from Hydro altogether, separating it from Hydro. It has nothing to do with its central function of the distribution of electricity. Give it to qualified people. You might need some special requirements. I am not saying give it to every electrician. He might have to have a certain class certificate, if there is such a thing in the electrical business. He might have to be in it so many years, for example. He might have to write a special test, for example. He might have to have a regular refresher every so many months or weeks or years or whatever the case may be, for example. But farm out the inspection function to somebody perhaps in private industry, give them licenses just as you give marriage people licenses. And I cannot

MR. SIMMONS:

think of other examples but I am sure there are other parallel examples.

AN HON. MEMBER: Mechanics.

MR. SIMMONS: Mechanics! Oh, there is a beautiful example, the people who inspect our motor vehicles on an annual basis. Can you imagine what a bureaucracy there would be if every motor vehicle in this Province had to be inspected by a Hydro type government agency and perhaps that - I thank my colleague from Bellevue (Mr. Callan) who makes the point better than anything else that we should separate the inspection function from Hydro and perhaps farm it out to private industry on some kind of a controlled basis of course.

Mr. Speaker, it being the hour of adjournment I would move the adjournment of the debate.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: A motion to adjourn is deemed to be before the House. The first subject matter for debate, the purchase of two Canso airplanes. The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, this afternoon, Sir, I questioned the Minister of Transportation and Communications on the activities, the peculiar behaviour recently of the Director of Air Services who apparently is on leave now for the second time this year and at the busiest time of year when the water bomber fleet is getting ready for forest fire protection and when two Canso planes are being delivered to the government and when helicopters are flying around, Sir, like butterflies on a Summer's evening.

The minister of the department, Sir, told us today that he could not tell us whether the

MR. NEARY:

director has a car full time or not, which should be a very simple matter to find out, and whether he asked for and received an extra weeks annual leave which I am led to believe, Sir, happened recently. Now, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman can make all the statements he wants about Messrs O'Brien and Simmons being temporarily in command. Mr. Speaker, if I thought that was so I would rest content, if it were true. But it is just not true, Sir.

The Director of Air Services, Mr. Speaker, apparently from what we can hear and read in various affidavits and letters attached to affidavits and documents and from what I can pick up myself, Sir, the Director of Air Services answers to nobody but the Premier. They go on fishing trips together, hunting trips. They cavort around with the same people. Now, Sir, all this may be circumstantial, and the hon. Premier can look at me, and it may be circumstantial evidence. It may be my dirty mind at work, Sir. The Director is located in hangar three down at Torbay, the now famous hangar three, transports Mr. Dobbin's helicopters to the Province and they holiday together in Antigua. Now, Sir, as I say this may all be my dirty mind. But Mr. Speaker, I cannot help but wondering out loud if when all this is going on if the public treasury is adequately protected when it comes to air services, purchase of aircraft and the operation of hangars and maintenance of air craft and so on.

For example, Sir, I wonder if the minister can tell us and if the government could indicate whether or not they have gotten the best deal available for the purchase of two Canso planes for a cost

MR. NEARY:

including refurbishing, so we were told today by the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture, of \$1.2 million? Now, Mr. Speaker, a year ago the minister told us that the purchase of these two planes, which the minister had found in Canada so we were told, the purchase and refurbishing would be in the vicinity of seven hundred and eighty-odd thousand dollars. Now today we are told Sir, it is \$1.2 million, \$500,000 more than was estimated in the original cost.

MR. NEARY:

And we want to know why, why the public treasury was ripped off, Sir, gouged for another half million, for \$500,000 when we were told a year ago that these two planes fully equipped would be purchased for around seven hundred and eighty odd thousand dollars.

Now, Sir, as I say we learn that one has arrived and I have been told, Sir, that it is nothing but nuts and bolts and they are having quite a time trying to get the second one here. They have been a whole year at it now trying to get the second one delivered. Mr. Speaker, a half million dollars of the taxpayer's money is being spent over and above the original estimated cost and I would like for the minister to give us a reason for this overrun. Was it paid out, Sir, in commissions to field aviation? Why did the government not go as the minister told us a year ago they were going to do, go directly to the owners of these planes and buy them for \$100,000 or so each? Why was it necessary to bring in field aviation? Why did the government not purchase these airplanes directly from the owners? Well, Sir, I intend to find out and I will in due course. I have sent for certain information and I expect to have it in a day or so but I am going to give the minister a chance to get on the public record on this matter because there is a bit of skulduggery involved.

Mr. Speaker, as I said I believe that the public treasury again has been ripped off for a minimum of \$500,000 and it could go higher Sir, because these two airplanes are not in the air yet and they may never fly. Now, Sir, it is too bad I do not have any more time because my five minutes is just about up to talk about the commandant and his air force. The

MR. NEARY: minister tries to leave the impression, Sir, that our two knowledgeable friends, Messrs. O'Brien and Simmons, can take care of matters. I have no doubt about that if they were given the authority to do it. They have no authority at all, Sir, as far as running of the air services in this Province is concerned. I am very, very concerned about this matter, Sir, and as I say, I will have more information in a day or so, but I would like for the minister now to give us a statement on the purchase of these two Canso 'planes if the minister can do it and why the minister allowed the Public Treasury to be gouged and ripped off for another one-half million dollars that was unnecessary.

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

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, this is a rather peculiar position to be placed in. I have to defend a charge of a rip-off and a gouge and an unsatisfactory accounting of \$500,000 worth of public funds, and nobody has demonstrated anything to support the fact that there has been a gouging or a rip-off or an unsatisfactory accounting of the public funds. The suggestion was that some time ago the 'planes were available at a considerably lower price than that price which is subsequently paid. I do not know the detail on that. I will certainly look it up. It is all very interesting and it is certainly worthy of inquiry. I have every intention of finding out what the situation is. I feel very comfortable with it as it now stands, because my understanding is that the purchase of these two aircraft was done under one of the DREE subsidiary agreements - the forestry agreement, I think. That agreement, as you know, is administered by a joint

MR. DOODY: committee of federal and provincial officials who undertake to look at all the various decisions that are made in this regard. And so I feel very comfortable in saying that I have no suspicion or cause to be suspicious of this particular transaction and I feel well satisfied that the Public Treasury - the federal Treasury and the provincial Treasury, both of which are involved - I think this is a 90/10 agreement if my memory serves me correctly - were well and truly protected. However, since the subject has been raised, since charges of rip-offs and gouging and misuse or lack of attention to the Public Treasury has been raised, then certainly I will undertake to see that the House gets all the information that is pertinent and available as quickly as possible, and I will have no hesitation in getting it out to hon. member as soon as I can get that information.

PREMIER MOORES: The vicious attack on (inaudible).

MR. DOODY: The vicious attack on (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible) That is what Terry White says.

MR. DOODY: If you will just give me a couple of minutes. You had five minutes of -

MR. NEARY: I was talking to the Premier.

MR. DOODY: Yes, well, you know, that is all allowed in time

MR. DOODY:

and in the proper place and so on. With regard to the activities of Messrs. O'Brien and Simmons, I can only assure the House again, I think this will be the third time in almost as many occasions to do so, that these are the people who are responsible for the Transportation Division of the Department of Transportation and Communications. Mr. O'Brien is the Director of Transportation. Mr. Simmons is the Director of Air Operations and third down on the totem pole is Captain Pearcey.

Now I can only assure the House of that but the authority rests in the person of Mr. O'Brien who will delegate the authority to Mr. Simmons and Captain Pearcey's duties are to look after the flying of the aeroplanes and the maintenance and so on. The actual operations of the thing are looked after by Mr. Simmons. He is the Director of Air Operations. I am obviously not going to get the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) to accept that because he has some sort of a vendetta going vis-a-vis Captain Pearcey.

MR. NEARY:

No. I have not.

MR. DOODY:

I do not know what it is really but he has been accused of such terrible things today as going fishing or spending his vacation down South, or doing all sorts of weird and wonderful things. And the absolute thought that he might be in the company of Craig Dobbin apparently put the clincher on the whole bit, the fact which has yet to be substantiated. I do not know if the man is with Craig Dobbin or Craig Dobbin's in-laws, out-laws, friends, relations, I do not know who he is with and it is none of business with whom he is.

MR. NEARY:

No, it is not.

MR. DOODY:

If there is any impropriety or any suggestion of impropriety I would ask the hon. member to bring it forward. But all these suggestions and all these hints day after day after day, dragging the name of Captain Pearcey across the floor of the House, knowing

MR. DOODY: full well he is not in the Province to defend himself, not in the Province to even answer questions that might be asked of him by the Deputy Minister or myself, so I can supply the information, I think it is something less than generous and something unkind and vicious and unfair. I really think that we should give the gentleman the opportunity of answering some of these innuendoes and suggestions and charges -

MR. NEARY: Bring him before the House.

MR. DOODY: The gentleman has done nothing wrong to my knowledge and I have absolutely no intention of dragging him or any other public servant before the Bar of this House on the word and suggestion of the hon. member for LaPoile.

Captain Pearcey has been in the public employ of this Province for a great many years. I have said that he was in the employ of the Province before this government came into office. He worked long and well with the previous administration. I hope that he enjoys a good many years more with the government service. I fear though his life is going to be very unpleasant and very untenable under the circumstances with the sort of innuendo and suggestion and allegation that has been thrown around here during the past week. I am sorry, Sir, I do not have more time to elaborate on that. Thank you.

MR. NEARY: I wish you had more time to answer it.

MR. SPEAKER: The second matter for debate is the policy of forest spraying. The hon. member for Windsor-Buchans.

MR. FLIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I want to once more try to focus attention on the government's proposed spraying programme and particularly I want to talk about the chemical we are going to use and the way we are going to use it and where we are going to use it.

MR. FLIGHT:

Mr. Speaker, I have done it before and I will do it again, I will read again a passage from the report of the Spruce Budworm Committee to the minister on the chemical Matacil or Aminocarb, which is going to be used in the spray programme.

It says, "In general there is little information available on the long term effects of Aminocarb on man or other animals. Since it has been effective in budworm spraying operations with apparent little effect on non-target organizations, a co-ordinated research programme to investigate its properties and long term effect would be essential. Thus we agree with recent statements from MacTaggart Cowan 1977 that the effect of an insecticide on non-target organisms and the potential for environmental harm be examined as fully as possible before the insecticide be used operationally. This principle applies to the chemical Aminocarb."

Now, Mr. Speaker, since that report was written we have found out, beyond any shadow of a doubt, that the chemical Aminocarb is not registered for use in the United States, is manufactured in the United States but it has not been registered for us.

Now the minister has sloughed that off and I am suggesting, Mr. Speaker, that there is a spray programme that is going on all over the United States, both for budworm, both for agricultural purposes, for all kinds of purposes, and still we have a situation, a chemical that is manufactured in the United States and refuse to be permitted to be used in the United States in any kind of a spray programme, can be assumed safe to be used in Newfoundland in a spray programme. And, Mr. Speaker, I might also say that when the people who issued this report

Mr. Flight:

heard of the government's decision to use Matacil it knocked them for a flip. They could not believe - Dr. Reynold the Chairman of the Spruce Budworm Committee - that report was written by the Committee sponsored by the Minister of Forestry to advise him on spruce budworm control.

Now, Mr. Speaker, here we are - we are going to use a chemical of which we know nothing about and what I want to hear the minister also indicate the logic, knowing what I just said the logic of designating areas to be sprayed within a half a mile of populated areas. The Town of Gander tomorrow is going to court to get a court injunction to stop that spray programme. Now where is the logic that tells a government that they can spray an insecticide that they know very little of, the long-term or the short-term affects and they design to spray the Gander water supply or the water supply adjacent to half a mile of Birchy Bay, or Lewisporte. And there are dozens of communities in this Province that the spray programme is going to take place within a half a mile of that particular town.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the people of this Province are worried, they are concerned, they are frightened and they have good reason to be. The government have had six or seven months since they have decided to use this chemical to put their mind at ease, and they have refused to address themselves to that issue. The minister today deliberately or otherwise refused to answer pointed questions that have been put to him on the spruce budworm programme. He refuses apparently, I think, categorically I have asked for an environmental assessment of the long-term affects on last year's spray programme. I ask him if we are going to go in and determine - the people who did that environmental assessment last year - and by the way, the people doing this assessment are students in the field - now in St. John's their work is co-ordinated by professionals, but in the field the work is being done by students. There are very few -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. FLIGHT: Well the minister will be able to say if I am wrong

Mr. Flight: when he gets up. But as I understand it -

MR. MURPHY: You have it wrong.

MR. FLIGHT: - the field work is done by students from Memorial University.

MR. MURPHY: Right.

MR. FLIGHT: Right. And co-ordinated by the experts from the Department of the Environment.

Now I asked the minister why he does not initiate an environmental assessment of the areas sprayed last year? The people know what the density of birds and fish and shrews and any other kind of wildlife that was in that area last year. There was no way that they could determine the effect on that population, the off target could have been determined last year with the kind of an environmental programme we had. So I have asked the minister if he will go in and do a long-term - do a study now and see if the same level of birds, fish, or whatever we have we need to support the environment we know. And the people of Newfoundland is entitled to have that kind of an assessment.

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

MR. MURPHY: Mr. Speaker, I might just say that the saying is that there is none so blind as those refused to see. And I have already explained today that we have a group of students out taking these samples following the spraying while the actual spraying is going on. They forward them to a headquarters of eleven people. I named all of these. And look, please - and I ask the press to be very responsible in this - please do not let any information go out to the people at large that there is any fear whatever from this spray. Please do the Province a favour, the people. We had the same thing happen in Long Harbour. It comes over the air there is a deadly fallout in Long Harbour, eighteen employees in Long Harbour resigned their jobs, sold their homes and got out because some irresponsible individual dared spread that the fallout in Long Harbour was dangerous, which was absolutely, categorically and in every way brought forth as being an absolutely false statement.

Mr. Murphy: I am amazed, truly amazed, Mr. Speaker! Why all this? We had it bad enough with the education, the layoff of the teachers, that was a good political plum. But in the past few days now the spray programme is the thing that the Moores Government has dared do - go out and poison everybody. If you are not going to vote for us we will poison them. It is criminal, that is what it is, Sir.

MR. FLIGHT: Why can they not go to court?

MR. MURPHY: It is criminal.

MR. FLIGHT: Why are the town councils agter going to court?

MR. MURPHY: It is criminal.

MR. FLIGHT: Why are the town councils -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Order! Order!

MR. MURPHY: They have a perfect right to go to court to get the facts, and they will be given these facts tomorrow.

MR. FLIGHT: Through the courts (inaudible).

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

MR. MURPHY: I have a letter here to some such person as we have been hearing of the past few days, I will not name him, and

MR. MURPHY: every fact, and I showed the member this today, with every fact corroborated. Birds being killed and everything else! We did not find, Sir, not one dead bird in any of the areas sprayed, not one dead bird did we find, not one. And still you are getting this rumour spread, everything is being killed by this spray. Absolutely balderdash, and I say criminal. And I said putting this out to the people, frightening them, there is absolutely no reason for it. I do not care about the report. This is a report of one of the most respectable men in this Province and that is Dr. Barnes with his associate who I put against any man either in the United States or Canada. And if I cannot go by an outstanding biologist or whatever his background is or Dr. Barnes it is a pretty poor quintal of fish.

MR. FLIGHT: Dr. who?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please.

MR. MURPHY: That is what is happening here, and I am really ashamed of any group of people, Sir, that tries to insinuate that we on this side have no fear, no worry about people being poisoned and everything else. God help us, we have been blamed with many things - we are a bunch of crooks, a bunch of robbers but to be called murderers, gentlemen, I do not think we have got to stand for this in this hon. House and I ask

MR. FLIGHT: Nobody said that.

MR. MURPHY: Nobody said it. No! Do not shoot me. Cut me to death!

MR. FLIGHT: I did not say that.

MR. PECKFORD: No, you did not but the people on your side did.

MR. MURPHY: I have it all here, Mr. Speaker,

MR. PECKFORD: Homicide.

MR. MURPHY: And we are talking about the long term, eh? I will just read a paragraph from this letter. "If on the other hand if you have in mind the need for long term scientific research into the possible residual effects of insecticides, Such is beyond the mandate of my department. Rather it is a matter of national and international importance for this reason: The Eastern Canada Spruce Budworm Council has been established which in turn is associated with a Canada/U.S. organization presently examining priorities for such detailed research."

MRS. MacISSAC: Last year.

MR. PECKFORD: Order, now.

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

MR. MURPHY: So, Mr. Speaker, all I say in the name of charity, in the name of people and allaying people's fears, please let us stop here about this deadly poison that Frank Moores and his crowd are spraying over the people of Newfoundland. That is all I ask.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The third matter for debate is the reopening of the Come by Chance Refinery.

The hon. member for Bellevue.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, I assume that the Premier since he is here now will answer the questions that I want to raise in this five minute debate. He was not in his seat at the Question Period for that couple of minutes but he was there for the rest of the time. Anyway I will assume that the Premier will answer these questions even though, of course, the Minister of T and C just came back from Europe where the topic I guess was discussed in some detail. No doubt the Premier has all that information.

Mr. Speaker, the first thing I want to do is preface my few remarks and my few questions by saying that, and perhaps it goes without saying, that there is nobody in this Province who wants to see that Come by Chance Oil Refinery reopen

MR. CALLAN: and reactivated and expanded or what else any more than I do, and I have talked about that on previous occasions about the numbers of people thrown out of work and the torment that it has caused me and them and of course everybody else.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to ask the Premier four questions during the Oral Question Period and this is why I did not get a chance, we ran out of time, so I want to do it now. The questions are, and the first one I asked the Minister of T and C, I understand that the First Arabian Corporation have shown some interest in acquiring the oil refinery at Come by Chance and could the Premier confirm this. And the Minister of T and C said, yes, that is true. He confirmed that the First Arabian Corporation had shown some interest in the oil refinery and apparently there was some talks ongoing.

The second question which I asked the Minister of T and C, and which I ask the Premier now, is has the First Arabian Corporation to the Premier's knowledge produced a written guarantee that they have the money necessary to repair and operate the refinery? Now the Minister of T and C in replying to that question this afternoon said no, there was no written guarantee but that was being worked on with a view to hopefully getting that written guarantee.

Now that ties into the third question which I did not get a chance to ask; what are the latest estimates to repair and operate the refinery, including working capital? And I understand, I hear by way of the grapevine, that it is approximately \$200 million. That figure was mentioned earlier by the member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Simmons) in another context. But I think it is approximately \$200 million.

MR. CALLAN: These two questions, the number two and number three which I have just asked, tying these two questions together, assuming that it is \$200 million and assuming that the First Arabian Corporation will produce a written guarantee, I want to ask the Premier or the Minister of Transportation and Communications, whoever answers, number one - and again of course I go on rumour; I hear that it is \$200 million to reactivate and repair; I also hear that this First Arabian Corporation is not a reputable company. Now, I want the minister, and I am not making any charges or claims, all I do is throw it out as a question; I hear that they are not reputable, I hear for example that they are in the market, travelling around picking up distressed merchandise and such things. I hope that is false, I hope that once and for all, finally, that we have a reputable organization here who will take over the refinery and of course who will reactivate it, employ the 500 people who formerly lost their jobs, who worked there and perhaps 500 or 5000 more. But I ask this question and I think it needs to be asked, will this government, which has \$57 million into this project - not nearly as much as the British people of course, but \$57 million of our money - will the government make abundantly clear and sure that that written guarantee will not just come from the First Arabian Corporation but will come from reputable financial institutions?

MR. DOODY: What of the \$57 million (Inaudible)

MR. CALLAN: I think that is what we have into it, is it not?

MR. DOODY: That includes interest.

MR. CALLAN: I have seen that figure bandied around anyway. Anyway that is the question that I want the Minister of Transportation and Communications -

MR. DOODY: Repeat the last question.

MR. CALLAN: I am asking will the government make it abundantly clear that we just do not get a letter of intent from the First Arabian Corporation or even a guarantee from the First Arabian Corporation but the guarantee will come from reputable financial people, not just from a bunch of people who are reputed to be in the market for hunting up disrupted

MR. CALLAN: or distressed merchandise and that is their sole purpose in it. I hope that is not the case. And the final question, and perhaps I did not get a chance to ask this one today, again I hope this is not true, but the final question is, how much longer will the receivers be prepared to keep the refinery in moth balls? In other words, is there a panic or a desperation move on the part of the receivers to get rid of the refinery? Another perhaps rumour, the minister will no doubt confirm or deny whether this is true or false. And perhaps with the last half minute that I have - I do not have a half minute, I am gone overtime, the minister can answer these questions.

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

MR. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, I attempted to answer some of these questions earlier today and I thought that I had. However, I will try to run through them as quickly as I can.

Discussions that were held during the past couple of days in London were held with the representatives of ECDG and Kleinwort-Benson, these are the two companies who hold a substantial part of the - or at least the Kleinworts hold the substantial part of the first mortgage and that is guaranteed by the Export Credit Guarantee Department of the British Department of Finance. There are other people involved in that first mortgage as well; the First National Bank of Chicago has some in there, UOP have a part of the first mortgage position, Ataka, who are now called Atlantic Trading, also have a small position in there. I think the total first mortgage position now with interest and so on comes to somewhere in the vicinity of \$139 or \$140 million. The Province's position - and I can touch on that at the same time - our \$30 million second mortgage position, which ranks behind these which I just mentioned, plus accrued interest is something less than \$50 million at the present time.

AN HON. MEMBER: \$47 million.

MR. DOODY: It is in excess of \$47 million, it is in between there. No written guarantee as yet - that is absolutely correct. There are no written guarantees of any sort from anybody. These are questions that are being asked by the trustee of

MR. SIMMONS: Now, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Forestry is being coached by none other than the Minister of Fisheries and as coaches go he is not a bad fellow.

MR. NEARY: It is too bad he was not in the Wine Cellar that night to coach him.

MR. SIMMONS: I wish the Minister of Fisheries were there, he would have kept his colleague out of some trouble, trouble that the people on the West Coast were talking about as late as this morning, somebody reminded me of it again. The minister thought it has been forgotten but it will not be forgotten for a long time to come, a long time to come. One of the most shameful and dispecable acts ever performed by a public servant in this Province. The Wine Cellar down under the Glymill Inn in Corner, get him to tell you the story. He tells it with a flourish. I am surprised he is proud of it but perhaps he will tell you.

Do you know about the story, 'Steve?'

MR. NEARY: I have heard something about it.

MR. SIMMONS: I heard it again this morning. A new, fresh version.

MR. NEARY: : Tell it.

MR. SIMMONS: It is really not the place to tell it. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Fisheries, I wish he were at that Wine Cellar. He would have saved his buddy a lot of trouble and I wish he were somewhere else. I wish he were in this House on Tuesday with his ears open because the press has quoted him as saying that I said nothing about the fishery on Tuesday. But what he should have said and what the press should have said is that the minister did not hear me say anything about the fisheries on Tuesday. I said several things about the fishery on Tuesday but did not get through to the Minister of Fisheries perhaps because he was so busy writing his next press release, I do not know.

But, Mr. Speaker, he might not have heard it but I said Tuesday, and I say again today for his hearing,

MR. DOODY: of First Arabian, questions dealing with supply, with marketing, with management, with repairability, with the expertise that they can bring in, and so on, and all these questions have to be answered to the satisfaction of the receiver and the first mortgage holders before a letter of intent can be prepared that has to be prepared to the satisfaction of both these groups. When that letter of intent is prepared it will be given to the Province for its consideration and satisfaction. Now this is not a contract; this is a letter of intent and this is a commitment from these people over there. The contract, if there is one, would be much further down the road. We do not have any assurance at this point in time that there is a deal in the offing; we only know that the only bid on the table or the only interested party on the table at the present time from what we have learned in London over the past two days are the First Arabian Corporation. It has been suggested that they are not a reputable company. The information that we received from the people whom we have asked to inquire, both on behalf of the Province, on behalf of the first mortgage holders, on behalf of the receiver, was that they are a substantial company, that they are a holding company, that they have access to substantial amounts of money. It has been suggested that they specialize in distressed merchandise. If that means that they have bought and put back into operation successfully some companies that were in distress, that is absolutely true, they have. They took over one which I can mention quite candidly, it is a matter of public knowledge, the First Commonwealth of Detroit, which was in substantial difficulty. And some 70 per cent of it was purchased through the First Arabian Corporation and the bank is now a very successful

MR. DOODY: operation and is performing extremely well. They are also involved in several operations in the United Kingdom. The company is based in Luxembourg, it has offices in Paris and in New York, they are an international company. Certainly we will have to know a great deal more before we go along with anything. Ours, as I say, is a secondary position, but because obviously the Province has a very large stake in the refinery and a very real concern for the refinery we will take every possible precaution to see that the interests of the Province come before the interests of anything else in this particular matter. The British were good enough to consult with us at this point in time to tell us how far they have gotten along the line with that company and they have undertaken to keep us informed as they get along further.

When we have something more definite and more tangible to present to the House, I will be only too happy to do so, but that is where the situation stands right now.

On motion, the House at its rising stands adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, May 26, 1978 at 10:00 A.M.

Question 101

Tom Lush, M.H.A. for Terra Nova District to ask the Honourable Minister of Forestry and Agriculture to lay upon the table of the House the following information:

1. Quantity of vegetables (potatoes, turnips and cabbage) marked yearly in the Terra Nova District since 1972.
2. Gross yearly dollar value for same period for the sales of these vegetables.
3. Comparison of quantity of vegetables marketed and gross dollar value with other major farming areas of the province.

Answer

Prior to 1976 a detailed break-out of production information from across the Province was not collected and therefore is not available.

Detailed information for Terra Nova District and three other major vegetable producing areas across the province for 1976 are attached. This information indicates that the Lethbridge area is the major vegetable producing area in the Province.

Some of the 1977 information is still being submitted and still has to be processed by Computer Services. However, 1977 data for Terra Nova District is also attached.

Also attached are detailed statistics and a pictorial view of the distribution of vegetable acreage throughout the Province for 1976.

Vegetable Production and Value for
Selected Areas 1976

<u>Area</u>	<u>Potatoes</u>			
	<u>Acres Planted</u>	<u>Production #50 lb bags</u>	<u>Farm Gate Value \$</u>	<u>Wholesale Value \$</u>
St. John's	35	13,367	50,126.25	56,141.40
Terra Nova (Dist)	269	63,625	222,687.50	267,225.00
Robinsons	198	30,225	98,231.25	120,900.00
Cormack	120	12,235	42,822.50	48,940.00

Please note: The sum of these figures does not represent total production for the province. This is total production for the four main areas in question only.

Vegetable Production and Value for
Selected Areas 1976

<u>Turnip</u>				
<u>Area</u>	<u>Acres Planted</u>	<u>Production #50 lb bags</u>	<u>Farm Gate Value \$</u>	<u>Wholesale Value \$</u>
St. John's	34.5	16,500	82,500.00	94,875.00
Terra Nova (Dist)	164.8	82,500	371,250.00	474,375.00
Robinsons	120.75	49,245	172,357.50	221,602.50
Cormack	52.0	17,494	78,723.00	87,470.00

Please note: The sum of these figures does not represent total production for the province. This is total production for the four main areas in question only.

Vegetable Production and Value for
Selected Areas 1976

<u>Cabbage</u>				
<u>Area</u>	<u>Acres Planted</u>	<u>Production #50 lb bags</u>	<u>Farm Gate Value \$</u>	<u>Wholesale Value \$</u>
St. John's	24.5	13,150	59,175.00	69,037.50
Terra Nova(Dist)	51.2	11,530	46,120.00	60,532.50
Robinsons	89.25	25,278	75,834.00	101,112.00
Cormack	21.5	10,450	47,025.00	57,475.00

Please note: The sum of these figures does not represent total production for the province. This is total production for the four main areas in question only.

Vegetable Production and Value for
Selected Areas 1976

Potatoes, Turnip and Cabbage

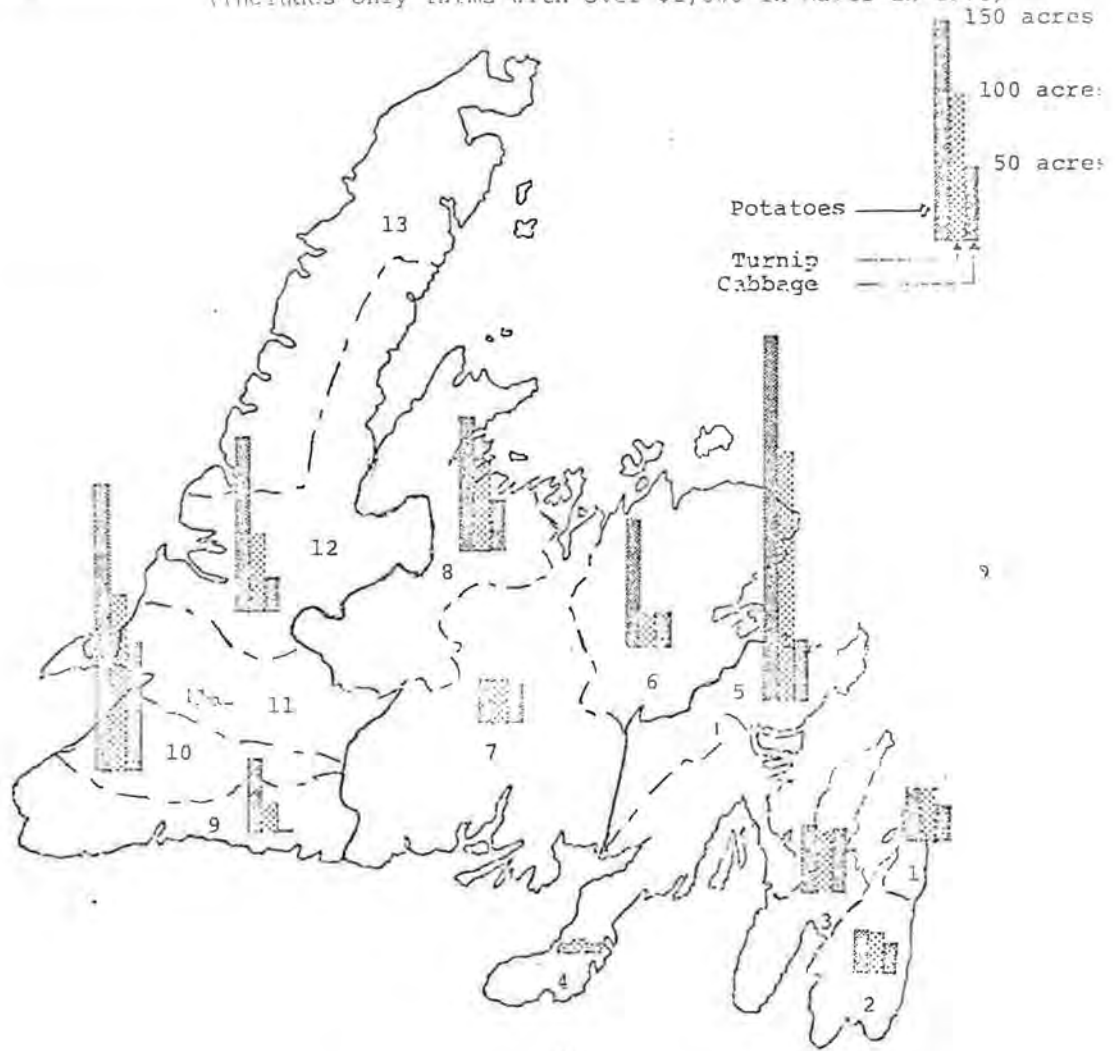
<u>Area</u>	<u>Acres Planted</u>	<u>Production #50 lb bags</u>	<u>Farm Gate Value \$</u>	<u>Wholesale Value \$</u>
St. John's	94	43,017	191,801.25	220,053.90
Terra Nova (Dist)	485	157,655	640,057.50	802,132.50
Robinsons	408	104,748	346,422.75	443,614.50
Cormack	194	40,179	168,570.50	193,885.00

Please note: The sum of these figures does not represent total production for the province. This is total production for the four main areas in question only.

Preliminary Production Figures for
Terra Nova for 1977

	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Production #50 lb bags</u>	<u>Farm Gate Value \$</u>	<u>Wholesale Value \$</u>
Potatoes	268.60	66,100	198,300.00	247,875.00
Turnip	169.5	83,010	373,545.00	498,060.00
Cabbage	55.85	20,005	100,025.00	130,032.50

NEWFOUNDLAND: ACRES OF POTATOES, TURNIP, AND CABBAGE ON FARM IN 1976
(Includes only farms with over \$2,000 in sales in 1976)



	Potatoes *		Turnips*		Cabbage*	
	Acres	% of Province	Acres	% of Prov.	Acres	% of Prov.
Province	951	100.0	594	100.0	338	100.0
Eastern Reg.	366	38.5	283	47.6	138	40.8
Unit I	35	3.7	35	5.9	25	7.4
Unit II	29	3.0	28	4.7	21	6.2
Unit III	45	4.7	43	7.2	44	13.0
Unit IV	6	0.6	8	1.3	6	1.8
Unit V	251	26.4	170	28.6	43	12.7
Central Reg.	209	22.0	113	19.0	86	25.4
Unit VI	87	9.1	22	3.7	24	7.1
Unit VII	30	3.2	30	5.1	28	8.3
Unit VIII	92	9.7	62	10.4	34	10.1
Western Reg.	376	39.5	198	33.3	113	33.4
Unit IX	49	5.2	20	3.4	1	0.3
Unit X	197	20.7	121	20.4	89	26.3
Unit XI	10	1.1	5	0.8	1	0.3
Unit XII	120	12.6	52	8.8	21	6.2

Due to rounding, numbers may not add to proper totals.