

PRELIMINARY
UNEDITED
TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
FOR THE PERIOD:
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
TUESDAY, MAY 1, 1979

The House met at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

MR. SPEAKER (MR. OTTENHEIMER): The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition signed by 1,300 constituents of St. Mary's-The Capes, the prayer of which is that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation be asked to extend their facilities to that part of my district. These 1,300 constituents, Mr. Speaker, are quite disturbed, upset, because of the fact that they are unable to get any television reception in that area from our national television outlet.

Mr. Speaker, it is rather ironic that in this day of improved technology and satellites and instantaneous communication from almost all parts of the world, that people living about fifty miles from the capital city of St. John's are unable to get reception on the network that is being provided by their tax dollars.

This year, Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation will be spending about \$550 million on providing service to the rest of Canada. My constituents feel that they are entitled to part of that tax dollar, their tax dollar, spent by their national broadcasting and television station. It is rather ironic, too, Mr. Speaker, that this year, or at least last year, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation spent something like \$45,000 to provide French outlets on the West Coast of our Province, one that is going to cost the Province \$12,000 a year in maintenance, and yet these people living in my constituency, again, fifty miles from the capital city, are unable to get reception.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that my constituents would not want me to convey the impression that they are against the establishment of a French outlet on the West Coast to serve even though a very small minority of our people, but I do not think they are being at all unreasonable in asking that at least a part of that money, part of their

MR. W. CARTER: tax dollars be spent toward the provision of television service in their area, that is, St. Mary's-The Capes. I realize, Mr. Speaker, this is a federal jurisdiction, but I am asking -

MR. DOODY: What communities?

MR. W. CARTER: From St. Joseph's, Admiral's Beach, Mount Carmel, Colinet, North Harbour, pretty well that whole part of the district -

MR. DOODY: The Doody's cannot get CBC.

MR. W. CARTER: The Doody's in Admiral's Beach and others.

I am asking, Mr. Speaker, that this petition be referred to the appropriate Provincial Department and that that department then forward it on to the appropriate officials in Ottawa with a request that immediate attention be given it.

MR. SPEAKER: (Ottenheimer) Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. W.N. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support wholeheartedly the petition presented by my hon. friend, the member for St. Mary's - The Capes, the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. W. Carter). I am surprised that the Government House Leader did not leap to his feet in his usual narrow fashion and say that it is a matter for federal jurisdiction and therefore should not be presented in this hon. House. We have seen that kind of narrowness before, Mr. Speaker.

Sir, I am delighted to see a petition of this nature being presented here. It may be technically and financially under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government, or a Crown corporation wholly owned by the Federal Government, but the whole matter of communications, the matter of television reception by communities in this Province is a matter which is of vital interest to us here in this House, every member of the House, and certainly should be the vital interest as well of the Department of Communications provincially.

I join with the hon. the minister in some of the sentiments which he expressed. Hundreds of millions of dollars a year are spent by the CBC, most of it for laudible, admirable purposes, trying to provide French and English speaking programming for various parts of the country and, I believe, in some areas of the country we are seeing programming being done in other languages, other minority languages as well.

Mr. Speaker, it is an utter disgrace when you have an area in a Province like Newfoundland, fifty or sixty miles from the capital city, who do not yet get reception from the national network, publically owned network. This is not to take away from the need of people living in fringe areas of our country, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon and so on, but, Sir, I would submit that there is hardly a community in the remoter areas of our country, our nation, which does not get full and direct CBC programming. So

MR. W.N. ROWE: it is a disgrace and a shame that these communities in St. Mary's - The Capes district should not be able to avail themselves of the CBC programming as well. We have hundreds of millions of dollars spent on satellites, presumably for the purpose of being able to beam programmes to all parts of Canada, and here we have, as the hon. minister mentioned, communities just a hop away from the capital city of St. John's who can not get CBC programming yet. Perhaps if the CBC, at the national level, stopped spending money in trying to create some pale imitations of situation comedies in the United States and more on trying to develop indigenous Canadian, Newfoundland, Quebec, Ontario culture by their television.

MR. W. N. ROWE: programming, and this might bring the whole question of places like St. Mary's- The Capes and other areas in this Province which do not get the programming closer to home, closer to the hearts of those who have the responsibility for spending money.

I noticed the hon. member mentioned the French outlet in the Province and he qualified his original statement. I am not one, Sir, who thinks that it is a waste of money at all spending money on bringing programming to the French-speaking population in our Province or elsewhere in the nation. I think that in a bilingual country, two officially bilingual languages, French and English, that, Sir, there should be that kind of expenditure and there should be an exchange of culture between the two linguistic groups. He hastened to add that he, himself, was not decrying that expenditure but that certainly a fairly large area, 1,300 people, constituents - add adults in this case plus the children - you can multiply that by three or four for the children involved and you have upwards of 5,000 or 6,000 people who are being deprived. Well, Sir, without detracting from the expenditure of money on French or English networks anywhere in the country, you can only decry and in fact despise the fact that some 5,000 or 6,000 people in that one area of our Province are deprived of C.B.C. programming, deprived, Sir, of some very good programming by the C.B.C., and are deprived of a glimpse of what is going on elsewhere in our country in terms of news, public programmes, public news programmes and other programmes describing what is going on in the Province and in the nation as a whole.

I support the petition wholeheartedly, Sir, and I do hope that the

MR. W. N. ROWE: Department of Communications gets in touch immediately with the relevant department in Ottawa, and the C.B.C. both locally and nationally, and presses home in the most emphatic manner possible the need for these people to be hooked up immediately to reception from the C.B.C. network. The petition is a good one, Sir, and we support it wholeheartedly on this side of the House.

AN HON. MEMBER: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: (Mr. Ottenheimer) Before recognizing the hon. gentleman, I would like to welcome to the House of Assembly this afternoon, some visitors from the community of Berry Head, Port au Port Peninsula; they are the chairman of the community council, Mr. William McCann, and two councillors, Mr. Dennis Burke and Mr. Richard Gallant. I know hon. members join me in welcoming these gentlemen to the House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: I was about to recognize the hon. gentleman to my left.

MR. WOODROW: It is another petition, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I think the hon. gentleman to my right wishes to speak on this petition.

The hon. the member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I want to support the petition presented by my friend, the member for St. Mary's-The Capes (Mr. W. Carter), Sir, and I do so, Mr. Speaker, with a great deal of amazement. I am really

MR. NEARY: surprised to hear that communities so near St. John's, so near the headquarters of CBC, cannot get CBC in a place like Colinet. I believe I was there one time and I think I remember watching CBC. Now I could be wrong, Sir. But usually it is the reverse throughout the Province; it is the private station that you cannot get and the CBC you can get pretty well all over Newfoundland and pretty well throughout Labrador. In my own district, I can say that only half the district get two channels, get the CBC and the private network, and the other half are forced to watch the CBC whether they like it or not. And I notice now, with all due respect to what my hon. colleague, the Leader of the Opposition, said that the CRTC are thinking about forcing the CBC to up their Canadian content from seventy-five per cent I think up to ninety per cent.

MR. DOODY: I was just thinking about the possibility of seeing Peter Gzowski back.

MR. NEARY: No, I got him off the air, thank God. We banished him. They do not have to put up with him any longer down in Labrador West.

MR. W. ROWE: My point was that the Canadian content is just a pale imitation of what goes on (inaudible).

MR. NEARY: Well, I am sorry, I misunderstood the hon. gentleman, because CBC is bad enough now, their programming is bad enough now without forcing us to watch any more of that so-called Canadian content. I do not have cable television for two reasons. First, I cannot afford it and in the second place it would distract my children from doing their homework, but if the CBC upped their Canadian content I am afraid I would be forced to get cable television and I do not want to do that, Sir. So, Mr. Speaker, I am very, very surprised to hear that these communities that the hon. gentleman mentioned, not too far from St. John's - How far away? About sixty or seventy miles away? Sixty or seventy miles as the crow flies and the Deputy Minister of Transportation or Public Works knows how the crow flies to Colinet - these people down there, Sir, do not get

MR. NEARY: the CBC. My two hon. friends mentioned the fact that the CBC were spending their money on French networks. Well some dumb-bell two year ago wanted to get a French network into St. John's, wanted the CBC to have an English and French television station in St. John's.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. NEARY: No, the dumb-bell happened to be here in this Province, and fortunately level heads prevailed, I suppose, and they did not go ahead with it. But they were thinking about it and they were looking at it very favourably.

MR. DOODY: It was only a budgetary consideration that stopped them.

MR. NEARY: That is right. And that is what brought that fellow that reads the news now - What is his name? -

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MR. NEARY: Knowlton Nash, brought Knowlton Nash from management back to reading the news -

MR. W. ROWE: At \$90,000 a year.

MR. NEARY: - so that he could have a dart at Trudeau for cutting the CBC budget, and he does it every night.

MR. W. ROWE: At \$90,000.

MR. NEARY: Anybody who watches CBC National News every night will see the dice being loaded in favour of Clarke and against Trudeau and that is why Knowlton Nash stepped down from management back to reading the news.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: That was not Knowlton Nash, I do not think.

MR. W. ROWE: \$90,000 a year.

MR. NEARY: \$90,000 a year he gave up to go back -

MR. W. ROWE: No, he got. He got.

MR. NEARY: - reading the news.

MR. W. ROWE: He did not take a cut.

MR. NEARY: That is right.

MR. DOODY: You are certainly supporting this petition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I support the prayer of the petition, Sir, and I would like to have more time. I would like to be able to debate this subject because I personally believe, Sir, that the time is rapidly approaching when the CBC should be dismantled and turned over to private enterprise. It is not serving the purpose for which it was intended. It is competing with the private stations. It is retarding growth and expansion of private stations and that is why I cannot get the private network to come into

MR. NEARY: fifty per cent of my district because they cannot afford to expand. They have to compete with the low cost advertising.

AN HON. MEMBER: He is running for the leadership now.

MR. NEARY: Who is running for the leadership?

AN HON. MEMBER: - private television stations.

MR. W. ROWE: From Koolu, India.
From the Himalayas.

MR. NEARY: We have to get him right side up first.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMONS: Now boy, do not go talking about my candidate like that.

MR. NEARY: I think that the CBC should be dismantled and it should be turned over to a private enterprise. We have three governments in Canada, Mr. Speaker, we have the federal government in Ottawa, we have the RCMP and we have the CBC. They are all a law unto themselves. And it is time now to do something about it, for Canadian taxpayers to rebel and do something about it. You would not mind if they were providing the service they were supposed to provide but here we hear today of a number of settlements, only forty or fifty or sixty miles from St. John's as the crow flies, who cannot pick up the CBC even though their taxes are paying for it. And I think that is shameful, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER (Ottenheimer): The hon. member for the Bay of Islands.

MR. WOODROW: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from the community of Irishtown and it concerns the phasing out of St. Brendan's School, a school which had been there for some forty to fifty years. It was replaced by a new one some ten or eleven years ago. But the prayer of the

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MR. WOODROW:

petition is as follows.

"We, the concerned parents
of Irishtown, have been notified at a meeting which was
held at the

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Tape No. 926

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MR. L. WOODROW:

Parish Hall on March 28, 1979 of a possibility of the primary school at Irishtown,educating grades kindergarten, one and two, to be closing down. If this happens our children will be transferred to another school outside the community and transportation provided by the school bus. This we do not want to happen. If you agree with this statement in any way,please sign below as this letter would be going before the board at a meeting to be held in the very near future." This is signed, Mr. Speaker, by 153 parents. In some cases, I suppose, the husband and wife signed it. In this school in Irishtown you have thirty-five pupils - kindergarten, grades one and two,as I already stated-and two teachers. Now since this controversy started over on the West Coast of the Province it received a lot of publicity on open lines etc.,and the school board sent out a form to all parents with children attending school to sign whether they wanted their children to go to Humbermouth,which is the nearest school to Irishtown. They did not agree,so what the board asked was if the seven pupils in grade two would attend the school in Humbermouth going by bus,and I have the names of the parents here, the seven parents of all the children who say they would rather keep their children over in the community of Irishtown. So I wrote the Chairman of the school board and I would like to quote a paragraph or two of the letter which I wrote to him,and incidentally I sent copies to the hon. the Premier; hon. T. Alex Hickman, Minister of Education,and Mr. Lew Upshall, President of Newfoundland Teachers Association. I will quote, Sir, the couple of paragraphs, "As the member for the Bay of Islands district,I have been and will continue to be dedicated to a continually improving educational system whereby students are provided with the highest possible standard of learning,I am therefore particularly anxious to have this very pressing issue resolved in the best interest of the children concerned.

Mr. Woodrow: With this aim in mind and after fully examining the genuine fears and concern expressed by the entire community of Irishtown, I look forward to a responsible and a rational decision being taken by the Board, a decision which will be in the best interest of those affected by the proposed phaseout of St. Brendan's."

Now I have not heard, Mr. Speaker, from the Chairman of the Board yet but I feel sure the Chairman of the Board and the School Board will give them every consideration.

Now this, as you know, Mr. Speaker, is a very significant day in the life of children as we witnessed this morning down in the lobby of Confederation Building. So I would like, Mr. Speaker, to have the children of Irishtown it does not matter if there are seven children or fifty-seven children; they are still children of this Province and they deserve every consideration. I hope that every consideration will be given this by the school board, and by government, if necessary, providing funds to keep that school in Irishtown open, and give the children over there the best possible education that they are entitled to and children of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

And I now would like to place the petition in the hands of the Minister of Education (Mr. Hickman). Mr. Speaker, thank you very much.

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

MR. SIMMONS: Mr. Speaker, I want to support the petition so ably presented by my friend from the Bay of Islands (Mr. Woodrow) on behalf of the 153 persons who signed the petition, and in particular on behalf of the students or the children involved. The member implied that there were primary students involved. Could he indicate up to what grade?

MR. WOODROW: Kindergarten up to Grade II.

MR. SIMMONS: Just Kindergarten to Grade II, Kindergarten, I and II. I want to support the petition. I am somewhat surprised that this kind of thing is being proposed. He did not address himself to the alternate possibilities, Meadows is much nearer to Irishtown than is Humbermouth, and I am wondering if the parents were given certain other options, but

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Mr. Simmons: busing five, six, seven year old children all the
way from Irishtown to Humbermouth

MR. SIMMONS: is asking a bit much. It does, Mr. Speaker, point to the need for the government to have a look, a close look at its present school bus policies. The school bus policy objective, as I understand it, was to provide for better quality education and an aspect of better quality education has to be the social situation of the child, particularly the young child, and how it is interrupted by being bused out of the community for long distances each day and being therefore away from his real social milieu several hours of every day, five days a week. The member mentioned he had no answer from the chairman of the board. He sent a copy to a person he purports to be president. Perhaps he has got no answer there either because the president is not at all the name of the person that he mentioned. It is quite another name altogether. The current president is Mr. LaFosse and the incoming president is Mr. Shorthall.

AN HON. MEMBER: The branch president.

MR. SIMMONS: He means the local branch president. That is a different matter. But I want to ask him, while he made the point of saying he did not get an answer from the board, whether he has got any answer from the Premier or from the Minister of Education (Mr. Hickman) on this very important point? He ignored addressing himself to that situation and if I were he I would concentrate much more on the Minister of Education and the Premier on this particular one because the issue revolves very much around the busing policy of the Province and therefore of the government. I would hope that the Premier or the Minister of Education (Mr. Hickman), if he is within earshot would see fit to address himself to this particular petition. And I would hope they would be less political in a partisan way about it than the Premier managed to be this morning in a rather disgracefully political way downstairs in the lobby.

MR. SPEAKER: (Mr. Ottenheimer) Order, please! I think the hon. gentleman has strayed from his supporting the petition into other matters.

MR. SIMMONS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That

I am, Sir, it is just that on this particular day when we draw attention to the Year of the Child I would hope that some people would see fit to address themselves to the youngsters' interests instead of their own, albeit they may be youngsters in another category, but it was a despicable exercise. I will come back to that later today, Mr. Speaker, under another heading. I do want to support the petition and I would urge the member concerned to stop wasting his time writing letters to people who have no control over the situation, who are doing what is dictated to them under the existing policies, and use his substantial influence in

MR. SIMMONS: talking to his colleagues, the Premier and the Minister of Education (Mr. Hickman) to get some sensible, rational bus policies that will allow - not only bus policies, I ought to say also policies for keeping open small schools in rural areas which are in many cases the only centre of activity outside the home. They have moved out the post office, they have moved out the church in some places, and the only centre left is the small school, and now they are going to move that one out of Irishtown with the full blessing of the government, aided and abetted by government policies on school construction, or lack thereof, and government policies on bus transportation.

If I were advising the member, I would advise him to talk to the people who are really responsible for this disastrous situation in Irishtown.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: (Mr. Ottenheimer) The hon. the member for Trinity - Bay de Verde.

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition on behalf of sixty-four residents of the community of Hant's Harbour in the electoral district of Trinity - Bay de Verde, and the prayer of the petition reads as follows: "We, the concerned fishermen and citizens of Hant's Harbour, are seeking, by way of a petition, a change in plans to a proposed breakwater in the process of being constructed here at Hant's Harbour. The present structure and the structure being constructed are one and the same and have not passed the test of time, and due to other conditions the structure is not suited. What we propose is a system of large rocks to form a natural breakwater in the shape of an 'L' and embridging two natural formations."

MR. F. ROWE:

"We, the undersigned, believe this to be the best suited form to be placed in Hant's Harbour."

Now, Sir, this is somewhat of an unusual petition in the sense that it is asking for a change of something that is already under construction and it does come under the Small Craft Harbours Division and the federal Department of Public Works.

As most hon. members know, Hant's Harbour is a unique community in the sense that it has a fish plant that is producing a finished product, cod au gratin and this sort of thing - very good fishermen contributing enormously to the economy of this Province through tax dollars and employing a great number of people.

Sir, the problem here seems to be that the people who signed the petition claim that there was very little consultation with them or the council before the contract was awarded. The problem seems to stem from the fact that there was consultation, however, there was a change in the make-up of the local improvement district from the time of consultation to the time of the awarding of the contract. Therein lies the problem.

Now, Sir, the reason I present

MR. F. ROWE: this petition before this House of Assembly although it is a federal matter, is that the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. W. Carter) has stated time and time again that he would be most willing to assist communities, members of his department would be willing to assist most communities, fishing communities in this Province where in fact federal money may be spent. They will be willing to assist in a technical manner and it is on this principle and for this reason that I present this petition in this House today because I think there is a great need for co-operation between the provincial personnel in the Department of Fisheries and the federal personnel in the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, or the Small Craft and Harbours Division to be more specific, so that the fishermen and the people in such communities are heard from and their advice is sought before a contract is actually awarded and construction takes place. The effect of this proposed construction now will be this, that it will not last very long, number one; and, number two, it will cause a current in the harbour which would end up filling in the slipway with loose rocks and gravel, and will also have the effect of washing away the Custer's Head Road on one side of the harbour of Hant's Harbour.

Sir, I think great importance should be attached to closer co-operation between provincial government and the Small Craft Harbours Division when it comes to what type of a structure should in fact be built in the various small fishing communities in the Province, particularly in this case Hant's Harbour where, as I mentioned before, they have a unique crab plant out there producing a very fine product, employing many hundreds of people at sea, the fishermen themselves, and people working in the fish plant and contributing significantly to the economy of the Province through corporate taxation and personal taxation. So, Sir, I give this petition my wholehearted support and I ask that the petition be placed on the Table of the House and be referred to the department to which it relates.

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Tape No. 930

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PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MR. SPEAKER (MR. OTTENHEIMER): The hon. Minister of
Consumer Affairs and Environment.

MR. H. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, I would like
to table the report of the Board of Commissioners of Public
Utilities as it relates to the board's functions and activities
concerning automobile insurance rates.

MR. SPEAKER (Ottenheimer): The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to table the financial reports of the Fishing Industry Advisory Board as required under the Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development.

MR. GOUDIE: Mr. Speaker, as required under section 15 of the Farm Development Loan Act, I hereby submit the financial statement certified by the Auditor General, the report of the Farm Development Loan Board for the financial year April 1st., 1977 to March 1st., 1978.

ORAL QUESTIONS:

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

MR. W. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, a question for the hon. the Premier. Would the hon. the Premier indicate to the House, Sir, whether any financial arrangements have been made by the government with respect to the former Premier, the present member for Humber West (Mr. F. Moores), by which I mean financial arrangements to cover any expenses as retired premier or any emolument of any kind as a retired premier, any financial arrangements of any kind, Sir, that the government might have made a decision concerning regarding the former Premier of the Province?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, that matter is now under consideration by government and by myself and will be a matter that will be discussed by Cabinet hopefully this week.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. W. ROWE: Is the hon. Premier saying that no decision has been made to date at all concerning this matter by the government?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: No decision has been made, Mr. Speaker, as it relates to the whole question of former premiers or whatever and it will be a matter for discussion in Cabinet in the next couple of days, hopefully this week.

MR. SPEAKER (Otteneheimer): A supplementary.

MR. W. ROWE: Sir, the Premier's wording seems to be a little vague. Was any decision made by the government, by the Cabinet, with respect to the former premier, to the member for Humber West (Mr. F. Moores), we cannot refer to him by name in this hon. House, was any decision made by Cabinet respecting the former premier regarding any financial considerations whatsoever, such decision having been rescinded?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: There were certain decisions made some time ago, Mr. Speaker, about three or four weeks ago I guess, four or five weeks ago, which are now being reviewed by me, were reviewed by me dinnertime today, will be a subject for Cabinet this week.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. W. ROWE: If the government made a decision, which must have been recorded by way of a Minute or by way of an Order-in-Council, will the hon. the Premier care to disclose to the House what decision was made which is now in the course of being rescinded or changed?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Premier.

PREMIER MOORES: At this point in time, Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to do that but I will, in due course after the matter has been considered by Cabinet, be prepared to make a statement on it.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. W. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary, Has the former premier of the Province, Sir, received any financial consideration or any other consideration as a result of any decision of Cabinet to this present time?

MR. SPEAKER (Otteneheimer): The hon. Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, would the hon. premier indicate to the House what other decisions were made two or three weeks ago, before the former premier decided to quit, what other decisions were made that have since been rescinded or are under review?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: There are a number of policy areas, Mr. Speaker, which are under review that were a matter of decision by the former premier, by the Cabinet before this present Cabinet and this Administration took office, and always of course there will other policies that were made which will be under review when a new Cabinet, or a new Administration looks for new directions on various matters which might have been the direction that a former administration or a former premier took.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: Obviously, Sir, the blush is gone off the rose already and the hon. gentleman now is starting to do some fancy stick handling. Let me be more specific with the hon. gentleman. What other decisions were made in the last month, in the final days of the Moores administration, what decisions were made when the hon. gentleman obviously, so

MR. NEARY: we are told, went hog wild and made all kinds of decisions, what decisions were made that are now being reviewed by the new Premier and the government? And how many of these decisions were made?

MR. SPEAKER (Ottenheimer): The hon. Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: There are, as always, Mr. Speaker, there are decisions that were made, policy direction taken

Premier Peckford: by a government which will be reviewed in normal course by a new leader and a new Cabinet and that is ongoing right now. The number of them? I do not know how many there are. I have not kept an account of the number; I do not know if there are three, if there are six, or if there are twelve or if there twenty-one. But there are a number of areas where decisions were made by the former administration which are now under review by me and will be by Cabinet in the next week or two weeks. The number I do not know, but I can try and get the number for the hon. gentleman over the next while.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER (MR. OTTENHEIMER): A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman, Sir, I think understands what I am trying to get at, and what I am trying to get at, Mr. Speaker, I will make it a little more clear, be a little more specific with the hon. gentleman.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Please do.

MR. NEARY: For instance, in the final days of the Moores Administration a decision was taken to make Mount Scio house a permanent residence of the Premier, and I understand the hon. gentleman is now in the process of getting ready to kick out the Premier and move in. Now how many decisions of that kind, of that nature were made that the hon. gentleman refused to implement, the hon. gentleman and his colleagues refused to implement because they were so ridiculous, and the hon. former Premier was gone hog wild in his final days. The hon. gentleman refused to implement them. How many decisions of that kind were made? And can the hon. gentleman give us some indication of what they were?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Well, Mr. Speaker, I do not think I am in the processing of kicking the former Premier out of Mount Scio house, nor am I in the process of moving in. That decision has not been made yet. And therefore, you know, that is totally untrue.

PREMIER PECKFORD: I know of no other matters like that on which I have withheld implementation. There are other areas of government policy, of government decision that were made in the last months which are under review by me and will be by Cabinet.

MR. W. N. ROWE: Was he a member of the Cabinet?

PREMIER PECKFORD: The nature of those I cannot release at the present moment, Mr. Speaker, because they are a matter of government policy which will have to be decided by Cabinet. But after decision and consideration and discussion by Cabinet, whether these decisions remain will be indicated if the hon. member wants to know or if there are any changes made in policy then this hon. House will be informed, obviously.

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

MR. SPEAKER (MR. OTTENHEIMER): The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Would the hon. gentleman indicate, Sir, in the final days of the Moores Administration, if the hon. gentleman was a member of the Cabinet? And the hon. gentleman still is? Was? And was a member of the Cabinet when these decisions were made? And the hon. gentleman went along, knowingly or unknowingly, whether he was out on the campaign trail or not when these decisions were made? And what I am trying to find out from the hon. gentleman, how much damage did Moores do in his final days before he got out? That is what I am trying to find out.

MR. MORGAN: Do not be so foolish, boy. He never did anything.

MR. NEARY: I know some of the decisions that were made, I know some of them. Mount Scio house was one. But I am asking the hon. gentleman to level with the House and to level with the people of this Province and tell us what Moores did in his final days.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, let it be clear, let it be clear, Mr. Speaker, that I intend to level with this hon. House and with the hon.

Premier Peckford: member and every one here.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Let us go.

MR. FLIGHT: When?

MR. NEARY: Let us know.

PREMIER PECKFORD: And when the hon. member opposite or any hon. member opposite or in this House who can propose in this House that I am not levelling with the hon. House -

MR. NEARY: You are not levelling now.

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

PREMIER PECKFORD: - let that hon. gentleman state his case.

MR. NEARY: Yes.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Let that hon. gentleman put it clear. And I will say to the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) that if he has information to lay on the Table of the House or to indicate in the way of a question about some specific governmental policy area which I can address myself to, fine, I will respond to. At this present moment there are a number of policy areas that were implemented some months ago by the former Premier and the Cabinet of that day, of which I was a member, which I am now reviewing and which hopefully then Cabinet will review in due course, for change of direction which I hope to make if I have the support of Cabinet. And these I will be making clear to the hon. House. If there are besides that other areas that the hon. member for LaPoile or other members want to ask about, either in writing or in this Oral Question Period, I am only too happy to answer them in full, total, 150 per cent.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, well let me be a little more specific with the hon. gentleman, -

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: - and I could give the hon. gentleman all kinds of examples. Well, let us talk about the oil refinery as one, and letters that were written and signed by Frank D. Moores, Premier of this Province -

MR. MORGAN: Are you debating or asking a question?

MR. NEARY: - making certain commitments. And I can refer to one letter of December 21, 1978 written by the hon. gentleman's predecessor, saying that the two proposals, the First Arabian and the Shaheen proposal, were going to be reviewed in the same manner by Thorne Riddell. And there is the letter if the hon. gentleman wants it. And the hon. gentlemen obviously have reneged on that, -

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

MR. NEARY: - rescinded that order.

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

I must point out that during the Question Period

MR. SPEAKER: (Ottenheimer) the basic function is for hon. members to ask for information and for hon. members on the other side to provide it and to allow a debate to develop would be to totally alter the nature of the question period.

MR. NEARY: Well, Mr. Speaker -

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, if I may respond to what was kind of a question on Come by Chance -

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I have not -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please from both hon. gentleman.

My original interruption was to point out that the rules do not permit a debate. The hon. gentleman to my right had been speaking in what I consider to be a debating manner and that is why I interrupted. He had not, to my knowledge at that time, in fact, asked a question so I think I would now recognize him and require him to ask the question.

MR. S. NEARY: Well, Sir, this is my final question because obviously I am not going to get the information from the hon. gentleman. What about Mount Scio House? What is the status of that now? Is that now the permanent residence of the Premier? Has it been transferred from Memorial University back to the provincial Department of Public Works? What is the position of Mount Scio House?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, my difficulty in dealing with some of the questions that the hon. gentleman is posing is that in some of his original or earlier questions the hon. gentleman asked about Mount Scio House and things that happened supposedly in the dying days of another administration or whatever, and I thought that the hon. gentleman was dealing with personal matters dealing with, you know, like Mount Scio House and other things dealing with the former Premier and now the present Premier, where they are going to live and this kind of thing. Now the hon. gentleman has also entered into the record information on Come by Chance so it is

PREMIER PECKFORD: difficult for me to grapple with the nature of the subjects that the hon. member wants answers to.

MR. S. NEARY: There are so many things that happened in the final days!

PREMIER PECKFORD: On Mount Scio House, there has been no change of status in Mount Scio House. As I indicated, I think to the hon. gentleman in response to an earlier question, that matter of Mount Scio House was a matter on which I had a meeting during dinner, as a matter of interest to the hon. gentleman -

MR. S. NEARY: I am psychic.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Yes, perhaps you are or otherwise involved in information;but I can assure the hon. gentleman that there will be a decision as it relates to Mount Scio House, its disbursement how it will be used, whether it will be the residence of the Premier, whether it will belong to the university or what within the next seven days, hopefully, in that seven days because after Cabinet meeting then it has to be formalized after that into an Orders in Council or whatever but I intend to move swiftly on that in this week and resolve it.

As it relates to Come by Chance, Mr. Speaker, I was not aware off the top of my head of that particular piece of correspondence that the hon. member mentioned. I can only indicate to the hon. gentleman that we have had long and protracted discussions on the Come by Chance project, the Minister of Finance (Dr. J. Collins), the President of the Treasury Board, the President of the Executive Council, the Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. C. Doody), and other members of the Cabinet as well as the whole of Cabinet. And right now there is a group of individuals, who work for the Government, in Paris and London talking to all the people who are involved in Come by Chance, full and absolute statement on all matters dealing with Come by Chance will be forthcoming in this hon. House and every single thing and every position that we take will be brought forward and all information will be made available to hon. members.

MR. W.N. ROWE:

Mr. Speaker, if my colleagues will allow I would like to ask one or two other supplementaries arising from some questioning of my colleague here.

The hon. the Premier has indicated that he is going to level with the House. Well, let me ask him a direct question: There is some evidence to suggest, or I have heard some evidence to suggest that an Order in Council or a Minute of the Cabinet was passed to provide a certain sum of money, the figure mentioned to me was \$30,000 per annum, to the former Premier of this Province with regard to secretarial help, office expenses and so on. Can the Premier confirm or deny whether there was in fact a decision made - tentative or otherwise - to provide the hon. the former Premier with that sum of money, or any other sum of money for that matter? It might be \$5,000, it might be \$10,000; the figure I have heard is the amazing figure of \$30,000. Would the Premier level with the House and tell us whether a decision was made, which may be in the process of being rescinded, to award the former Premier of this Province the sum of money for whatever purpose per year?

MR. SPEAKER: (Ottenheimer)

Hon. Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, there was an Order in Council passed, which has not been acted upon, on which I had a meeting this morning dealing with the whole question of former Premiers, the former former Premier as well as the former Premier, but there was action taken on the former and former former Premier through Orders in Council which have not been acted upon which I am now having under review. The exact amount of money that was allotted or the way it was allotted to the former Premier and the former former Premier, I am not exactly sure of the level; I do not know if it was \$30,000 or \$20,000 or \$10,000; it was

PREMIER PECKFORD: some staff, one or two staff members. I think the former former Premier now is under some kind of an arrangement with the government where we provide him with some money, so that therefore, I think there was a decision made as it related to the former Premier along those lines. So there was a decision made as it related to the former Premier and former former Premier. I have been aware of that decision for a week and a half, two weeks, and I am now in the process of reviewing the whole question of a policy towards former Premiers, seeing there is more than one, and try to treat both gentlemen in this case in the same manner, and, therefore, will be making a policy statement, if you will, on that later on after I discuss it with my Cabinet colleagues. That, of course, also brings in the whole question of Mount Scio House and the other things dealing with a former Premier which he now is.

MR. W. N. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, a further supplementary, if my colleagues will permit.

MR. SPEAKER: (Mr. Ottenheimer) The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. W. N. ROWE: First of all, I will assume the Premier will find out the figure that was passed by Cabinet - it was a Cabinet decision; the fact that it was not implemented is largely irrelevant, the Cabinet decision was made by Order in Council, he says, which is now part of the record of the administration.

Now, Mr. Speaker, am I correct in understanding the Premier that a Cabinet decision was made sometime before the former Premier got out of office which is what now, a month ago?

MR. NEARY: Around there.

MR. W. N. ROWE: And the hon. the present Premier, who was a member of that administration, only found out about a Cabinet decision a week and a half ago and it is now under review? Did he not know about it at the time it was made? And if he was not physically present at the Cabinet meeting, did he not receive a circulated copy of the Minute in Council or the Order in Council applying to this? Could the Premier elucidate on that, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: (Mr. Ottenheimer) The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I was not at the Cabinet meeting at the time. Obviously I was on the road campaigning, and I had not looked through the Minutes in Council or Orders in Council until after I assumed my present office, and that is it.

MR. W. N. ROWE: One final supplementary, Sir, if I may -

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

MR. W. N. ROWE: - unless something startling emerges; I do not think it will.

With regard to the Mount Scio House referred to by my hon. colleague, the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary), was there a Cabinet decision made - which may be in the process of reconsideration, or rescission for that matter - to allow that house to be the Premier's residence, which it is now for all practical purposes, at a certain rental - \$400 or \$500 per month, I think, was what was required at the time.

AN HON. MEMBER: Six hundred dollars.

MR. W. N. ROWE: Six hundred dollars per month, was it? It went up a hundred dollars keeping pace with inflation.

MR. NEARY: He never paid it anyway so do not worry about it.

MR. W. N. ROWE: But was there a Cabinet decision made-tentative or under discussion or renegotiation or reconsideration or anything else - was a Cabinet decision made to allow that home to be used as the official residence of the Premier for a nominal sum, say one dollar a year or some other small consideration such as that?

MR. SPEAKER: (Mr. Ottenheimer) The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Yes, Mr. Speaker, there was a - I do not know whether it was an Order in Council or whatever - there was a decision made to transfer Mount Scio House to be the official residence of the Premier and for a token sum per year. Yes, there was.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, would the hon. gentleman indicate if one of the decisions made by the former Premier in his final days, now under review, if one of these decisions has to do with lifting the freeze off salmon rivers in Labrador?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: I would have to - I am not sure of the detail. I knew about some Labrador - I do not know if it was decisions or discussions on that whole question of salmon rivers in Labrador.

MR. MORGAN: The freeze is still on.

PREMIER PECKFORD: There is a freeze on the rivers in Labrador.

MR. NEARY: That is not the question, Mr. Speaker. The question I asked the hon. gentleman was one of the matters that is under review, not the fact the freeze is still on. Obviously it is, because the hon.

MR. NEARY: gentleman has stepped in and said that these things will not be implemented, and that is what I am trying to find out.

MR. SPEAKER: (Mr. Ottenheimer) The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: I do not know if it was an Order in Council or not. There was for my information -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Listen! Listen!

PREMIER PECKFORD: I do not know if it was a decision or not. I will have to bow to the Minister of Lands and Forests (Mr. Morgan) on this one.

MR. SIMMONS: You are bowing some low now.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I just want to answer the question and be truthful with the hon. the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary), that is all. I am just trying to be fair. My wording is important only in the sense that I am afraid the hon. gentleman will come back and then try to accuse me of saying something wrong.

MR. NEARY: No. no.

PREMIER PECKFORD: I do not know if it was a decision of Cabinet, but there was an indication to me - let me put it this way, I will bow until I get the information - there was an indication to me that the freeze was being lifted in Labrador and I, when I became aware of this information, had it made clear that I wanted the freeze to continue in Labrador.

MR. FLIGHT: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER(Ottenheimer): A supplementary. The hon. the member for Windsor - Buchans.

MR. FLIGHT: My supplementary is to the Premier based on the answer to the hon. the Leader of the Opposition with regard to the Cabinet decision to have Mount Scio House turned back to the Province to be the official residence of the Premier for a nominal fee of one dollar a month. My question is to the Premier; is that decision also under consideration or reconsideration, or will that decision stand?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Under reconsideration. There will be a decision made on it on Thursday, hopefully, in Cabinet.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: I want to come back, Sir, to the salmon rivers for a moment. Would the hon. gentleman indicate to the House how he came upon this information that somebody was trying to finagle lifting the freeze on the salmon rivers in Labrador and for what purpose?

MR. NEARY: Would the hon. gentleman have any idea what was behind all this?

MR. SPEAKER(Ottenheimer): The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: I know there was some work done some time ago on the whole question - I do not know if by the Department of Rural Development or Lands and Forests or something - about the whole question of salmon rivers in Labrador. I do not know what it was exactly. Perhaps one of the other ministers can answer it. How it came to my attention? I do know if it came to my attention by one of the ministers bringing it up in a letter, or bringing it up verbally one day in Cabinet, but I can just bow to get that information for him.

Now, why the freeze was lifted? I would have to get more information, I do not know.

MR. NEARY: Since the hon. gentleman became Premier?

PREMIER PECKFORD: Yes.

MR. NEARY: I see. Okay.

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

MR. NOLAN: I wonder if the Premier would be good enough to - and he may not be able to table the information right now - how many executive assistants does the Premier of the Province currently have? Is there one in Botwood, one in Labrador, one in Grand Falls, one in Buchans, one in Corner Brook? I wonder would be good enough (1) to list the number, the names of the individuals and the salaries they are being paid.

MR. PECKFORD: I have undertaken, Mr. Speaker, on a question asked yesterday, to provide all that information in writing to hon. members of this

PREMIER PECKFORD: House and I will so do within seven days as of yesterday.

At the present moment, just to give the hon. gentleman a thumbnail sketch so that some of the information will be available, outside of St. John's there is an office in Botwood, a Premier's office in Botwood, a small office there with one person working there as an executive assistant.

There is an office in the provincial building in Grand Falls in which there is one or two females working and one gentleman. There is a Premier's office in -

MR. FLIGHT: Botwood.

PREMIER PECKFORD: I just said Botwood and I just said Grand Falls. I think I did. I am just going West. In Corner Brook there is a Premier's office, physically, as well as some people on staff there, two ladies, I think. Then, in Happy Valley - Goose Bay there is a small office in which there is just a secretary. I think that is all.

In my office right now there is a senior policy advisor who is being under contract. The contract is not finalized, by the way, I did not answer that question yesterday because I was not sure. The contract is not finalized. There is a press secretary, Mr. Petten, who is under contract.

MR. NEARY: Will we get his contract?

PREMIER PECKFORD: Yes. Oh yes, that will be tabled.

Mr. Alvin Hewlett, who was my executive assistant while I was a minister, is now an executive assistant to the Premier, on the staff. Then there are two or three girls who are secretaries to these individuals who are on the floor.

MR. F.B. ROWE: What about Mr. Nutbeem?

PREMIER PECKFORD: Who?

MR. F.B. ROWE: Mr. Nutbeem.

PREMIER PECKFORD: I answered a question on Mr. Nutbeem last week, or the week before the House adjourned for Easter in which I indicated that he was not doing any work for the government any more.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Otteneheimer): The original questioner I think was the hon. the member for Conception Bay South.

MR. NOLAN: First of all, I compliment the Premier on providing information, before we adjourned for Easter and now, which is something we have not been used to. In reference to certain contracts, whether it is the Cole contract or the numbers of executive assistants, is it the intention of the Premier to go with this arrangement. The new Premier of the Province? He has the power within this House to make any changes, and in some cases without even going to the House. I mean, is he going to plan some changes in the whole bureaucratic structure set up in the Premier's office?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

MR. PECKFORD: Yes, Mr. Speaker, there have already been changes. If one notes the people I have already mentioned and some of the people I have not mentioned, there have already been changes made to the Premier's office here in this building as they relate to staff and there has been a reduction and it will be a cost saving to the government as a result.

I am now in the process of doing the same thing in the other offices around the Province,

PREMIER PECKFORD:

and I just have not had a chance as of this moment to finalize any decisions on it. Hopefully I will be able to do that within the next week as well. But I do intend to change it, yes.

MR. FLIGHT:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: (Mr. Ottenheimer)

Hon. member for Windsor-

Buchans followed by the hon. gentleman from LaPoile.

MR. FLIGHT:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker,

to the Premier. It rises from an answer given to the Leader of the Opposition with regards to the former Premier's residence-or a fund set up for former Premiers. Now, the Premier indicated that when that particular decision was made that he was not physically present in Cabinet that day and he had got a chance to read the council record. Does the same thing apply for the other issues raised, the Mount Scio House decision, the Labrador rivers decision? Were all these decisions made at one cabinet meeting that the Premier missed or were these made over a period of time and the Premier was not present for any of these meetings and has not had a chance up to now to read the Orders-in-Council?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Well, I think that the

decisions that the hon. member has mentioned, the issues, I think three, you just mentioned, the hon. member just mentioned, that I was not aware of them until I had taken on the office that I now have. So whether it was one meeting or three meetings, I am not sure of the dates so therefore I do not know if it was one meeting or three meetings. All I can tell the hon. gentleman is that I am now aware I think of the three points that the hon. gentleman mentioned and am reviewing and discussing them.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, a supplementary

for the hon. Premier.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member.

MR. NEARY:

Would the hon. gentleman

MR. NEARY: indicate if another one of the matters that is under review, a decision made in the final days, if it has to do with government aircraft and the use of helicopters and government aircraft? Is there any arrangement made to provide the former Premier with complementary - well, you do not issue tickets but complementary government aircraft and helicopters? Was there anything about that in the final days?

PREMIER PECKFORD: Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, I know of no new policies that relates to that whole question of transportation. Not to my knowledge.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary. I wonder if the hon. gentleman, Sir, would tell us if he has undertaken to find out what Mr. Bob Cole was doing in Nassau with the former Premier? He had time off to broadcast the hockey game from Philadelphia and then spent a few days in Nassau. Does he report to the hon. the Premier and did he have permission from the hon. the Premier to take the time off to go to Nassau to hold a secret meeting down there in the Britannia Hotel?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: I have not been aware of the movements of Mr. Cole as related to his - I understand if he goes and broadcasts a hockey game, I think that under the contract there is some allocation on it. Whether there was a request made to the Director of Administration in the Premier's office, which would be a normal administrative kind of thing for a couple of days or something like that, would not necessarily come to my attention. It did not come to my attention and I can only presume, until I find out the information, whether it was done in that administrative way through the Director of Administration and an employee who normally reports to that director.

MR. NEARY: That will just be great.

MR. W. ROWE: A supplementary, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: (Mr. Ottenheimer) Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. W.N. ROWE: If we have any time left,

MR. W. ROWE: I will ask a double-barrelled question so that the Premier can answer it because we are probably running out of time. Is there any decision made now, or is it under discussion or under consideration at the moment, as to whether the government is going to live with the contract entered into with Mr. Bob Cole or whether it is going to attempt to get out of the contract in some way, whether by financial arrangements or otherwise, concerning that gentleman? A highly esteemed gentleman, by the way, but there is a considerable amount of public money involved. And secondly, Sir, would the Premier undertake to table in this hon. House a list of persons who were employed outside of the Public Service Commission, if any, a list of people who were employed, by contract or otherwise, directly by the executive council, by the cabinet in a period, say, during the last three months of the former Premier's administration? Would he ask his staff to compile such a list and table it in this hon. House? Perhaps there is nobody. I do not have any ulterior motive for asking the question, Sir. I am just interested in whether there were any so-called political appointments, contractual or otherwise, made by the administration in the last three months, ninety days or so, the final days of the former administration.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will table not only the last three months or however long the hon. gentleman wants, but if he wants to limit it in the first instance the three months is fine with me.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER: Order 1.

Motion, the hon. the Minister of Justice to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The District Court Act, 1976," carried. (Bill No. 29).

On motion, Bill No. 29 read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

Motion, the hon. the Minister of Justice to introduce a bill, "An Act To Reform The Law Respecting The Property Of Married Persons," carried. (Bill No. 33).

On motion, Bill No. 33 read a first time,
ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

Motion, the hon. Minister of Justice to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The Securities Act," carried. (Bill No. 30).

Motion, Bill No. 30 read a first time,
ordered read second time on tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Order 13, the adjourned debate on Bill No. 15.

The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, it was brought to my attention after I finished speaking yesterday afternoon, Sir, that I forgot to finish the story on the two buildings in Stephenville, the two buildings that were put on public tender. There was one bidder, Canadian Javelin tendered, were awarded the tender for \$250,000 and then, following the takeover by the present administration, an investigation launched by the RCMP into awarding these two buildings by public tender. There was an RCMP investigation which kind of backfired and they had to change their tune because they discovered, much to their amazement, and they were not told by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Hickman) who is still the Minister of Justice, that an ad had appeared in the newspaper, that public tenders had been called for these two buildings. And the reason I am repeating myself now, Sir, I forgot to finish the story. The grand finale to that story is that this same crowd, who saw fit to have a RCMP investigation into the transfer of these two buildings, then took the buildings back, refunded the \$100,000 and gave the two buildings to a Tory back for one dollar a year! That is the grand finale to that story.

MR. S. NEARY: The same hon. crowd who thought this matter should be investigated by the RCMP, took the buildings back, refunded the \$100,000 to Canadian Javelin, and then gave the buildings to one of their buddies, one of their supporters, for one dollar a year to be turned into apartment buildings -

MR. R. MOORES: Ninety-nine years.

MR. S. NEARY: - for ninety-nine years I think the lease is. Mr. Speaker, I hope hon. members, Sir, are grasping what I am saying. What I am saying is a fact, and the hon. gentleman better make a note, if the hon. gentleman is going to be follow me instead of getting nasty and personal and trying to smear me, as the hon. gentleman usually does in the House - but the news media are getting wise to the hon. gentleman - instead of trying to use that diversionary tactic, let the hon. gentleman answer the charge.

AN HON. MEMBER: Sit down! Do not be so foolish.

MR. S. NEARY: Never mind getting up and saying, 'Oh, the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) is a puppet of this one or a puppet of that one.' That does not wash anymore! Answer the charge and answer all of the other charges and allegations that I made in this House yesterday. And let me repeat what I am saying, Sir. This administration when they took over - Mr. Crosbie with his skinfull of hate and venom and the present Minister of Justice (Mr. Hickman) - had the RCMP investigate the transfer of two buildings in Stephenville on the Harmon Complex that were put up on public tender with an ad in the newspaper and one bid, \$250,000 from Canadian Javelin.

MR. J. CARTER: Tell me about John.

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman's head is so thick if he does not understand what I am saying, Sir. We have the candidate lined up for the hon. gentleman. And the hon. gentleman talking yesterday about numbers, the hon. gentleman's number is up.

May 1, 1979

Tape No. 937

DW - 3

MR. J. CARTER:

If you cannot take it, do not give it.

MR. S. NEARY:

Beck in the savory parch, Mr. Speaker.

MR. F. ROWE:

He had better put the seeds in in a hurry.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, then what did they do with these two buildings? Did they then call public tenders for these two buildings that had been sold previously for \$250,000 to provide offices for the Linerboard mill at Stephenville? No, they did not call public tenders, Sir. They gave the buildings to one of their buddies, one of their supporters, for \$1 a year for 99 years, to be converted into apartment buildings and then the gentleman whose company converted it could not even make a go of it then. Now how is that? How is that, Mr. Speaker, for a crowd that felt the Liberals had given Mr. Doyle and Canadian Javelin these two buildings? And I also yesterday, Sir, referred to Labrador linerboard as a company and not a Crown corporation, and I did not finish the story on that one either and I am going to finish it now.

MR. J. CARTER: Never mind what you said yesterday. What are you going to say today?

MR. NEARY: This is what I am going to say today. I am going to tell the hon. gentleman something that he does not know, and I am sure every day the hon. gentleman, every wet day when it is wet outside and the hon. gentleman cannot get in the savoury patch, fine days the hon. gentleman is not here, on wet days the hon. gentleman swaggers into the House, does not make any contribution just sits there like a useless stick of furniture.

MR. W. ROWE: Jim Case will finish him off.

MR. NEARY: We have got the candidate that will finish him off. The hon. gentleman learns something, I am sure, every wet day of his life.

So I referred yesterday, Sir, to this company, not a Crown corporation. And there is a big difference, because as I indicated to the House yesterday,

MR. NEARY: the government, the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Finance refused to date to give us any information on Labrador Linerboard. And I suggested yesterday to the House that is why the company was registered under the Companies Act and not made a Crown corporation. But, Mr. Speaker, hon. members will be probably shocked to learn that back in 1976 when International Forest Products, the people who were under contract down in Boston to market the linerboard, the ones that had ripped off Labrador Linerboard, skimmed off money and put it into offshore companies in the Bahamas and in Bermuda, this same company, whose principal was Mr. Robert Kraft, International Forest Products. Mr. Robert Kraft, a man who could not be trusted, I was shocked when I got the share list to find out in 1976 that apart from ministers of the Crown that Mr. Robert Kraft was on the share list of that company, was on the Board of Directors of that company. And Mr. Howard Ingram, President and General Manager of Labrador Linerboard who was installed in that position by Mr. Kraft, was on the Board of Directors of Labrador Linerboard and on the share list shown in 1976.

What kind of a corporate set up was that, Mr. Speaker? Here you have the General Manager of Labrador Linerboard, Mr. Ingram, installed by Mr. Kraft in his job and you have Mr. Kraft marketing the product and you have Mr. Kraft on the Board of Directors of Labrador Linerboard.

AN HON. MEMBER: A good arrangement.

MR. NEARY: Well I should hope it was a good arrangement. Mr. Kraft had her made. And I heard a minister say today—and I am sorry to have to repeat this; I will not mention the minister who said it but it nearly

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MR. NEARY: made me sick to my stomach
just to show you how irresponsible and how stupid, as
we say in Newfoundland, how stunned this hon. crowd are -
I was talking about Egret, the offshore company in Bermuda
that skimmed off \$55 a ton for the Linerboard, and the

MR. NEARY: for the Linerboard. And the minister remarked to me, "Well, we can find no evidence here of any wrongdoing because International Forest Products said they would pay \$320 to the Linerboard mill and they kept their contract and they paid \$320." Well, I nearly died, Sir. Just imagine! It did not make any difference to that hon. gentleman what they skimmed off, how much they skimmed off that should have gone to the Labrador Linerboard! And now he says, "We have no way of finding out because the company is gone and they will not be back. They are registered down in Boston, Massachusetts." Well, it was that same hon. minister and that same hon. crowd that entered into the agreement with International Forest Products in the first place, was it not? And they have to take the responsibility for it, Sir. And I was kind yesterday when I called it mismanagement. It is skulduggery and crookedness of the worst kind, and not on the part of the hon. gentleman, but on the part of this company down in Boston, International Forest Products. There should be a Royal Commission of Inquiry to look into the operation of Labrador Linerboard mill. The RCMP, if indeed they still are investigating this case, it is only the tip of the iceberg. This fellow down in Boston comes from nothing and spends a million dollars to buy a tennis team down there, thanks to the taxpayers of Newfoundland who are being bled to keep the Labrador Linerboard mill going. And he did not have sense enough to keep the tennis team going, that went belly-up too. And nothing sets the devil in me more than when I see the high taxes we are paying in this Province. And that is why we are paying high taxes, because of extravagance and waste and skulduggery. And that gentleman down in Boston, who never had a pot to sit on, ends up buying a tennis team! If he had bought a hockey

MR. NEARY: team, as I said last session, we might have all been interested in it. Good hockey fans, we are. And, Mr. Speaker, I will tell you, I have gone South of the border, and I am going South of the border again, down in the United States, and if the hon. gentleman does not think the RCMP or Interpol or the ministry cannot get the information, then I will get it myself if I have to, even though the present Minister of Justice (Mr. Hickman) threw an obstruction in my way when I tried to get information from the law firm in Bermuda and Stirling International in San Francisco, and I have the correspondence down in my office to prove it. The hon. the Minister of Justice threw an obstruction in my way. I would have gotten the information. If the RCMP could not get it, I could have gotten it. And I had written these firms and the information was on the way to me when they received a communication from the Deputy Minister of Justice, Mr. Macaulay, acting under instruction from the minister, not to provide me with the information because the RCMP were investigating this case.

That year, Sir, in 1976, the year to which I am referring - that was not the only year, there were two or three years when a share list was filed for this company, Labrador Linerboard - but in this particular year here were the shareholders of Labrador Linerboard: the hon. John C. Crosbie, Chairman of the Board, the hon. C. William Doody, Confederation Building, St. John's, the hon. Ed Maynard, Confederation Building, St. John's, the hon. E. Ingram, Stephenville, President, and Robert Kraft, 1 Boston Place, Boston, Massachusetts. And the hon. ministers think that this is the feeling and the thinking of the ministry that we got what we were promised for the Linerboard, we got what was under contract. And remember now, Mr. Speaker, that International Forest

MR. NEARY: Products was under contract for the Linerboard mill to sell linerboard at the highest price they could get in the marketplace. And one minister had the audacity to say to me today that Labrador Linerboard got their \$320 a ton and "it did not make any difference to us what Mr. Kraft and International Forest Products ripped off." That is in fact what the hon. gentleman was saying, and "we have no way of finding out. There appears to be no wrongdoing here." Well, it happened right while the hon. gentleman was on the Board of Directors. And now what happens, Mr. Speaker? Is the whole thing now going to be swept under the rug? Are we

Mr. Neary: going to see ministers now who were on the Board of Directors of that Labrador Linerboard mill stand up in this House and say, "Not I, Lord! Not I! Everything was right and proper and aboveboard when I was on the Board of Directors," when in actual fact, Sir, that is not true. Newfoundlanders and the taxpayers were being shafted right under the noses of the ministers by Messers Ingram and Kraft who were in collusion, who had conspired to milk Labrador Linerboard for everything it was worth.

I gave the House already one example Sterling International, who were forced to pay \$55 a ton to Egret in Bermuda a dummy company, an offshore company. And I said last year that if that was the pattern then you are talking about anywhere from \$20 million to \$30 million of money that should have gone into Labrador Linerboard mill that went into the pockets of the parasites down in Massachusetts and Mr. Ingram who had his taxes paid for by Messers Kraft and International Forest Products.

Now, Mr. Speaker, how blunt and how more pointed can I be to try to rivet the message home to the administration? What do I have to do? What do I have to do, Sir? Will they now stand up and say, Oh, no everything is all right, when in actual fact they do not know? I know, Sir, from talking to members on the opposite side of the House. The first time they find out about these things is when they are raised on this side of the House and they get the shock and they are taken back, and they say, "Oh God, why were we not told about this? Why were we not told about it?" I do not know why they were not told about it. They are being told about it now.

Mr. Speaker, I would need a front-end loader to bring up the documents that I have down in my office and put on the Table of this House. And I am not going to do it today, Sir, I am merely going to - I am going to end my few remarks. I did not intend to carry on very long this afternoon, but I have all kinds of other stuff. But I do hope, Mr. Speaker, I do hope, Sir, that we will not hear in this House this afternoon - and I hope the press will take due

Mr. Neary: note of this; remember that I was very careful during my speech not to smear any members of the House or attack any characters of any members of the House, and if I did, Sir, I would have been out of order as Your Honour knows. I did not attribute any motives to any particular member of this House. And I hope, Sir, I hope that when speakers get up from the other side of the House that they will do likewise and that they will answer the charges and not try to belittle me or undermine my credibility or smear me because I could not care less. It is the people that count, it is the taxpayers that count, and hon. gentlemen better remember that as hon. gentlemen, Sir, have to take the responsibility. And I do not mind, I have big shoulders, I can take it. I know there are whispering campaigns, and I have been the victim of their smear but I could not care less, Sir. I took it before and I will take it again. And I can assure the ministry that we are going to get to the bottom of this pile of manure, this rotten cesspool that is there in regard Labrador Linerboard. And that is the one we are dealing with at the moment, there are others. We are going to get to the bottom of that one. And we will get to the bottom of that sale eventually too.

Mr. Speaker, I must say before I entered into this debate I looked at the prospectuses that were submitted to the financial people by the Province, to

MR. NEARY: the financial people in the United States when they went to the bond market. And I have not been able to find out, I must say that I have gone over the prospectus with a finetoothed comb and I must say there is a variation, there is a difference. Each time the figures are given they are given differently. I have never been able to figure out what really, actually was the total tonnage produced at Labrador Linerboard. I have never been able to figure it out. I wrote some figures down but I am not going to give them to the House now but they are different. I saw one figure at 346,000 tons as of March 1976 and then that went up to 400, 000 tons. Perhaps the minister can straighten me out and give me the actual production of that mill. I am not talking about the Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. Doody) I am talking about the minister who introduced the bill. But anyway that brings me up now, Mr. Speaker, in my final remarks, to the deal itself. And I want to make this abundantly clear, Mr. Speaker, that I am happy for the people of Stephenville and I am happy for the people in the Bay St. George area but I am sad for Newfoundland and I am sad for the taxpayers of this Province who now have to cough up \$750 million. I know the hon. gentleman when he gets up will say, "Oh yes, but we have to rescue this white elephant from" - the hon. gentleman said we snatched victory from the jaws of defeat. Well, Sir, if they snatched it from the jaws of defeat they spent \$300 million doing it. Mismanagement of the mill, skulduggery, giveaway, graft, corruption on the part of the people who were marketing the product. The truth of the matter is, Sir, that this was a giveaway. At the present time, Mr. Speaker, I am told by the experts that there is a great demand and a great shortage of linerboard throughout the world and the prices on the market are at the highest level in the history of linerboard. And in the face of that, Mr. Speaker, the government sells Labrador Linerboard for an amount of money that would appear to be in the vicinity of \$43.5 million. But in fact,

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, this is not true and to the purchasing company Abitibi, this is a large-scale gain, Sir, a large-scale gain. In reality the people of Newfoundland get less than nothing on every aspect of this transaction. And the fact of the matter is, Sir, that the provincial government made no attempt whatsoever to get responsible outside bidders but restricted the sale to the gigantic combination of Abitibi and Mr. Desmarais' companies. In fact, Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to the House yesterday, the Government were talking in two separate boardrooms, talking to two separate companies at the same time that had the same parent company and it was common knowledge, Mr. Speaker, it was common knowledge, even to fellows like myself, that the companies had interrelating stock holdings. And secondly, Sir, they were about to become merged into one corporation.

PREMIER PECKFORD: When did that happen?

MR. S. NEARY: That happened within days after Abitibi was given this gift which was of tremendous benefit to the company.

MR. MORGAN: That is nonsense.

MR. S. NEARY: It is not nonsense, Sir, not nonsense at all. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, I am working on two other projects right now that will take me sometime to unravel, two others.

MR. MORGAN: Is one the leadership?

MR. S. NEARY: No, one is not the leadership.

I have not had time yet to even think about that. I am thinking about the takeover of Brinco and somebody, as far as I can learn, somebody was tipped off and there was a little activity, a little flurry of activity on the market before the Government bought Churchill Falls Corporation,

MR. NEARY: the same gentleman I referred to in this House yesterday and I hope to get that information from the Quebec Security Exchange.

Maybe there is nothing to it, Sir, but I am one of these 'doubting Thomases' and I like to be shown, I like to put my finger into the wound. I am in the process of asking the Quebec Security Exchange to provide me with certain information to see if there was a little flurry of activity of Brinco stock before the government took over Churchill Falls. I am hoping that there was not. And the other thing, Sir, I am told and I will find this out, too, that there was a little flurry of activity of Abitibi stock before they were given this \$750-million facility in Stephenville for \$43.5 million - a gift. In actual fact, they paid nothing for it.

The mill, Sir, if you look at the \$43.5 million, it is true that the government sold the mill for less than half the value of one of the paper machines in that mill right at a time, Sir, and I want to emphasize this, when linerboard was never as much in demand and the price was never as high, and I confirmed this recently with brokers in the United States. So the government, by their own admission, Sir, lost up to this point \$300 million and now with the Government of Canada allowing the purchaser to write off a tax loss that the people of Newfoundland will eventually have to pay anyway, because they will not get that much rebated from the Government of Canada in their corporation taxes.

I wonder how can the hon. President of the Council, the Government House Leader, the hon. gentleman who bailed out on a matter of principle when Craig Dobbin was going to be given some kind of a secret deal to rent office space to the Newfoundland Government, the hon. gentleman bailed out and

MR. NEARY: now he is back again and sits there while this kind of skulduggery is going on. The hon. gentleman said, "Well, you have not proved anything to me". I can hear the hon. gentleman now, "You have not proved that there was a playing around with stock of Abitibi before this facility was given to Abitibi as a gift". Is that what the hon. gentleman is thinking, that I have not proved that? Well, the hon. gentleman can go and check the stock market just as well as I can around that time to see if there was a little flurry of activity.

I have heard people say, "Well, what is the real reason for the retirement and what is the real reason for quitting and all this sort of stuff?" And I have heard people say, "There was a rip-off". Well, I do not think that at all, Sir. Well, yes, I am sorry, I should not have said that. I do not think that anybody today is foolish enough in this kind of a deal to go for the hard coal. There are other ways to do it. Stock is the way to do it, and I will find out in due course. There may not be a thing in this world to it - not a thing in the world to it but I intend to find out now that we have the expert on stocks and bonds back into the House. Perhaps the hon. gentleman will be able to help me. The hon. gentleman might be able to help me. The hon. gentleman has become a walking encyclopedia on investing in stocks and bonds and perhaps the hon. gentleman could advise me. What I am trying to find out, Mr. Speaker, and the hon. gentleman might be able to advise me how to go about it, I am arguing that there was a lot of activity with Abitibi stock prior to the gift that was given to Abitibi by Santa Claus, by this Province to the tune of \$750 million. There was a lot of activity and what I am

MR. NEARY: saying is somebody had the inside dope. Is that possible? My hon. friend is an expert in these matters. Is it possible for somebody to get a tip, to get the inside dope? Is that possible?

MR. LUNDRIGAN: It happened once before, I believe.

MR. NEARY: It happened once before.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. NEARY: You mean somebody sitting in the cabinet or somebody sitting in the House -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible) stock.

MR. NEARY: - would give somebody an inside tip, like the Churchill Falls takeover - Brinco. Could somebody have been tipped off and bought a substantial amount of

MR. NEARY: Brinco shares before the purchase took place and make a killing?

MR. LUNDRIGAN: The expert on Brinco is not in the House any longer.

MR. NEARY: I beg your pardon?

MR. LUNDRIGAN: The expert on -

MR. NEARY: Well, okay, but the expert on Abitibi is in the House. Could it happen with Abitibi? Could somebody be tipped off? Could it happen?

MR. LUNDRIGAN: It could happen, yes.

MR. NEARY: It could happen.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: That is right.

MR. NEARY: I see. Well, I thank the hon. gentleman for helping me, because I intend to find out if, in fact, it did happen.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Is my hon. friend putting forward the suggestion that Abitibi went up because of an (inaudible).

MR. NEARY: My suggestion is, Sir, that somebody had the inside track, that somebody was tipped off. That is the suggestion.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: The stock was bought after the purchase, the Abitibi Price merger after the purchase of Labrador Linerboard.

MR. NEARY: Is that right? I see. Well, whether somebody made a killing before or after, as a result of their manipulating inside the walls of this building -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: My hon. friend, I am sure, is interested and could really advise me on this one.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: That is only a little thing for Paul Desmarais.

MR. NEARY: It would be a big thing for somebody in this Province but not a big thing for Mr. Paul Desmarais.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: Is that right?

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Well, what is your suggestion? What is the hon. member saying?

MR. NEARY: The suggestion is, Sir, that somebody made a killing over both the Churchill Falls takeover and the Linerboard takeover. Somebody made a killing.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Churchill Falls stock never moved a bit until it was taken over.

MR. NEARY: Is that right?

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Not a bit.

MR. NEARY: Until it was taken over? That is precisely what I said.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: It was \$4.50 before it was taken over -

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is confirming what I have said, that somebody had a tip and bought the stock low. They bought the stock low and sold it high.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: There was none bought low.

MR. DOODY: There was no trading.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: No activity in the stock at all.

MR. NEARY: Well, we certainly -

MR. LUNDRIGAN: You say I am the resident expert.

MR. MORGAN: You are confused in your story now.

MR. NEARY: Sir, I certainly appreciate the advice of the expert in the House on stocks and bonds. Maybe the hon. gentleman can help me unravel my suspicion

MR. NEARY: or my problem. If I have one the hon. gentleman might be able to help me with it.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Absolutely. No problem.

MR. NEARY: Because I would like to find out who in this Province -

MR. LUNDRIGAN: I have a hot tip for the member - International Helium.

MR. NEARY: Well, that is good. I would like to find out who in this Province made a killing as a result of the takeover of Labrador Linerboard mill, if anybody did.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: Nobody did.

MR. NEARY: Nobody did?

MR. LUNDRIGAN: No.

MR. NEARY: Okay, I will find out in due course.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: I can tell you how to find out.

MR. NEARY: Is the hon. gentleman prepared to lay his sessional pay on the table of the House -

MR. DOODY: It is in escrow.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: - to back up what he just said, that nobody but nobody made a killing off Abitibi?

MR. LUNDRIGAN: I am not a betting man.

MR. NEARY: Not a betting man. I did not think the hon. gentleman was.

Mr. Speaker, the \$300 million representing the construction that started up and the maintenance of the Labrador Linerboard mill - the \$300 million represents a loss to the people of this Province. And we still do not know if these figures are right. We can only assume \$300 million is the final figure.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I do not know the reason why the former Premier - we have established today in the House the hon. gentleman did some weird and wonderful things in his final days. Why, even Mr. Nixon did not go that far. In the final days of the former Premier he did some weird and wonderful things so we are told - the word is starting to get out. We only just touched on some of the things today.

MR. MORGAN: Or did John C. Doyle dream that?

MR. NEARY: Yes, there is no doubt about that.

MR. DOODY: It is pretty obvious.

MR. F. ROWE: (Inaudible) the Premier when he answers.

MR. NEARY: I told the hon. gentleman yesterday, Sir, where he could find his film - go down and check Mr. George McLean's accounts. That is all the hon. gentleman has to do if he wants to find a scandal, go and check the accounts, the bills that were put into the hon. gentleman's department, and then find out if the hon. gentleman got the service. That is all the hon. gentleman has to do. As a matter of fact, I will help the hon. gentleman; bring them up, put them on the table of the House and I will check them out for the hon. gentleman if he is ashamed to do it.

The former Premier of this Province, Sir, was called by the major newspapers across Canada during this whole scheme, 'Santa Claus Moores'. That is what they called him, the Toronto newspapers and Montreal newspapers, 'Santa Claus Moores'. The reason, Sir, is that in this transaction he

MR. NEARY: not only gave a major gift to the gigantic corporations at the expense of the whole public, of the taxpayers in this Province, but it gave even a bigger gift to Mr. Desmarais and the Power Corporation of Canada in that the tax loss of Labrador Linerboard mill when taken over by Abitibi is to be used by the Power Corporation, Consolidated Bathurst and Abitibi to pay off the \$43.5 million.

MR. LUNDRIGAN: What? Pay off what?

MR. NEARY: To pay off the tax concessions, will pay off the \$43.5 million.

In other words, Sir, we have \$300 millions of dollars spent by the government to keep the mill going - mismanaged; we have the tax loss, loss in corporation tax - I do not know how much that is. I wish I knew which one of the financial geniuses on the government benches would tell us. And we have the replacement value of the mill, which is \$450 million. So over a period of the next ten years, Mr. Speaker, what you are talking about in losses to the people of this Province, to the taxpayers of Newfoundland,

Mr. Neary: is \$1 billion, \$450 million replacement value, \$300 million spent in start-up and construction and operating the mill and the tax write-off, close to \$1 billion. That is what the deal is, that is what the deal will cost the taxpayers of this Province. I believe, Sir, that Abitibi will have money to spare. Not only will they get their \$43.5 million, but they will have money to spare. And they will not only have money to spare but they will be able to pay for their acquisition of the takeover of Consolidated Bathurst.

And, Mr. Speaker, the saddest part of all and the cruelest part of all, that in addition to all I have said, Sir, that the former Premier of this Province and his government had to know the true nature of the deal prior to its authorization by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the principal financial analysts of Canada are fully aware that the Newfoundland Government provided a gift. Mr. Speaker, as to the employment in the Province and in the Bay St. George area as a result of this gift, the employment picture as a result of a much smaller operation will see a smaller number of people employed. If the Labrador Linerboard mill had not been closed and continued to operate, Sir, in a normal fashion, we could have averted this disaster and we could have provided more employment in the Bay St. George area. And the people would have been working all along and they would have been working today. But now, today, they are down struggling with the officials of Abitibi Price trying to find out when they are going to start up the mill and when they are going to start hiring Newfoundland people.

So, Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, Sir, I again want to appeal to honourable gentlemen not to attempt to slander members on this side of the House, not to try to attempt to smear anybody through innuendo or direct accusation but answer the charges. That is all I ask hon. gentlemen to do. I have laid it out as bold as I can, as blunt as I can without pointing the finger of suspicion.

MR. MARSHALL: You have not slandered anybody?

MR. NEARY: No, Sir.

MR. F. ROWE: No.

MR. NEARY: Ah, yes, I have nailed Mr. Kraft, and if the hon. member wants to protect Mr. Kraft and come to Mr. Kraft's defense he can do so but I happen to think he is a parasite and a finagler.

MR. MORGAN: That is not (inaudible).

MR. NEARY: No, Mr. Speaker, I make no apologies for calling Mr. Kraft a rip-off artist and if the administration wants to defend him let them go ahead and do it.

MR. J. CARTER: Have you said that outside the House.

MR. NEARY: Yes, I have said it outside the House and I have a letter from Mr. Kraft threatening to sue me but I have not seen the summons yet.

MR. DINN: Say that outside the House.

MR. F. ROWE: He must be the defender of Kraft.

MR. NEARY: Oh there is the defender of International Forest Products and Mr. Kraft.

MR. F. ROWE: Then they had the gall to talk about you and Doyle.

MR. NEARY: Answer the charges, that is all I ask the hon. gentlemen to do. Do not be evasive. Do not try to divert attention by trying to smear or use diversionary tactics. Face up to the situation man fashion and give us the answers or better again let us have a royal commission to look into the affairs, the operations of Labrador Linerboard Mill. And the hon. gentleman can get up and say, "Oh, there was no wrongdoing when I was there".

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman knows that he can not say that with a straight face. Maybe no wrongdoing on the part of the hon. gentleman but as long as Mr. Kraft and Mr. Ingram were there, there was collusion, there was collusion, Sir, there was collusion and there was a plot and there was a conspiracy to milk Newfoundland Linerboard. Can the hon. gentleman get that through his thick skull?

AN HON. MEMBER: Say that outside the House.

MR. NEARY: Say it outside the House! Say it outside the House! I will say it outside the House in spades. And if the hon. gentleman wants me to say it standing on my head suspended in mid-air I will say it. But what will be done about it?

MR. DINN: Say it outside the House.

MR. NEARY: What is the administration going to do about it?

MR. J. CARTER: Find out what will happen when you say that outside the House.

MR. NEARY: Would Your Honour tell me how you can deal with the kind of situation, Sir? How can you deal with it? I am so frustrated.

MR. MORGAN: South of the border, down Panama way.

MR. NEARY: I told the hon. gentleman what to do. Go down and get out George McLean's accounts and bring them up to the House so that we can have a look at them and find out who got the ring - the \$12,000 ring.

MR. MORGAN: I wish I knew.

MR. NEARY: I know. I know who got it. Do not worry, I know who got it. It is really funny you know, Mr. Speaker, it is really funny. I would suspect that the taxpayers of this Province in six or seven years have been ripped off for literally millions piled upon millions, millions and millions of dollars and they will be paying off and their children will be paying off for the mismanagement, the skulduggery and the extravagance and waste of this administration. They

MR. NEARY: will be paying it off for the next hundred years. One billion dollars is what that deal is worth to Abitibi Price. That is kind of funny, is it not? And as I said, Sir, a few moments ago, I am happy for the people of the Bay St. George area and the people in Stephenville and nobody is more tickled that they are getting an industry but I am very sad, Sir, for Newfoundland and the taxpayers of this Province.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. MORGAN: (Inaudible) only John C. Doyle.

MR. SPEAKER: (Otteneheimer) Hon. Minister of Mines and Energy.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. C. W. DOODY: Mr. Speaker, I have just a few words to add to the debate in this particular instance. I have no intention of getting involved in the sort of diatribe that my hon. friend has demonstrated over the past two days. I have attempted to take some notes as he proceeded, the hon. gentleman proceeded, but there was so much vitriol and there was such a torrent of hatred coming through that it was difficult to try to glean some grain out of chaff. It appeared to be a sort of a mixture of get Crosbie, get Moores and whatever happens in the process is all fair game but we are not allowed to reply in kind, are not allowed to demonstrate any smears or any innuendo or any remarks that might be deemed as being uncomplimentary to the hon. gentleman opposite, because that is not the sort of thing in which he deals, he is a gentleman of high honour and principle and I respect him for it.

I would much prefer to address myself to this particular bill which is the transfer of the asset at Stephenville to Abitibi. I was very involved in the situation at the time and it is rather amazing and in some cases amusing, to hear how the hon. gentleman can manage to twist and distort what is, in effect, a good deal for the Bay St. George area particularly, and for the Province generally,

MR. DOODY: our Province and it was their recommendation which we eventually followed which, in effect, underlined and reinforced opinions that many of us had come to before. And so, a divestiture committee was then formed and we deal now with our under-the-table deal that we heard so much about yesterday, all this under-the-table deal, the secret deal, the deal that was done and without the knowledge of anybody, the deal that was worked out secretly in the boardrooms of Abitibi and Connie Bathurst.

This divestiture committee that was formed was headed up by the Deputy Minister of Industrial Development, or at least in the beginning was headed by the Secretary of Treasury Board, but eventually by the Deputy Minister of Industrial Development; and there were others, the Deputy Minister of Forestry, various others, the Deputy Minister of Finance, the members, representatives of the unions in the area, representatives of the communities, representatives of mill management, those that remained after the closedown, one only gentleman - a gentleman to whom we will be forever indebted, a man named Scott Chalmers, whom if he had not stuck with us through that difficult divestiture period we would have found it difficult indeed to get all the facts, figures and statistics that were necessary for the competent and capable selling of the mill.

In any event, this divestiture committee was formed and in the process of their selling effort they visited some 42 different companies in the United Kingdom and other parts of Europe and the United States and Canada. They were equipped with all the knowledge which was presented to all the companies, all the facts and figures including the unclaimed capital cost allowance which was really the selling point, the one advantage that we had in

MR. DOODY: The 42 companies were approached. Computer readouts were taken. Three difference options were pursued: the conversion to a newsprint machine, a single machine newsprint mill; the operation of a sulphite pulp mill; or the operation as a linerboard plant. On all readouts with all possible computations and all possible or imaginable variations the linerboard operation always came out on bottom. Of the 42 companies we did find one who showed an interest in operating it as a linerboard mill, but we never could get a reasonable or sensible proposal from them.

Over a period of time and a remarkably short time for such a complex operation, the serious companies boiled down to three: Bowaters, Abitibi-Price, and Connie Bathurst. We had, quite frankly, hoped to be able to get Bowaters to take a more active interest in it. The compatibility of the pulp mill in Stephenville with the operation in Corner Brook and the operation in Liverpool, Nova Scotia, seemed to be a natural, tied in with the unclaimed capital cost allowance that was available at Stephenville. However, unfortunately, our salesmanship was such as to be unable to convince Bowaters of the advantages to that company of that particular deal and we were left with

MR. W. DOODY: Connie Bathurst and Abitibi. Both companies were aiming at the same market, overseas European markets, Bowaters are more U.S. oriented and did not want to get involved, at this particular point, in the overseas market, and so we boil down to a bidding match between Abitibi and Connie Bathurst. Now at that time and even now to the best of my knowledge, Connie Bathurst and Abitibi are two separate corporate structures. I know that Power Corporation, the parent corporation of Connie Bathurst have made several attempts to take over control of Abitibi - Price I know that Mr. Desmarais's people have made several attempts to purchase control of the company through stock purchases, common stock purchases. Another one was made at around the same time as the Linerboard Mill sale on a little bit after that, but to the best of my knowledge that bid was also unsuccessful. I do believe that through various agencies or subsidiaries of Power Corporation that considerable quantities of Abitibi stock are held by the Power Corporation interests but to the best of my knowledge, and I stand to be corrected, control of that company still vests in Abitibi and we dealt with Mr. Tom Belle and Mr. Tittermore on the Abitibi side of it and with the Connie Bathurst people on the other side of it, and there were two separate sets of negotiations and deals. On the deal itself, as it finally boiled down, I think it is probably one of the better ones. I have heard an hon. gentleman opposite tell us that the mill was worth \$750 million, it was \$800 million in the beginning but it depreciated overnight, it is \$750 million today. Because the replacement cost of the mill today, the Linerboard mill in Stephenville would be \$400 million, it might very well be that the price of a peanut butter factory on the top of the Himalayas might be \$5 billion or \$6 billion. But I do not think it would be practical to put it there because nobody could find the peanuts to supply it, and the customers would not be there, and the transportation problems would be there and so the fact that it would cost that much to put it

MR. DOODY: there, really does not have all that much bearing on the resale value of the asset. It may very well be that it would cost \$400 million to put a linerboard mill in Stephenville today if somebody were foolish enough to put a linerboard mill in Stephenville. I do not think that anybody would be. I have been even given to understand that the original entrepreneur, or the original promoter was somewhat dubious about putting the mill in Stephenville. I can remember arguments being made at the time that the gentleman in question was kind of persuaded by the administration in power at the time that this project should be undertaken and should be done and it was done on that basis rather than on sound, business judgement. But, however, I realize that we are not allowed to talk about that particular administration - it is only the previous administration that we are allowed to discuss in this House.

On the terms of the deal itself, Your Honour, there is nothing very secret about it they were all made public at the time, they are outlined here very clearly in the attached schedule or appendix. The amount of money involved is a \$43 million payment to the people of Newfoundland for the shares, the 5,000 common shares in the company. The company undertakes various warranties and obligations, They undertake to put into place a 150,000 ton per year single machine mill; they undertake to keep the pulp in place for at least five years in the hope that it can be utilized; they undertake, also, to make sure that the mill in Stephenville operates for at least the same number of years as the other mills

MR. DOODY: owned by that company in Canada which is important - important protection for the people in Bay St. George and in the Province. The company undertakes in the conversion to have the work done insofar as is possible with local contractors, to do as much of its capital expenditure in the Province as it possibly can, and the conversion, the purchase of materials in the Province, taking out the machine and replacing the machine, going to use residents of the Province in the operation of the mill when it is finally converted. We are going to give first preference to residents of the Bay St. George area in the mill and in the woodlands.

There is another rather unusual clause in this - or I suppose the unusual thing about this agreement is that there is no clause granting the company an SSA exemption, a social security tax exemption, which was a standard clause in these old-type contracts which you see around here, old-type statutes. I suppose it is unusual also inasmuch as the company has undertaken to pay full commercial hydro rates at the cost of the power to the company plus the normal mark-up of hydro, which in itself is another strange, weird and wonderful thing but one which I think bodes well. These are the sort of things that assures you that the operation in Stephenville will be a lasting one because the company has made sure of its markets. It has made sure of its ability to operate. It is not leaning on government for small or large breaks or tax exemptions or handouts. It has come to an agreement. The entire content of the agreement is in the act that you see before you and the company will be very much on its own.

MR. DOODY: We have an undertaking from the company to put in a second machine within five years I think it is. In the event that they do not, then they are obligated to forfeit the million dollars that is now in an escrow account at one of the banks, the trust companies, in the Province. In order to facilitate the operation or installation of that second machine, the Province has undertaken to make available to the company a sufficient supply of wood to make that possible. Our Forestry people have assured us, and I have no reason to doubt them, that that wood will certainly be available barring acts of God, forest fires or the spruce budworm.

I can say quite honestly, Mr. Speaker, that the situation in Stephenville today in terms of that mill compared to what it was just a few short months ago with its predecessor, that Labrador Linerboard Limited mill, is an entirely different set of circumstances. Right now we have in place a viable, long-term, solidly based woods operation. It will not employ as many people as the mill that closed, but the people who will be employed will have security and a certain knowledge that their jobs are safe jobs. When that second machine goes in place and I have every reason to believe that it will, then the difference in the employment numbers will be relatively few. We know that the operation will be an efficient one. We have the word of the hon. member for Lapoile (Mr. Neary) who tells us that the company is going to make a billion dollars out there. Well, if they can make that sort of profit from an operation like that, then I think the people in the Bay St. George area can feel very secure indeed about their jobs.

MR. DOODY: Indeed I would like to be the union president who is negotiating a contract. With a profit picture like that down the road, it sounds like the answer to a business agent's prayer.

MR. FLIGHT: What was made on (inaudible).

MR. DOODY: The amount that was made on the unclaimed capital cost allowance was nowhere near a billion dollars and, as a matter of fact, if the hon. gentlemen want to look at this particular company that was set up in Stephenville and into which part of the corporate structure this particular mill was placed, they will find to their amazement that the corporate taxes will indeed flow to the Province of Newfoundland and that the capital cost allowance will not affect

MR. C.W. DOODY: our particular share of the corporate tax. However, that may be a bit too complex and so we will not burden the hon. member with that sort of detail.

MR. R. SIMMONS: Do not be nasty today?

MR. C.W. DOODY: I am trying not to, I have already been asked by the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. S. Neary) to be pleasant and polite like he has been and not to have any smear or innuendo or not to try to say things like collusion and rip-off and skulduggery and public charges against Mr. Kraft, Mr. Ingram and so on. I, also, would like very much to have Mr. Kraft or Mr. Ingram have an opportunity, maybe they already have, an opportunity to take action to protect their reputations. I would like to find out if this \$30 million rip-off is, indeed, anywhere close to being true. If Mr. Sorenson, indeed, made fifty cents a ton on the sale of the product from the mill, We have no indication that this is so. We have searched through all the various records and looked at the contracts, looked at all the various documents, had our legal people look at them, had our auditors look at them and we could find nothing to that effect. There was one particular deal, an Egret company somewhere down South that got \$55 a ton on one shipment that came out of that mill. There was a \$320 contract price entered into by the mill to a company somewhere in - I think it was in West Africa and in order to warrant the arrival of the goods at a certain agreed on freight rate this particular company got involved in a \$55 a ton commission over and above the \$320 contract price. That was between the sales agent and the purchaser. It sounds like an awful lot of money for a ton of linerboard on a commission basis, even as an insurance against the non-delivery or against a freight rate thing. I do not understand it, I do not know anything about it other than the documents that were tabled. But, that is the only evidence, or at least the only indication that I have seen to date during my work on the linerboard operation that there is any suspicion or indeed any suggestion of any wrongdoing. If there is any wrongdoing I would be very, very happy to see it brought to the public's attention, If somebody has done something wrong I would be absolutely delighted to have it exposed. I think that the sort of

MR. W. DOODY: innuendo, the sort of shadow, the sort of cloud that we have heard discussed in this past day or two, although the only names that were mentioned were the names of Mr. Kraft and Mr. Ingram, there were a lot of other people involved in working for and on behalf of that mill, both in government and out, and I would like to see the thing cleared up if it is at all possible.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. W. DOODY: As the hon. gentleman suggested, I would be the first one to leap to my feet and say, 'There was no wrongdoing went on that I know of while I was involved in it and I can say that without fear of contradiction.'

Mr. Speaker, I do not really know what more I can say about this except to say that I was great deal happier on the stage at Stephenville the day that the announcement was made that Abitibi were going to buy that mill, that the Province would get \$43 million into its coffers from that mill rather than pay the fifty-some million out that we would have had to do that particular year if we kept it open. I saw the faces of the people down in that hall in Stephenville that morning and it was a great deal more pleasant looking at that than it was the day that I went out there and told them that we were going to close it. I look at that whole linerboard situation and I can remember some pretty difficult moments, some pretty rough moments but I can also remember towards the end of it some very pleasant ones. I have no hesitation at all in commending the people who were involved in the orderly shut-down, in the severance arrangements and particularly in the divestiture group for doing such a splendid job with a very, very difficult situation. I am happy to have been part of that operation. I have absolutely nothing to be ashamed of at all. I think the government did a good job, an excellent job in this particular deal. They inherited a mess. We carried it on longer than we should have, in my opinion, but I am part of that and I accept my part of that responsibility. I think by and large, all in all, we have given to the people of Bay St. George a base on which to build. It is not the

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MR. W. DOODY: answer to the employment problems in that area but it certainly is one heck of a big improvement over what the situation was just a short while ago. Mr. Speaker, I commend the minister and I commend second reading of this bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Cross): The hon. member for Windsor-Buchans.

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words on this bill. It is coincidental, Mr. Speaker, I draw the House's attention to the fact that when the former Premier, Premier Moores, put together a committee - I think he called it the Advisory Committee on the Labrador Linerboard mill - the final decision of the Advisory Committee was to close the mill down and -

MR. DOODY: That was the recommendation.

MR. FLIGHT: That was the recommendation. To me it was coincidental that Mr. Tittlemore, then Chairman of the Board of Directors of Price (Nfld.), was also Chairman of the Advisory Committee that finally decided what would happen to the mill. Now that would seem to anybody of a suspicious nature, that would appear to me to be coincidental to say the least.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Price (Nfld.) or Bowaters never did Linerboard any favour when the mill was in operation. As a matter of fact, Price (Nfld.) and Bowaters did everything in their power to shut that mill down. Price (Nfld.) probably saw that down the road - some good thinkers in that company - that when Labrador Linerboard got in trouble because it could not afford the wood from Labrador, they could see the natural event that they might indeed own the mill or Bowaters - and as a result, "Let us not co-operate. Let us not give them the wood," because if the wood is available on the Island now to operate Labrador Linerboard mill it was on the Island when it was operated as a linerboard mill by this Province in the first instance when it was built by Javelin.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. Doody) says that he remembers the faces of the people in Stephenville when he opened the mill up. I wonder if he remembers the faces when he closed it down.

MR. DOODY: He never did.

MR. FLIGHT: Because, Mr. Speaker, the closing down of that mill was a deception in the first place. Again I remember the Premier touring

MR. FLIGHT:

across the Province making the statement that this Province cannot afford \$55 million to keep Linerboard going. Certainly the Province could not afford \$55 million but that was a deception because, opened or closed, it was going to cost us \$27 million. After it was closed it was costing us \$27 million per year, interest on the borrowing. So in effect it was really costing us \$27 million, \$28 million in subsidies to keep the mill going. A deception, Mr. Speaker.

Labrador Linerboard mill was subject to the most vicious skulduggery, Mr. Speaker: \$475,000 paid out by this government to get out of a contract under which nothing was delivered; pilfering of equipment in Goose Bay. The stories we heard coming out of Goose Bay with regards to Lab Linerboard's equipment owned there, new equipment, would raise the hair on the back of your neck. Robbery, highway robbery, Mr. Speaker. And feather-bedding! The word was, Mr. Speaker, and was proven to be that anybody who needed a job, anybody who that administration owed a favour to, if they wanted to salt them away Labrador Linerboard mill was good for it at \$25,000 to \$30,000 a year. No wonder Labrador Linerboard went under, Mr. Speaker.

The crime of this government, Mr. Speaker, was closing Labrador Linerboard mill in the first place, not reopening it - closing it in the first instance. It did not need to be closed. We could have stood the \$27 million that it would have cost us to keep it open while we were working out arrangements with Abitibi Price. Well, Mr. Speaker, enough has been said about the operation of the mill itself. I want to get into another aspect of this bill and that is the kind of timber limits and agreements for the supply of timber that have been given to Abitibi Price.

Now, Mr. Speaker, when the discussion was going on in this Province about who would get the mill, whether it would be Abitibi Price, Connie Edison - CBC one night had Connie Edison having owned the mill, and the present Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. Doody) rushed in and made a statement that he did not know where they got their information -

MR. FLIGHT:

and the next morning the news was announced that Abitibi had the mill. Everybody who had any insight into what was going on believed that Abitibi was the natural people to get the mill. If Connie Ed. had gotten it there would have had to be a rearrangement of timber limits in the Province. Maybe Bowaters would not have agreed, or Price Abitibi would not have agreed to turn over some of their limits. There was not enough Crown land left. So the feeling was that if Abitibi gets it, the timber on Abitibi limits right now, the bulk of Newfoundland, I might say, was sufficient to supply the Linerboard mill.

What has the Province done, Mr. Speaker? The Province has given a twenty year lease to what remained of Crown land in this Province. Once you take a look - the Minister of Forestry (Mr. Morgan) is listening here, I hope - once you take a look at the appendix here and look at the extra land that has been under the same terms and conditions, as I read it, that Abitibi Price have got their present holdings in this Province, the government has now given to Abitibi Price the bit of Crown land that was left in this Province. And, Mr. Speaker, that was not necessary. There is enough

MR. FLIGHT: timber on Price's present holdings to maintain, to sustain that operation, that mill. There is timber on Price's holdings that Price has never seen and never will see. All they have ever harvested in this Province is the cheap wood, wood close to the mill, wood close to the waterways, and that applies to Bowaters as well. And there are acres and acres and acres and thousands of acres of wood that have grown up, died, fell down, regenerated itself and will die again.

Price (Nfld.) on their limits need not to have been given, Abitibi need not and should not have been given the extra timber concessions that are incorporated in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, we have in this Province again a sawmill industry, a so-called sawmill industry. The Crown lands that existed up to this point cannot sustain the sawmill industry. The sawmill industry in this Province, although highly touted as it is, should be one of the mainstays of the economy of this Province. The forestry is the second largest most important resource-based industry next to fisheries in this Province, and one of the reasons is that we should be able to sustain a sawmill industry. And the government every chance it gets talks about the great sawmill industry in Newfoundland. It is a fallacy, Mr. Speaker. There is no sawmill industry in Newfoundland and the reason there is no sawmill industry is that all the timberlands in this Province that should sustain a local sawmill industry has been given to Price (Nfld.) and Bowaters and they have shown no more desire to co-operate with the individual private sawmillers as they showed when it would have been good corporate citizenship to have co-operated with Labrador Linerboard. Our sawmills have shut down. There is no

MR. FLIGHT: sawmill operation, Mr. Speaker. And this might put the death knell on it altogether, because now we have given up the last bit of Crown land that has timber on it over to Abitibi Price.

MR. HOUSE: You do not want the mill open?

MR. FLIGHT: That is the kind of drive I would expect and that is why that minister is not still minister of Education. That is why that minister is afraid to go into Howley anymore.

MR. HOUSE: I was up there last week.

MR. FLIGHT: Yes.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the minister gets up and talks about Abitibi agreeing to pay stumpage. And stumpage will be paid on sawlog stock. Now I have to presume that that is sawlog stock that will go to the mill. I am not aware that there is some agreement with Abitibi to cream off the sawlogs to supply our sawmills which they could do and not affect their pulp operation at all. If the minister was prepared to sit down with the paper companies and say, "Look, we intend to have a sawmill industry in this Province and we intend to see that the sawlogs in this Province go to the sawmillers either through a Crown corporation or something." Price admits, Bowaters admit that they do not need the sawlogs, even the ones they cut themselves. All they need is an arrangement - fiber for fiber - and we will ship the sawlogs off to the sawmills through a Crown corporation or through some kind of an arrangement.

Abitibi Price is going to pay stumpage, but two-thirds of that stumpage is going to go back to Abitibi-Price provided Abitibi Price proves that they are carrying out good forest management. What a joke!

MR. FLIGHT: A company like Abitibi-Price who is coming in and cutting our timber, making paper, sure they are employing our people but they are not employing them out of the goodness of their heart. They are employing them because they are making millions for their shareholders. That is why they are employing Newfoundlanders to cut our wood. Price (Nfld.) has just as much of a commitment to themselves to make sure there is a forest industry in Newfoundland twenty years from now as this Province has. And, Mr. Speaker, the moneys that Price (Nfld.) should be paying for stumpage are going back to Price (Nfld.) if Price (Nfld.) will put two-thirds of that money back into silviculture and back into good forest management.

Now it is interesting to note, Mr. Speaker, that under the Forest Land Management Act that the present minister was not aware of anything about that he took the opportunity out of vindictiveness, once he realized he did not know after that act being proclaimed for four years he did not know, in other words the ministry did not know who owned the lands in this Province over 300 acres, did not know. And I tell you he found out, Mr. Speaker, and he found one. Now I am going to ask the minister if he is prepared to stand up and name all the rest?

MR. MORGAN: Tabled them all.

MR. FLIGHT: Tabled them all? When?

MR. MORGAN: Those that do not pay will be tabled for sure.

MR. FLIGHT: But the minister's tactics were well recognized across the Province. What he was doing was well recognized. The vindictiveness coming through again.

MR. FLIGHT:

Hon. Joseph R. Smallwood owned 3,000 acres of land but I did not hear him come up with the rest of the people who owned land. Why single out that hon. gentleman?

MR. MORGAN: The largest.

MR. FLIGHT: The largest. But, Mr. Speaker, the kind of forest management we have in this Province is a bill that was proclaimed in 1974 setting out certain conditions and in 1979 the minister does not even know the people in this Province who that bill relates to. That is the kind of forest management we have in this Province, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, if we keep going the way we are going - there is a clause in this bill, listen, "the company shall have the right for the free use of all lakes, ponds, streams, rivers and licensed areas for floating logs or other timber of any kind whatsoever." That is the identical clause that Price (Nfld.) and Abitibi operate under in this Province today. And, Mr. Speaker, it is criminal, indecent, the waste of saw log material and pulp that is going on in this Province today. Now in a few minutes I will have to put up with somebody standing up and saying, "Oh there he is, anti-Price (Nfld.), wants to close down Bowaters." I recognize that the economy of my district is basically thanks to Price (Nfld.), total district. But, Mr. Speaker, the waste, the incredible waste that that minister and the previous minister and the Department of Forestry in this Province is allowing that company to get away with is sinful. If ever the minister had the gall, Mr. Speaker, to tell Price (Nfld.) to pick up the wood that they have strewn around this country that is now lying around the shores of our lakes because of that kind of a stupid clause, Labrador Linerboard would have no worry about its wood supply for the next year or two without sawing a stick. There are hundreds of thousands of cords of wood, Mr. Speaker, which will never surface again, high and dry on the shores of the lakes and rivers and streams that we have given Abitibi Price the right to use free of cost with no supervision at all. Float your wood. If You

MR. FLIGHT:

cut 100,000 cords and 50,000 ends up in the woods, go back and cut 50,000 more. Now, Mr. Speaker, that is the way it is. This issue has come up many times and I have seen no desire on behalf of this government, that minister, to sit down with Price and say, "You have to stop wasting the resource."

The possibility of a beachcombers act came up in this Province. For one thing it would not have cost Price (Nfld.) or Bowaters a cent, but I will guarantee you if there was a beachcombers act in this Province that Abitibi Price would not allow 40,000 or 50,000 cords of wood to go smack into Red Indian Lake in one night. After the initial cleanup there would be no more pulp lying around this country. There would not be 30,000 to 40,000 cords of wood now lying between Badger and Grand Falls because there was not enough water in the Exploits River to get it down. And at the rate of water buildup in Central Newfoundland right now, there will not be enough this Summer. Has the minister called Price (Nfld.), Abitibi and asked them if they intend to complete the drive on the Exploits River and made sure that the 30,000 or 40,000 cords of wood that was left between Red Indian Lake and Grand Falls mill was going to be brought down this year? Has the minister done that? Is he aware that that wood is in there?

MR. SIMMONS: They would not even talk to them.

MR. FLIGHT: When we negotiated this deal with Abitibi Price, did the minister ask Abitibi Price if they were prepared to allow licensed sawmill operators to go in on the limits that we were going to give them? Did the minister ask for any consideration for the sawmillers in this Province, that sawmillers would be permitted to go in on access roads that we are going to build now for Abitibi Price? What is the minister saying to the various sawmills that are closed down around this Province and the reason they are closed is a lack of timber supply, lack of timber to sustain their operation?

MR. SIMMONS: Lack of policy.

MR. FLIGHT: Lack of policy. The reason they are closed down is because we have sold our souls to Abitibi Price, Bowaters from a timber situation in this Province, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: The timber is there but the policy is not.

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, you know, we seem to be handing everything to the paper companies on a silver platter. There was the Forest Land Management Tax proclaimed in 1974. I understand and so we are told that it was not geared necessarily to bring revenue into the Province. It was geared to guarantee

MR. FLIGHT: decent forest management. And the better the forest management any company operating in this Province provided under the supervision of the Department of Forestry, the lower the rate of tax. Now, Mr. Speaker, it is an unbelievable fact that one major paper company in this Province did not have to pay a cent under that Act. So what the minister of the day is saying and what Forestry is saying is that we were witnessing by one of those paper companies the ultimate in forest management. In other words, we are saying that the forest management in this Province we are completely happy with the way that these paper companies are operating with regards to forest management, with regards to harvesting methods.

So, Mr. Speaker, something I would like to hear the minister address himself to with regard to forest administration in this Province - there seems to be something wrong. We have lost the two most qualified, supposedly, in the Province over the past two or three months - Mr. Al Brennan, Deputy Minister of Forestry, in Alberta, Mr. Herb Clarke, noted to be an expert in his field and who spent two or three or four years becoming familiar with the forest - as a matter of fact, he had become the official spokesman for Forestry defending the budworm spray programme and that kind of thing - but obviously knowledgeable - and suddenly in a Cabinet shuffle we find the Deputy Minister of Consumer Affairs - the Deputy Minister of Consumer Affairs is now the Deputy Minister of Lands and Forests.

MR. MORGAN: He is a good man, too.

MR. FLIGHT: Certainly, he is a good man, but how long is it going to take him before he can advise the minister? Because I guarantee you, that minister is going to need advice.

MR. MORGAN: There is a good staff in the department.

MR. SIMMONS: What happened? Why did the other two go?

MR. FLIGHT: Is the minister going to tell us why Mr. Brennan went to Calgary and why -

MR. SIMMONS: They would not serve under the present minister.

MR. FLIGHT: - and why -

MR. SIMMONS: That is true.

MR. FLIGHT: - why Mr. Clarke went to Industrial Development, I think? Probably followed the minister. Now I see why, yes.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. FLIGHT: That is right.

Mr. Speaker, when the minister was Minister of Tourism he toured all the tourist outlets in Newfoundland, fished all the rivers and spent the night in the camps.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. FLIGHT: I am serious. Is the minister going to go out now and check and see exactly for himself what the conditions are in the logging industry in this Province, in the sawmilling industry? Is he? Is he going to take a helicopter and go the length and breadth of the Exploits River and go around the shores of a forty-eight mile lake, Red Indian Lake, and find out for himself how much wood will never float again unless we tell Abitibi Price they must - and the sin, Mr. Speaker, is not what happened in the past, I suppose we have to accept that; but the sin is that we are letting those companies go ahead and continue in light of the fact that we have been told that in twenty or twenty-five years we may not have a timber supply to sustain the mill operation we have in this Province. And here we have given, ignoring the stands

MR. FLIGHT: they have, knowing that Price (Nfld.) - Abitibi Price is not harvesting timber on the stands they have, that there are hundreds of thousands of acres of land on Abitibi Price holdings that they have not cut or will not cut, we have given the last bit of Crown land that was left in the Province and the timber rights and all the rights that go with it. There is nothing left. The bit of land, Mr. Speaker, left on the Avalon Peninsula, with all the great forestry we know there - the bit of Crown land left on the Avalon Peninsula and the Burin Peninsula - but, Mr. Speaker, anywhere there is a sawmill located in this Province there is not a bit of Crown land left to sustain its operation. Now what is the minister going to do about that? Has he written off the sawmill industry in this Province or is he prepared to sit down and talk to the paper companies and negotiate an agreement under which a timber supply will be made available to our sawmillers? Or is he going to do nothing like has been happening these last forty years -

MR. SIMMONS: Like he did in Tourism.

MR. FLIGHT: - and watch our forest industry go down the drain, Mr. Speaker, and watch the incredible waste? We talk about the methods of forest management and, you know, it is only a few days ago I noticed a full page ad in The Evening Telegram paid for by Bowaters, and the big headline, the caption, was 'What people want to know about

MR. FLIGHT:

forest management and thought nobody knew." The trip they talked about - how they were experimenting with slope logging. The Province is paying that bill, Mr. Speaker. How many cords of timber, Mr. Speaker, have been delivered to the two mills in Newfoundland up to now as a result of slope logging? We are being bluffed, Mr. Speaker, bluffed completely by the paper companies and the government is prepared to sit back. Inasfar as the utilization of our timber resource, we are being bluffed and done in grossly, Mr. Speaker. We are watching incredible wastes and I see no inclination or even desire on the part of this administration to do anything about it. And now to add insult to injury, having let Abitibi for the past thirty years or up to this point in time be a power unto themselves in the holdings we gave them under a 99-year lease, now we have given them all the rest of our timber supplies left in this country to manage the same way they are managing what they are managing now.

Price (Nfld.) Abitibi talks about natural regeneration. Some of the logging operations on the lands owned by Price (Nfld.) and Bowaters, never mind natural regeneration. The soil is not even being left for the natural regeneration if it were even to occur. The soil is going with it.

Mr. Speaker, I want to hear the minister when he stands up - I would like to hear the Minister of Lands and Forests (Mr. Morgan) now when he speaks in this debate tell us in the spruce budworm program last year how much of the land now just turned over, just now turned over to Abitibi, how many acres of that land were included in the spray programme last year?

MR. FLIGHT: It was outside, outside last year of the Price holdings or the Bowaters holdings. It was Crown property. We sprayed a lot of Crown property. Did Abitibi know or did Bowaters know that we better spray that because we are going to own that next year? Is that the reason we sprayed the Crown blocks that since the spraying program have turned over to Bowaters and Price?

MR. MARSHALL: Does the hon. gentleman think this is a bad deal?

MR. FLIGHT: On the wood, on the wood? I think we have set a bad deal this past thirty years from Bowaters and Price (Nfld.). For thirty years we have watched our forests being desecrated. There are hundreds of thousands of cords of wood that will never mean a cent to the economy of this Province that is lying in the woods, on the beaches, buried up. I think that is the bad deal I am talking about. We have been getting it for thirty years and under this administration we will get it for thirty more.

MR. MARSHALL: Do you think this is a bad deal going to Abitibi.

MR. FLIGHT: The minister is wasting his time. I am looking forward to his getting up and speaking in a few minutes. There is something else very obvious to me, Mr. Speaker, too. The present minister of Lands and Forests may not fall into this category because he is from rural Newfoundland, I understand there is a logging effort in the district that he represents and that he can relate to forest management, he can relate to Price and Bowaters operations over the years. But I tell you, Mr. Speaker,

MR. FLIGHT: it has become very obvious to me this past two or three years that the people who have been making the decisions in this cabinet for the past seven or eight years do not relate to or could not care less or are not familiar, just not sensitive to what is happening in the forestry of this Province - just do not know and could not care less. They do not seem to recognize that, as I said a few minutes ago, forestry is our second largest resource-based industry.

The Premier of this Province after coming back from Norway two or three years ago recognized that fact and said that we were going to create 5,000 more jobs in the forestry in Newfoundland over the next five years - 5,000 more jobs. With the closing down of the Labrador Linerboard we have lost probably 500 jobs in that operation alone. All the sawmills in the country are closed down. There are more people working in restaurants in Newfoundland right now than are working in the sawmill industry in this Province. And, Mr. Speaker, to answer the minister I believe, number one, it was not necessary. Abitibi Price conned the government into giving them what was left in this Province of the Crown lands. They did not need it. They could have sustained the Linerboard operation with their present holdings. Instead of having Price (Nfld.) and Bowaters high grade our forestry resource the way they have high-graded it for this past thirty years,

MR. FLIGHT:

they would have probably been forced to have gone in and taken the wood that they were not taking. They would probably have stopped wasting. They would probably have stopped letting hundreds of thousands of cords of wood lie idle in the Province after it was cut. They would have needed to do that in order to keep the Linerboard mill going and we could have hung on to the Crown Lands they turned over to Abitibi to help sustain one day our sawmill industry or to help sustain another paper mill maybe - who knows? Mr. Speaker, there is a point here that needs to be made, too; do not let anybody kid themselves that that \$1 million that is being held in escrow to guarantee the installation of another paper machine will indeed mean another paper machine. Having paid \$43 million for a mill where the replacement cost is around \$400 million - you know, it is not a very great thing to do to say, "Let us let another million go on the promise that we will - instead of making \$357 million, they are only going to make \$356 million if they do not provide the other mill."

The Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. Doody) made a big deal about the second machine going in. The second machine will go in only if Price (Nfld.) sees that it is to their benefit economically, that they can make some more money. Maybe another condition of the second machine will be - there may be some Crown land left in this Province with some timber resources on it - but maybe the condition will be that they get that too. And having read this bill, Mr. Speaker, having seen the way this bill gives to Price (Nfld.), Abitibi Price anything left of our forestry, then I would think that no condition is too high to meet, that if they need the rest of the timber in this Province, if that has got to be a condition of another paper machine five years down the road they will get it.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about the way the timber limits are set up on this deal. I do not believe it was necessary for Price (Nfld.) to have been given another acre. I think all that would have needed to be done was to tell Price (Nfld.) to supply the paper "off the limits you already have, and when you can prove to us that you

MR. FLIGHT:

need more limits than we will look at it." But obviously Price (Nfld.) Aibtibi simply said, "Look, you know, we need this and this and this", and the government said, "Yes, here it is on a silver platter." Because Price could have supplied the paper mill with the timber on their present limits.

Mr. Speaker, it is becoming more obvious to more people that Price (Nfld.) and Bowaters are still powers onto themselves in this Province. They still dictate to the Department of Forestry. There is no such thing, Mr. Speaker, as forest management. There is only forest management as practiced by the companies and not as approved by this Province. Until we get away from that concept, until we are prepared to bring in legislation or - maybe the companies have not got to be legislated against. They get away with what they can get away with. But until we are prepared to sit down and work out agreements and lay down the law and say, "You must stop this astronomical waste of our resource. You have got to stop allowing 40,000 or 50,000 cords of wood overnight to be deposited on the shore of lakes and streams and rivers never to surface anymore. You have got to stop that and you have got to see that all the wood that is cut finds its way to the mill; until we can work out an agreement with the paper companies that sawmillers can go in on their limits under the supervision of the Province and cut the material, the logs necessary to stay their operation - to take it a step further, Mr. Speaker, we should be looking at not allowing one sawlog to go to the mill in Grand Falls, not one even if Price (Nfld.) itself cut it and Price (Nfld.) - the minister grins - Price (Nfld.) would be receptive to that kind of arrangement. All they would have to have is a guarantee that when they give up the sawlog material to a sawmill industry that the fibers will be replaced. Price (Nfld.) can operate a mill on timber two inches in the butt, can operate it on the tops and the material that would not be of any use for a sawmilling industry. Why is it that timber fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen inches in the butt is ending up in pulp .

MR. FLIGHT: instead of being creamed off and going into a sawmill industry that, if it were approached that way, it would employ more people than Abitibi Price and Bowaters probably put together?

So, Mr. Speaker, until the Province is prepared to look at that kind of approach in forestry, then the only forest industry we will have is what we see practised by the paper companies and we will have the 400 or 500 people who work in Grand Falls and the 300 or 400 loggers that sustain the operation, and we will have the 400 or 500 people that work with Bowaters in the mill and we will have the 300 or 400 support staff, the loggers, and then we will have the payroll in Linerboard and the support staff for that. But that is where the sawmilling industry - that is where the logging - our great forests - that is where it will stop. That is where the contribution to our economy from our great forest industry will stop unless we are prepared to tackle those paper companies head-on to bring in some real forest management, to open up our timber limits, not jeopardize the paper mills. I have no desire to jeopardize the paper mills. If it meant the survival of the Grand Falls paper mill, I would close down every sawmill in Newfoundland, if it meant that, but it does not mean that. All it takes is some decent, sensible approach to Price (Nfld.), show them what is happening, say "We know what is happening and we cannot permit it to continue, that you have to recognize the rights of the sawmillers in this Province". We do not want the kind of approach that we got from the minister just leaving now, the kind of approach we got from the minister of Forestry five or six years ago, when he wrote

MR. FLIGHT: a constituent and told the constituent that "No, sorry, Price (Nfld.) cannot let you cut pine on their limits".

Now I had just seen a study done that indicated that if Price will open up their timber limits in the Upper Red Indian Lake-Lloyds Valley, there is enough standing pine there to sustain a sawmill operation that would employ upwards to probably a hundred people. I think it was so many million board feet of pine available there. A person interested in starting a sawmill went to Price and asked for that pine and asked for the right to go in and cut it and have a sawmill industry based on that pine. Price did not particularly appreciate that so they indicated they might be interested in a joint project - not about to let someone go in and develop the industry themselves - a joint project, something on the lines of Hawkes Bay and Bowaters - Lundrigan's.

But that did not materialize and up til now nobody has gone in to cut that pine and to put the kibosh on it, one of our ministers of Forestry wrote a letter to a constituent and said that "Sorry, you cannot cut the pine on Price's limits because Price needs all the pine that grows on its limits to build its bridges on the access roads". That is the kind of approach we have in forestry in this Province. That is why we have a successful sawmill operation, Mr. Speaker, and until a government of today or until a minister has the gumption or until our foresters out in the field are prepared to go in and lean on these companies, we are going to see the incredible, criminal waste that we have been witnessing in the forestry industry in this Province up til this point in time.

MR. FLIGHT:

I am going to bring into this House, Mr. Speaker, if this House lasts long enough, I am going to bring in and table in this House photographs - I paid for them myself and enlarged them 10" x 12" so they can be seen-of pulpwood strewn around this Province, never to make it to a mill, never. And, Mr. Speaker, Price (Nfld.) - a couple of years ago there was a debate in this House about the wastage in the Province and the company at the time wrote to the then minister of Consumer Affairs. I do not know why he would have written to Consumer Affairs; I thought Forestry should have been concerned with the waste of timber. Wrote to them and said that there is nothing wrong with our forest management, that we are sacking all the lakes that we are using under our normal sacking procedure. That is true, they were sacking under normal sacking procedure because they never ever had a sacking procedure. They never ever sacked. Whatever escaped the booms, whatever booms were lost were lost forever, and they go back and cut new, so they lose both ways, Mr. Speaker.

So, Mr. Speaker, now that we have a new minister of Lands and Forests, and he is the kind of a minister that wants to be perceived as somebody who will take on the companies and will do what is best, and this applies to the Premier as well, I would like to see the Premier take the same attitude with Bowaters and Price (Nfld.) that he wanted perceived that he had taken with the oil companies, the offshore oil companies. He was going to guarantee us - he had guaranteed us

MR. FLIGHT:

presumably—that the offshore oil resource will be processed and will be followed so that the most benefit possible will accrue to Newfoundland. Well, let us see them do the same thing within the forest industry. I have not heard him up to now although I did hear him make some reference, Mr. Speaker, about his concern for the forest industry in this Province, but I have not heard him up to now being prepared to take line with the paper companies that he has taken with the offshore oil companies. They are still calling the shots.

The new Minister of Forestry (Mr. Morgan) who also wants to be perceived as somebody, as the great reformer, who wants the people of Newfoundland to believe that he would take on anybody or anything in the better interests of this Province - I am waiting because I expect a showdown between him and the two major paper companies in this Province. I would imagine as soon as he identifies, Mr. Speaker, the companies who own all the acreage in this Province, over 300 apart from the hon. Joseph R. Smallwood - that is the only one he knows up until this point, we are waiting for the other twelve - I would think as soon as he identifies the companies in this Province who should have been paying land management taxes this past four years, as soon as the Department of Forestry gets around to identifying and naming or knowing even, just knowing the companies in this Province - you talk about forest land management! Mr. Speaker, it is unbelievable that a Department of Forestry that has been telling the people of Newfoundland that our forest lands are being managed properly could not identify for the Auditor General the companies in this Province who own in excess of 300 acres of land. And then we are told that we have a handle on what is going on in forestry, what is going on in the Department of Forestry and what is going on in our lands.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible) right now.

MR. FLIGHT: But he found one, Mr. Speaker, So now I am looking forward for the great confrontation that is going to come when that minister, the man we know is prepared to take on anybody, going to take on John McLean.

AN HON. MEMBER: George.

MR. FLIGHT: Pardon me?

AN HON. MEMBER: George.

MR. FLIGHT: Going to take on George McLean. Right. Going to take him on. As a matter of fact, I am surprised that he is still sitting -

MR. ROBERTS: George, he is big enough (inaudible).

MR. FLIGHT: He is big enough is George, yes. Going to take on George McLean and get the film on the Norma and Gladys back. He has not told us yet if he has got it back. Now I would expect that he is going to take on the paper companies and do Newfoundlanders the favours that we need done, protect our interests, protect the forests, make sure that the economy of Newfoundland is getting everything that the resource can provide. But I have not heard a word. You know, Mr. Speaker, that minister has been Minister of Lands and Forests for over a month now and not one squish, not one press release, not one statement re forest management, re the forestry in this Province, not one.

I do not know if he has had any private conversations with the various paper companies.

MR. SIMMONS: That is the condition under which the Premier gave him the job. The only thing (inaudible).

MR. FLIGHT: Crown lands, Crown lands.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am waiting. The sawmillers in this Province, Mr. Speaker, who are now down and out, having their equipment taken back by Rural Development, foreclosures, who as a result of being led on by the Department of Forestry that we have a great forestry industry, we have a great sawmilling industry, the future is bright, as a result of that kind of propaganda are now shut down flat completely, no timber to cut, cannot keep the mills going. I am looking forward to the Minister of Forestry now, Mr. Speaker, this minister, the one we look forward to taking up the rights of the little man, taking on the great major companies, Price and Bowaters and changing the situation so that we will indeed have a prosperous sawmilling industry which we could have so that the forestry of this Province does indeed turn in to the economy of Newfoundland what it should and what it can turn in

May 1, 1979

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MR. FLIGHT:

and not be the domain of a couple of multinational companies who are making fortunes off our resource.

I look forward to the minister when he gets up telling us about the land management.

MR. FLIGHT:

It is the kind of forestry management that has been practiced by the paper companies. So, Mr. Speaker, there was no need at all of this government turning over to Abitibi Price the little bit of Crown land we had left, giving them complete and total control of every bit of merchantable timber in this country - no need of it at all. They had the timber on their limits to sustain the Linerboard operation.

AN HON. MEMBER: It was a shame.

MR. FLIGHT: It was a shame, that is right.

It was shameful, Mr. Speaker, that the government of the day thought it necessary, shameful that they kowtowed to Abitibi's demand to get the last bit of Crown land left in this Province, a move, Mr. Speaker, that will virtually guarantee the demise of any possible sawmill industry in this Province unless Price (Nfld.) - unless Abitibi changes its ways, unless it becomes receptive to negotiating with government and making timber stands available to sawmillers or to any other forest based industries. Unless they change that position, this bill makes certain that we will not have any other viable industry in this Province based on our forestry, Mr. Speaker, and that is sinful and not necessary, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: (Mr. Ottenheimer) The hon. President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, it is now nearly 6:00 P.M., so I would move the adjournment of the debate.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member has moved the adjournment of the debate.

The hon. minister.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I move that the House at its rising do adjourn until tomorrow, Wednesday, at 3:00 P.M. and that this House do now adjourn.

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On motion, the House at its
rising adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, at 3:00 P.M.

VOL. 4

NO. 22

I N D E X

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
TABLED
APRIL 30, 1979

April 30

Question #23

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

- (a) Statement showing number of native born Newfoundlanders who have graduated from Memorial's School of Medicine for the years 1974, 1975, 1976 and 1977;
- (b) Number of native born Newfoundland graduates of the School of Medicine who are currently practicing medicine in Newfoundland and Labrador;
- (c) Number of native born Newfoundland graduates of the M.U.N. School of Medicine who have emigrated;
- (d) Average cost to the Public Treasury of training doctors at the M.U.N. School of Medicine?

ANSWER

- | | | |
|-----|-------------|---|
| (a) | <u>Year</u> | <u>Newfoundland Graduates Faculty of Medicine</u> |
| | 1974 | 31 |
| | 1975 | 32 |
| | 1976 | 39 |
| | 1977 | 40 |
-
- (b) (1) Newfoundland graduates now practicing in Province -----88
 - (2) Newfoundland graduates in specialty training
 outside Province -----27
-
- (c) Newfoundland graduates practicing elsewhere in
 - Canada ----- 17
 - Other Countries -----10
-
- (d) Approximate average costs per graduate is from \$12,500 to \$15,000 per year.

April 18, 1979

April 30

QUESTION #26

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

What are the names of those persons who are currently employed as Executive Assistants, Special Assistants, Special Advisers or Public Relations Officer to him?

On what date were they so employed and what title does each hold?

ANSWER

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Executive Assistants | 0 |
| Special Assistant | 1 |
| Special Adviser | 0 |
| Public Relations Officer | 0 |

Mr. Max Wheeler, Special Assistant appointed on July 25, 1977.

April 11, 1979

April 30

QUESTION # 34

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

Number of civil marriages in the Province for the calendar year and 1978 to date?

Give breakdown by region where civil marriages took place.

ANSWER

| <u>City or Town</u> | <u>Civil Marriages</u> | |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| | <u>1977</u> | <u>1978</u> |
| St. John's | 95 | 135 |
| Wabush/Labrador City | 24 | 12 |
| Grand Falls | 16 | 8 |
| Gander | 15 | 13 |
| Corner Brook | 12 | 21 |
| Happy Valley | 9 | 6 |
| Stephenville | 7 | 4 |
| Grand Bank | 7 | 2 |
| Harbour Grace | 4 | 3 |
| Clareville | 3 | 4 |
| St. George's | 2 | 2 |
| Placentia | 2 | 3 |
| Holyrood | 1 | 3 |
| Channel | 1 | 1 |
| Brigus | 1 | 0 |
| Springdale | 1 | 1 |
| Bonavista | 1 | 0 |
| Trepassey | <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> |
| Total | <u>202</u> | <u>218</u> |

April 14, 1979

Copy 30

Question #36

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

- (a) At the present date, what is the total number of active treatment beds in the Janeway Child Health Centre located at Pleasantville?
- (b) Does the Janeway Child Health Centre have a greater number of hospital beds available than those which are in use as active beds? If so, what is the reason for this?

Answer

- (a) 233
- (b) No beds closed.

April 18, 1979

Question # 41

April 3.

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

- (a) How many Nurses were recruited outside the province in 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977 and 1978 to date?
- (b) In what provinces or countries were these Nurses recruited?

ANSWER

Accurate information is not available on recruitment statistics without requesting all hospitals and health related agencies to compile and submit information. As an alternate answer, we are presenting figures on non-Newfoundland nurses who applied for and were registered with the Association of Registered Nurses, assuming that they had either applied for or were recruited for employment in the province.

| (a) | <u>Year</u> | <u>Number of Nurses Registered from Outside Newfoundland</u> |
|-----|-------------|--|
| | 1974 | 176 |
| | 1975 | 205 |
| | 1976 | 169 |
| | 1977 | 110 |
| | 1978 | <u>116</u> |
| | | <u>776</u> |

| (b) | <u>Country</u> | <u>Number</u> |
|-----|----------------|---------------|
| | Canada | 382 |
| | England | 191 |
| | Philippines | 104 |
| | U.S.A. | 19 |
| | Scotland | 26 |
| | Ireland | 13 |
| | Australia | 15 |
| | Others | <u>26</u> |
| | | <u>776</u> |

April 17, 1979