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TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
FOR THE PERIOD:
3:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
THURSDAY, JULY 12, 1979

The House met at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to inform you His Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor has just arrived to open the First Session of the Thirty-Eighth General Assembly of Newfoundland.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Admit His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

Mr. Speaker leaves the Chair.

His Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor takes the Chair.

HON. A. Brian Peckford (Premier): May it please Your Honour, the House of Assembly, agreeable to Your Honour's Command, have proceeded to the choice of a Speaker, and have elected Mr. Len Simms, Member for the District of Grand Falls, to that office, and by their direction I present him for the approbation of Your Honour.

HIS HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR: On behalf of Her Majesty I assure you of my sense of your efficiency and I do most fully approve and confirm you as Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Your Honour having approved of the choice of this House in constituting me as Speaker, it now becomes my duty in the name of the representatives of Her Majesty's loyal subjects, the people of this Province, to claim respectfully of Your Honour their accustomed rights and privileges, especially that they shall have freedom from arrest during their attendance in Parliament and that I, as Speaker, may have full access to Your Honour's presence at all reasonable times and that they have confirmed to them all their ancient rights and privileges which have been confirmed to them by Your Honour's predecessors.

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HIS HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR: On behalf of Her Majesty I do confirm this House in the enjoyment of all its rights and privileges.

His Honour then delivered the Speech from the Throne.

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:

I welcome you to this First Session of the 38th General Assembly of the Province of Newfoundland.

Forty-five years ago, our people faced the greatest crisis in their history, the suspension of Dominion status, an economic and political crisis that cost them their hard-won democratic institutions and control over their social and economic destiny.

Since then we have gone through a period of social and economic reconstruction and development which has seen a Commission of Government for 15 years, our entrance into Confederation and a 30 year Post-Confederation development period. Throughout this whole period, the determination of the Newfoundland people to control their social and economic destiny has not wavered. The debate has only been about the appropriate means by which this great overriding objective is to be achieved. While it is clear that our entry into Confederation cannot be questioned, there is a growing realization that the present structure of Confederation does not allow this Province to realize the full economic benefits of its own resources or to adequately promote the enhancement of our unique cultural heritage.

My Government feels that we must go through a final, but necessary, stage of our process of reconstruction. Our people are, I am sure ready, yes, even anxious, to complete the task of securing to themselves the means by which they, as a people, can assure their future as a distinct society. This objective can only be achieved if we, once again, have adequate control over our marine resources — fisheries and offshore oil and gas.

If we are to move forward, there must be constitutional change and a new attitude in Ottawa towards the role that this Province, indeed every Province, is to play within our Confederation. Such changes might in other times have been the source of acrimony but fortunately for us the nature of the Canadian Federation is presently undergoing a basic re-examination. That re-examination will, according to all commentators, result in constitutional changes, giving more power to the Provinces. My Government is heartened to see a Government in Ottawa which is generally sympathetic to our aspirations in this regard.

The people of this Province will be invited to actively engage in this great constitutional debate. My Government will be developing firm proposals as to how Canada's constitution should be changed and will place these proposals before the other nine Provinces and the Government in Ottawa. My Government will be asking groups throughout the Province to comment on these proposals and to support the Government's position. All must understand the importance of these proposals to our future as a people.

My Government's basic position will be first, that the unity of the Nation must be preserved. Having said that, My Government will further take a position that we must have a Canada wherein each Province is given the means and powers to control, to an appropriate level, its social, economic and cultural destiny. Our new Canada, however, must continue to assist the growth of less developed Provinces, but in such a way that aid from the Federal Government clearly has the effect of lessening the need for such aid over time.

My Government believes that, engaged as we are in this historic debate, it is appropriate that we now take stock of our position within Confederation.

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:

While there is much of which we can be proud as Canadians and while much has been done to bring economic and social justice to our people, we nevertheless have very serious economic problems. It is clear to My Government that the present self-defeating cycle of Federal make-work schemes and the current system of transfer payments by their very nature make our dependency on Ottawa a certainty. We must break this vicious cycle.

To help in that process we should understand clearly the nature and roots of our basic problems. Let us look back over the problems and defects of our society in 1934 which led to the loss of our political independence, for the basic problems which our forefathers faced at that time still haunt this Province.

In the first instance, Newfoundland political life was characterized by the Amulree Royal Commission as being unsavoury and at the root of our economic problems. The conduct of the Members of this Honourable House, in the eyes of that Commission, symbolized the malaise of our Nation as a whole. Whether or not this accusation was true, there is a direct link between the health of our political processes

and the health of our economy. Moreover, we know from our own more recent experience that our existing political system is far from perfect. Thus it is vital that we always be ready and willing to reform our political system.

My Government believes that at present, political reform must have two features:

- (1) A new Elections Act will be introduced so that the Members of this House will henceforth be chosen more freely by the provision of the partial public funding of election expenses and by requiring full disclosure of the amount and source of election contributions; and
- (2) To allow this House to work more effectively, changes in the Rules of the House and the introduction of a Committee system will be proposed.

The second great problem facing our forefathers in 1934 was the lack of a sound economic base. The problems they faced at that time will sound familiar even to the young. Our economy was overly dependent upon one industry, the saltfish industry; outside commercial interests dominated every new resource development; resource revenues contributed little to our national revenue; and, secondary manufacturing was virtually non-existent.

These defects still exist in spite of all our attempts to correct them and in spite of great natural resource developments. Indeed, in addition to the fatal flaws of 1934, we now also have far too great a dependence on transfer payments, direct and indirect, from the Federal Government.

My Government will seek to tackle the problem of building a sound economic base by reliance on seven basic strategies. All of these strategies will be aimed at the central objective of creating 40,000 new jobs over the next five years.

First, while private industry will be encouraged, particularly locally owned private industry, companies engaged in the exploitation of the Province's resources will be thoroughly supervised.

Second, we will ensure by appropriate legislation that companies developing our resources pay to the Treasury of the Province a fair share of their profits in return for access to the Province's natural resources.

Third, we will use our natural resources as levers to create other industrial benefits. Thus, for example, our hydro in Labrador, particularly on the Lower Churchill, will be used to create industry in this Province, not merely construction jobs with little longterm benefit such as happened at Churchill Falls. Similarly, strenuous efforts will be made to maximize the impact on the Province of the expenditures which the oil companies will make in the offshore oil and gas sector. In addition, the Province will, by force of its regulations, have first call for industrial purposes on all oil and gas produced. To accomplish this, our ownership of and control over our offshore oil and gas resources must be put beyond question.

In the area of fisheries development, My Government will, in the forthcoming constitutional review process, seek the right to use access to our fisheries resources by commercial entities (whether domestic or foreign) as a lever to maximize downstream benefits by way of further processing, and upstream benefits by way of the building and servicing of vessels and the manufacturing of fishing gear.

Fourth, My Government will pay special attention to the marine industries field with its mutually reinforcing fisheries, offshore oil and gas and shipbuilding. My Government will, in particular, build a strong marine research and development capability to ensure that marine resource developments have a better chance of creating related secondary manufacturing opportunities in the Province.

Fifth, the Province will enter into all new arrangements related to resource and commercial matters in a careful and businesslike manner. A prime example of this new approach is My Government's careful negotiating stance with regard to the reopening of the Come By Chance oil refinery.

Sixth, My Government will make strenuous efforts to renegotiate certain arrangements already in place, in particular the power contract at the Upper Churchill and the arrangements which presently exist at ERCO.

Finally, a detailed Five-year Plan will be presented to the Government of Canada before the end of the current calendar year, which will serve as the basis for a complete rationalization (for the medium term) of the financial relationships between the Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador.

My Government wishes to ensure that all financial assistance made available to us by the Government of Canada is used wisely and is not dissipated on costly shortterm projects which make little or no contribution to the solution of the longterm economic problems which face this Province.

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:

The Five-year Plan will seek Federal co-operation, for example, with regard to:

- (1) Fisheries development including the Primary Landing and Distribution Centre at Harbour Grace;
- (2) Labrador resource development including the Lower Churchill Power development;
- (3) A new forestry development plan;
- (4) A new and expanded marine research and development program; and
- (5) An improved technical training program.

The first three elements of this Plan involve major projects which will significantly assist the longterm development of three of our major resource sectors.

The fourth element, the marine research and development program, reflects My Government's firm belief that we must have a strong, local marine technology capability if we are to broaden the economic impact in this Province of the development of our marine resources.

The fifth element, an improved technical training program, reflects My Government's determination that as many as possible of the new employment opportunities created by the development of our resources will go to existing residents of the Province.

Integral to the Five-year Plan are a number of key proposals relating to transportation within the Province, reflecting the fact that the availability of a reliable transportation system will be the key to its overall success.

The proposed transportation plan will centre around three very important projects:

- (1) The continuance and expansion of the Labrador Resource Development Transportation Plan which will aim at the

creation of a year-round port in Labrador, together with a highway into Western Labrador by way of Churchill Falls.

- (2) The re-negotiation of present financial arrangements relating to the upgrading of the Trans-Canada Highway.
- (3) The commitment by the Government of Canada to the continued operation of the railway and to its significant upgrading over time.

My Government's Five-year Plan will emphasize the development of small and medium-sized business and will present an active and aggressive program of rural development. Over the last several years we have witnessed a dramatic revitalization of the economy of rural parts of our Province and the next few years will see an enrichment and consolidation of the progress achieved so far. My Government will not overemphasize the big project in its philosophy of development nor will it offer financial support to large scale industrial enterprises which properly belong in the private, free market sector.

For instance, the development of the Lower Churchill will be pursued as an integral part of an overall Labrador Development Plan so as to allow proper development of complementary resource-based industries.

Similarly, the basic objective of the Primary Landing and Distribution Port is to provide stable year-round employment in small and medium-sized fish plants that are now operating on a seasonal basis. By providing a continuous supply of fish from offshore landings, particularly during the winter months, the Primary Port will contribute toward the revitalization of the Newfoundland fishery and the industrial base of rural Newfoundland. The establishment of a marine industrial park in the Primary Port will not only foster the creation of a secondary processing capability to produce final consumer products but will encourage the growth of industries which are allied to the fishery.

Thus My Government's Five-year Plan will promote a balanced mix of large scale and smaller projects which will serve as the basis of growth in all parts of the Province.

My Government is confident that the Government of Canada will be sympathetic to this Five-year Plan and will place its financial resources behind the projects we will propose.

In the interim, the Province's economy will be stimulated by a number of measures which will be detailed in the budget which My Government will present to the House at an early date. However, the main thrust of My Government's program will be the creation of a permanent base for our economy. This will not be easy.

Indeed, My Government will have to take decisions in relation to both its capital and current expenditure programs which will be far from popular. Given our fiscal situation and credit rating, unrestrained Government spending would be irresponsible. However, My Government is confident that the strategies and Five-year Plan to which I have just alluded will, within five years, secure this Province's economic foundations and provide both employment and the tax base upon which our public services, present and planned, can be supported.

The last basic problem faced by the Newfoundland people in 1934 was a grossly inadequate social welfare system. Historians will argue whether this was because our economy at that time was not sufficiently strong to support such a system, or whether the political will to put it in place was absent. Whatever the cause, all that has now changed. We have a relatively strong social welfare system. Yet much remains to be done. The economic program set out above will give us the means to make the necessary improvements; the House can be assured that My Government has the concern and the political will.

For instance in the area of special care, My Government will continue to provide those social programs which offer opportunities for both rehabilitation and gainful employment for those adults who are physically, mentally or socially disabled. In this time of inflation and rising energy costs many of our elderly must be assisted financially as well as through home support services and through the provision of appropriate health care facilities and programs. Efforts will be intensified to develop more services for the elderly at the community level as an alternative to institutional care.

My Government is also committed to an expanding program of day care centres and will proceed with a major program in that area as soon as the finances of the Province permit.

In the area of social welfare, the Employment Opportunities Program for social assistance recipients will be continued to provide

employment for as many able-bodied family heads and single parents as possible.

There are whole new areas of social concern unforeseen or deemed irrelevant forty-five years ago, which our society today demands be addressed. My Government will be moving forward in the present Session in two such areas.

First, we must as a society and through this Honourable House recognize in a fundamental way the role of women in our society and the need to remove all discriminatory restrictions and attitudes which would detract from their proper and equal status.

The way in which we approach the question of women's rights will perhaps, more than anything else, indicate the degree to which we, as a people, are willing to recognize the changing nature of our society. Legislation respecting matrimonial property will be amongst the measures to be placed before you in this area.

The area of women's rights is one of the most important areas of law reform that will be undertaken by My Government — but it is not the only one. We are convinced that the law must adequately reflect the changing social, economic and cultural milieu of Newfoundland and Labrador. We intend at an early date to appoint the Newfoundland Law Reform Commission in order to provide a continuing mechanism for recommending to Government needed reforms in the law.

The second new vital area relates to the need to intensify our efforts to protect our natural environment from pollution. Our approach to the need to protect the environment must reflect our ability to destroy that which we value so much for recreational purposes and upon which our commercial fisheries depend. It must also show the level of our determination to prevent such disasters. The House will be asked to pass an Environmental Assessment Act so that the impact of all publicly funded or authorized projects can be properly assessed and either approved, modified or cancelled.

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:

My Government will be placing before this House other legislative measures which will be progressive and forward-looking in nature but will nevertheless be characterized by an attention to the preservation of

our heritage and culture. The mood of this House should reflect the energy and spirit of our people.

Our people's readiness to embark upon this next and perhaps greatest stage of development has already been foretold by our artists whose telling pride in our past has helped preserve our heritage. By artists I include the artist in all of us; the wistful singer of an old song, the teller of an old tale and the dreamer of old dreams. However, the professional and serious amateur in our arts community must now be encouraged more than ever to chronicle our past, analyze our present and portend our future. It is vital that they be assisted so that the energies of our arts community, young and old alike, can help propel our society as a whole towards our mutual goal of an economically sound and socially just society.

In recognition of this critical role, My Government will be introducing in the present Session a Bill to incorporate the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council. The mandate of the Arts Council will be to advise Government on arts policy and to take a direct role in funding the arts community throughout the Province in areas such as traditional music, dance, painting, writing, drama and folk arts. Private contributions to the arts will be encouraged through an Arts Fund to which the Province will make an initial contribution.

You will be asked to grant supply to Her Majesty.

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HONOURABLE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY:

My Government believes that our people are determined to march forward in a dynamic and confident manner and that they sense, perhaps for the first time, they can truly gain control of their social and economic destiny. Moreover, the general framework of Confederation is being appropriately modified to give us as a Province the rights and powers by which this great and historic dream can be realized.

The great question posed today is whether we in this Province are ready to move away from a paternalistic centralized federalism. Are we ready to trust more in our own abilities as a society than in Federal transfer payments? We are further challenged by the need to ensure that such a decentralization be accomplished without impairing national unity or affecting the level of social services in a so-called "have-not" Province. Can we, in a great historic act of self-reliance, break the vicious cycle in which we now find ourselves? Can we build an economically and culturally vibrant society in which, while private initiative is the keystone, social justice remains an even higher goal?

Thus, by the lot of history, it falls to the particular Members of this Honourable House to answer these very basic questions, the answers to which will shape our society for the foreseeable future.

Sceldom has such an awesome responsibility fallen on the Members of this House.

It is, I am sure, the prayer of all our people, that Divine Providence will guide you in all your deliberations.

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

MR. W. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I give notice of the following bill, "An Act To Reform The Law Respecting The Property Of Married Persons", and I now ask that this bill be read a first time.

Motion, the hon. the President of the Council to introduce a bill, "An Act To Reform The Law Respecting The Property Of Married Person", carried.

On motion, bill read a first time ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to make a speech to the members met in General Assembly and for greater accuracy I have obtained a copy of the speech.

The hon. member for Menihek.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. P. WALSH: Mr. Speaker, it is but a scant five hours since I, and the other members of this House, was sworn in formally and qualified to stand in this my place. I am deeply conscience of the honour that is mine today to move that a committee of this hon. House be appointed to draft an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. Before making that motion I would with the indulgence of the House reflect upon the broad implications of this speech for the Province of Newfoundland during the years ahead.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. members of both sides of the House will agree that this Throne Speech will be an historic expression of this government's insight into the future, a future we must pursue with all determination, loyalty, and pride as Newfoundlanders that our ancestors applied to the process of achieving our independence back in the mid-Nineteenth Century.

It is refreshing indeed to hear that it is the government's intention to re-examine the role of Confederation, and indeed the functioning of Confederation itself, insofar as that applies to the future of the country as a whole. The speech dwells on a broad range

Mr. P. Walsh: of subjects, but bears particularly on the matters relating to our resources.

I am, of course, as a representative of the House in the district of Menihek and a long-time resident of Labrador especially conscious of this emphasis. My reaction, upon hearing the speech was a recollection of many scores of speeches made by the Premier over the past seven years, is the deep-rooted concern of the Province with the development of the resources of this Province, both on the Island and in Labrador, as reflected in the Throne Speech. That makes today's speech somewhat a chronicle that is well-known and a realistic attitude towards the development of this Province.

I would indeed be a very poor representative of any district of Labrador were I not deeply moved and filled with optimism in the face of such tremendous faith in the potential of our resources. On the part of the Leader of the Government I thank him for this and assure him of my complete co-operation in each and every effort on his part to develop these resources for the benefit of our Province, in the first instance, and our country in the final analysis.

Mr. Speaker, for many years I, as a resident of Labrador, have been conscious of the need to re-examine our future within Confederation.

MR. WALSH: Many times it has occurred to me that Newfoundland's role as a province of Canada is not being played out according to the intent of those Newfoundlanders who worked so hard in bringing us into the Canadian family. It is important to us as a Province, and every other province, that our rights within the Canadian constitution, such as it is, be not eroded by too great a concentration of authority in Ottawa. We must be careful not to take from Newfoundland the protection of the federal system. We must never lose sight of the fact that among our other partners in Confederation, and large and powerful provinces such as Ontario and Quebec with all their millions of people, on one hand, and little PEI and Newfoundland, on the other, with little or no real power in Ottawa by comparison - before leaving this point let me remind hon. members that we have seven members only in Ottawa against seventy-five for Quebec and ninety-five for Ontario - not withstanding this I have enough confidence in my fellow Canadians not to be afraid that the treatment accorded Newfoundland as a Province of Canada will be a function of realistic strength in the parliament of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, the speech has specifically suggested that we Newfoundlanders, to insure ourselves the means by which we as a people can assure our future of a distinct society, must once again have adequate control over our marine resources, fisheries, offshore oil and gas. Mr. Speaker, with respect I would add that we must also have full control over our hydro power and our mineral development. And in the case of the hydro potential of this Province we have what the world envies most, a non-depleting resource, a resource that will be there forever, a resource that will produce Newfoundland many millions of dollars, billions of dollars, in the years ahead, a resource by which Labrador and the Island both will benefit to the extent undreamed of by many of the Newfoundlanders now living.

MR. WALSH: Does this sound familiar? It should. It is the theme song of the Premier of this Province; it has been his main preoccupation since he first entered government. During recent weeks he has made it the cornerstone of his whole administrative thrust and all for the benefit of Newfoundland. Closely coupled with this tremendous resource, in terms of the long-range future of Newfoundland, is the mining industry. In discussions with various senior people in the mining industry, I have learned that they are not without their confidence and solid belief that Newfoundland one day will produce its own billets of steel, copper, ingots and so on. And why not? We have the materials, we have the power, and we have the Newfoundlanders to do the job; last, but perhaps most important of all, we have the markets. The great world out there eagerly awaits that which we have in abundance.

Mr. Speaker and hon. members of the House, all of these concepts and projections just a few years ago were mere dreams but today they are reality or near reality. Only three weeks ago the people of Newfoundland and Labrador indicated very clearly their belief that the present Premier of this Province was the man to make all of this happen.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WALSH: Already we see the shape of his blueprint. To him and to his government the future is the all-important thing. Conscious of the many lessons learned from the past, the present government is not likely to waste its time dwelling on history while the job of dealing with the present and planning the future remains to be done. That, Mr. Speaker, is the message of the Peckford administration. All of this is possible, the control of our resources and the development of those God-given resources for the benefit of all Newfoundlanders.

MR. WALSH:

As a Newfoundland conscious of the dependence of this Province on transfer payments and other Ottawa job creating projects, I am more pleased than I can express at the suggestion that our government intends to make every effort to renegotiate the Churchill Falls contract. Obviously the rectification of this injustice would make us independent of transfer payments and Ottawa handouts.

Mr. Speaker, most hon.

members will recall having read Speeches from the Throne in which the intentions of the various administrations of this Province have been set out in broad outline. The speech given today was not a long one. It did, nevertheless, tell us in clear and distinct terms that the government proposed to concentrate upon the development of our resources. The proposed development of Harbour Grace will obviously be the means of providing Newfoundland with technology and facilities

MR. WALSH: for the prosecution of our fisheries along scientific lines for the benefit of a greater number of Newfoundlanders. Keeping in mind that our fishing industry must be regarded as a renewable resource, we can confidently look to the future with an expectation that the fish will always be there and Newfoundlanders will continue to enjoy the benefit of this resource.

Our government's enlightened approach to the harvesting of our sea, the development of our mining resources, the harnessing of our energy to be found in our various rivers has been presented to us in clear-cut terms this afternoon. This Speech did not deal with the dreams of industries that will almost surely have to be subsidized by government, which, in any case, are not natural outgrowths of the proper use of our resources. Industry which depends upon our own resources must surely be the answer to our long term prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, hon. members, in recent times Newfoundlanders have heard much of environmental protection and safety for the workers. I am pleased to hear that it is the government's intention to leave no stone unturned in their efforts to protect our environment and the working people. I do suggest, however, that the most effective development of industry in this Province can only be accomplished through the joint efforts of the workers, industry and the government.

A productive worker is a healthy, happy worker. He is the backbone of productive and prosperous industry.

As a Newfoundlander living in Labrador for the past twenty years, I am fully conscious of the tremendous part played in the development of our economy by the mining companies operating in the North. I am as well fully aware that whilst Newfoundland, particularly Labrador is rich in resources, we cannot develop these without outside capital. For that reason we must make every effort to attract outside entrepreneurs and businessmen. In return for their investment and confidence, we give them opportunity to make a fair profit. However, Mr. Speaker, hon. members will fully understand what I mean, being as I am, the member of this House for the district of Menihek, that the interest

MR. WALSH: of Newfoundland workers is sadly in need of protection in our great Northern territory.

While we welcome every cent of outside capital and assure the business community that our government is a free enterprise government and not a socialist government, we must insist that very few jobs are now generated through the development of our resources - something more than lip service must be given to the employment of Newfoundlanders. There is a very real danger that in this Province our own people will be displaced if our government and our resource industries do not keep in the forefront of their minds the fact that the resources being exploited are ours, they belong to the people of this Province. I am suggesting very seriously, Mr. Speaker, that even those management jobs which now so often go to outsiders - in some cases not even Canadians - could beyond the shadow of a doubt be properly and efficiently performed by Newfoundlanders. Too long we have been told that we are lacking in expertise and training. This is the timeworn excuse given when no effort has been made to train Newfoundlanders or to encourage them to aspire to the responsible positions. The Newfoundland worker must know that, given a decent effort on his part, the promotion will be his.

Mr. Speaker, every hon. member of this House will agree that many Newfoundlanders have left this Province and proved conclusively that they are capable of success in performing the most difficult and demanding jobs and are rising to the highest positions in whatever fields they choose to enter. Why cannot these same people be the captains of our industry in our own Province?

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I note that His Honour has expressed the government's intention to introduce an Election Expense Act. This statement tells all Newfoundlanders that we have a Premier and a government with the intestinal fortitude to call a spade a spade. By this legislation we will insure that the party system will be assured of working as it was intended and no one party will have the advantage over another. All of this, Mr. Speaker, will undoubtedly lead to many of our more able citizens seeking public office and the raising of the level of debate in this House.

MR. WALSH:

I look to the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, a man of extensive parliamentary experience, to co-operate fully in maintaining decorum in the Legislature on a level to make all Newfoundlanders proud. Hopefully we have seen the last of the less than edifying tactics observed in the hon. House in recent years. I would like to think we are all here to deal with the business of the Province and not the misuse of this Legislature as a form for questionable purposes.

Also in closing, Mr. Speaker, I take advantage of this opportunity to express my congratulations upon the quality of the gracious Speech delivered by His Honour today.

I congratulate the Premier and his administration for the commitment contained in that Speech to the Province of Newfoundland. He has launched a programme that will fill the hearts of all Newfoundlanders with optimism and hope.

It is therefore, Mr. Speaker, with pleasure that I

MR. P. WALSH:

now move that a Committee of this House be appointed to draft an address in reply to the most gracious Speech from the Throne.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear.

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms)

hon. member for Port de Grave.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear.

MR. R. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honour and privilege for me to second the motion so ably presented by my colleague, the hon. member for the district of Memiac (Mr. P. Walsh).

Mr. Speaker, I have listened to the gracious speech from the Throne with great interest and anticipation. It is with a sense of profound personal satisfaction that I express my full, undaunted confidence in our Province and in our Government which has today rededicated itself to charting the important course that will lead our great Province into the 1980's.

I was particularly pleased, Mr. Speaker, to note our Government's continuing emphasis on the revitalization and development of our marine resources, ever recognizing the importance of protecting our distinct cultural and social heritage with reasoned and balanced Rural Development initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome these initiatives and I welcome the proposed social reforms particularly relating to the enlightenment and review of the rights of women. This is an area where we must and will give particular attention.

Mr. Speaker, I can continue to respond to numerous other welcomed developments identified today in the Throne speech; however, I would like to address a few brief remarks on the historic district of Port de Grave which I am so very proud to represent in this hon. House.

Being a newcomer to political life, I confess that one of the main reasons for becoming involved is the tremendous admiration I have in the ability and integrity

MR. R. COLLINS: of our new Premier and his true love, faith and dedication to Newfoundland and its people.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. R. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, too often we sit back expecting the Provincial Government to keep continuously handing out funds to develop our community with very little of our own financial backing, co-operation and moral support. To a point, we have been guilty of this complaisance in the Port de Grave district. I have lived in the district for ten years and have worked very hard to succeed in business. I feel very strongly that if the people of our great district were willing to participate, work together and support their community councils instead of remaining complaisant and negative, which has so often been the case, the district could prosper again if people realize their own financial and moral obligation.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the district of Port de Grave, given the effective management of its resources - mainly fishing, farming and small industries - can prove a good sound base for a gainful employment of its people. I emphasize, however, that our people are going to have to realize and accept their responsibilities to themselves and their children and make every effort to demonstrate that we are indeed a hard working people with pride in ourselves and our community.

It is absolutely essential, if our towns are to develop, that an adequate financial tax base be developed. People in our communities expect and deserve the same facilities as those in larger towns, such as paved roads, water and sewer systems, sidewalks, parks, playgrounds, garbage collection and street lighting. It is simply not reasonable of me as a newly elected member for the district of Port de Grave to expect the Provincial Government, who represent all the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, to provide these services. Until we are willing to envoke a more realistic system of taxation for our municipalities,

MR. R. COLLINS: these services will be forever beyond our reach. Mr. Speaker, one of the major concerns I have for the district of Port de Grave is the lack of recreational facilities. I hope to see, and will work toward, the establishment of a provincial park for our area and a stadium facility. This district, like no other, is so steeped in hockey tradition that to deprive the people, particularly our youth, of this badly needed and sought for facility would be denying them something which they have looked forward to with great anticipation for many years.

One of the most pressing problems in the district, Mr. Speaker, is the serious lack of water and sewer systems in our communities. This I feel the people have every right to expect. Conditions now exist in most areas of my district where the water from wells is no longer satisfactory for human consumption. The build-up of human waste has saturated the ground to the extent that it is no longer feasible, for medical reasons, to dig a well.

I feel, therefore, Mr. Speaker, that we have the responsibility to provide these basic necessities before we provide monies for other unessential services. The employment situation in the district can be greatly improved through our fishery development as outlined in the Throne Speech. The fishermen of Port de Grave are recognized as probably some of the hardest working people that the Newfoundland fishery has ever produced. The two crab processing plants in my district now employ in excess of 900 people, due mainly to the hard work and initiative of the management of these plants.

I am quite confident that with the government's expertise and financial assistance, coupled with a continuing commitment to rural development, that this industry will further diversify and prosper in the years to come. Our diversification into production and processing of other species of fish—mainly caplin, herring, mackrel and squid—will, Mr. Speaker, have a considerable economic impact on our

MR. R. COLLINS: Province, particularly in the important area of job creation.

Mr. Speaker, I have been approached by various businessmen in the district regarding the possibility of developing the harbour at Bay Roberts for the servicing of offshore oil rigs and also for providing customs facilities for the off loading of goods from Great Britain and other European centers. This is now being done on a temporary basis with the assistance of a customs officer in Harbour Grace, I would look forward to the establishment of a full-time customs officer to be stationed in Bay Roberts.

I truly believe, Mr. Speaker, that the potential exists for the viable development of these facilities in this port of Bay Roberts, thereby providing an invaluable boost for the economy of Bay Roberts and indeed the district as a whole. While I have dealt with the expectations and problems of Port de Grave district in perhaps too great a detail, Mr. Speaker, I have done so recognizing the important task which lies ahead for me during the next number of years.

I have with despair watched this historic district continue in a state of decline economically and socially during the past ten years. Many of the towns in the great district were once the business and cultural centers of this Province. I fully intend that this should become so once again. I intend to work with all the energy and drive that God has provided me to reverse the retrogressive process which this district seems to have accepted. My pride as a father and as a Newfoundlander would not allow me to accept anything less than this. I must impress upon this House, Mr. Speaker, that if our people are to receive the representation they both seek and deserve, our elected representatives must receive adequate monetary reward to permit full-time and effective representation. To challenge the problems that confront all members on a daily basis demands our full consideration and attention. With reasonable financial reward this goal can be achieved through our full-time representation.

MR. R. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, the people of our Province have good reason to feel optimistic about our future. We have come a long way since our first humble beginnings and we have both the resources and the will to take the next step forward with confidence into the 1980s. It is with a great sense of honour and pride that I second a motion so ably presented by my colleague from Menihek.

Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

HON. D. JAMIESON:

Mr. Speaker, may I say to you how delighted and honoured and pleased I am to be standing here in my place for the first time as the Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition in the Newfoundland Legislature. Over the years the people of Newfoundland have sustained their confidence in me in a variety of roles which have given me great honour and great satisfaction. Among other things, of course, they have enabled me to travel more widely and perhaps to see more of the world than is the good fortune of almost any of my fellow citizens. It is against that perspective that I say in all humility and all sincerity that the old adage is certainly true, that there is no place like home, and I am delighted to be here and want to serve in every way that I possibly can the people of Newfoundland for as long as I am spared and have a decent contribution to make.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. JAMIESON:

May I at the outset this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, express to you my congratulations on the high office to which you were elected this morning. I think it has become something of a cliché to describe the Speakership as a difficult task, but I want to assure you that while I realize that that is the case we on this side of the House, and I am sure hon. members opposite, have every confidence that you will carry out those duties

Mr. Jamieson: is that we take care of that multiplicity of small needs and so on which are really the day-to-day concern of the constituents in the fifty-two communities that we represent here. I think it of immense importance that we understand that there are several dimensions to the job that we do here, and these two members today certainly highlighted one of the most important, namely, to ensure that, as with my own district of Bellevue, the people there have their ordinary, everyday, simple little concerns dealt with and brought before this House. It is, for instance, one of the reasons why I am quite interested in some of the rule changes that we have been discussing in what I think is a quite co-operative way, because I do think that we must avail of this House as often as we possibly can, and in as systematic a way as we can in order to place before the people's representatives that variety of concerns which can come from Labrador, from Port de Grave, from any of the districts represented on this side and indeed from my own district of Bellevue as well.

This afternoon also, Mr. Speaker, I think I would be entirely remiss, despite the fact that this is a ceremonial occasion to some extent, if I did not offer to the hon. the Premier my very sincere and very genuine congratulations and to his colleagues on their having won the general election. It was, I think it is fair to say, a hard fought fight, but it is also I believe satisfying to say that it was by and large a fair fight. If I can take any credit for that, then it is a contribution that I am pleased to have made and I hope also that it will result in the kind of change in the political climate of this Province that has been referred to by a number of speakers, not only here this afternoon and by the Gracious Speech by His Honour, but also by commentators and the people in general.

In this regard and in complimenting the Government let me say that they have obviously and unmistakably a clear-cut mandate.

Mr. Jamieson: It is one that carries with it tremendous responsibility. It is one that indeed in some of its aspects is rather awesome to contemplate. And therefore the Government and the Premier have my assurance and that of this Caucus that while we will, of course, live up to what is after all our Constitutional duty and responsibility to behave as an Opposition, we will seek on every and all occasions possible to be a constructive Opposition, to be an Opposition which deals in the very real and important problems which are facing Newfoundland today. Let me also assure the Government that where any matter is unquestionably of benefit and of value and can demonstratively improve the lot of Newfoundland and Newfoundlanders, then this Opposition party will be supportive.

At the same time, however, when one is speaking as has been done today about the role of the House of Assembly or the House of Parliament, it is important also, I think, to understand, as sometimes is forgotten, that we are, of course, an Opposition. It is our duty to oppose. Therefore in the days and the months and perhaps in the years ahead we will be asking hard questions, we will be putting to the Government clear confrontation on basic and important issues, some of which are referred to in the Throne Speech, and we will be expecting from them a thorough and a full accounting to the people of Newfoundland for their actions. I repeat, Sir, that we can do no less given the responsibilities which are ours as the Official Opposition in this House.

But though I say that Opposition is important, I think it is even more important that we ask ourselves what kind of Opposition? And therefore without going into great detail this afternoon let me reiterate that it will, I trust, be the kind that can come from what is a splendid Caucus. I am, in addition to being proud of being the Leader of the Opposition, I am equally pleased that I am supported by a combination of members of great experience as well as new faces with new ideas, and also that regionally we represent many parts of Newfoundland and have the capacity to reflect to this House and to the people

MR. JAMIESON: the needs particularly, by the way, of many of the rural and more remote parts of this Province. So consequently therefore, Sir, this afternoon I merely wanted to indicate those particular points so that we could, in this first day, establish the kind of willingness on our part to work toward the kind of better Newfoundland which is referred to so frequently in the Throne Speech.

As for the Speech itself, I do not intend, because it would be altogether too great a burden upon our distinguished guests let alone upon our members, if I were to take all of the time that might be allotted to me on this occasion. Also of course the juxtaposition of this particular debate to the presentation of the budget a week from now makes in a sense a double opportunity which I suspect we will discover will see an overlapping of discussion on these two or three subjects.

But there are one or two other things I would like to say this afternoon, first of all with regard once again to the operations of the House, with regard to rule changes as mentioned in the House, may I thank the Premier for his courtesy, unfailing so far over these weeks, to consult on issues in which the Opposition has a genuine interest. And saying that I want to also recall to the House, I hope with some modesty but also I think will have a confirmer of it in the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. W. Carter) in Newfoundland, and may I say if it is not, Mr. Speaker, out of order, in the Minister of Fisheries of Canada (Hon. James McGrath), whom I am delighted to welcome in this Chamber this afternoon -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. JAMIESON: - but I call upon them indirectly for confirmation of something of which I am immensely proud: Of all of the things that have been said about me over the years - and

MR. JAMIESON: they have been numerous, both good and bad - one of the things that I always felt flattered by were the references by members of all political parties and all kinds of political persuasions, best typified by a recent comment by the Right Hon. John Diefendbaker himself, who referred to me as a child of the Commons, and, I repeat, that that is a most honourable accolade. It means indeed that I have over the years made a very thorough study, first of all, of the British Parliamentary democratic system; secondly, that I have come to have a profound admiration for the ingenuity of those who put the system together in the first instance and who have modified it over the years. It is truly, as Winston Churchill said, I think it was, the worst possible form of government except for all of the others. And I emphasize that because I want to advise the government that in principle, as I believe the House Leader has already said, or certainly will be saying, we are not opposed to the idea of modifications in the rules of procedure provided certain safeguards and built in. I make that point because in my experience - and there are many others who will, I am sure, have had at least equal if not better awareness of these facts - when one starts to tinker with that totality which is British Parliamentary democracy, we have to be extremely careful that indeed we do not throw the total system out of kilter. There are always those dangers implicit. This does not mean of course that we in this party will oppose change simply for the sake of change.

But, Mr. Speaker, while I suppose we could scarcely expect the government members to agree with that old adage that there are no such things as good governments, there are only good Oppositions, nevertheless I think they might very well be prepared to agree that a good Opposition makes a good Government. This is not a reflection upon individuals or upon a particular party or anything of that sort, it is simply that by the very nature of things there is always the tendency on the part of government to want to expedite, to want to cut corners, to want indeed even more often

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MR. JAMIESON: to dispense with the tiresome
parliamentary process if they can possibly do it. This is not
said in

MR. JAMIESON:

rancor, it is not said as any kind of direct criticism of any individual, it is merely stating a fact of life that is, I suppose, centuries old. So our job, therefore, is not to accommodate the government. Our job is not, either, to accommodate ourselves, because frequently it is conceivable that we might look at rule changes and say of them that they are beneficial to us in the Opposition. So, therefore, the real job, what will be the test in our case - and I am grateful, I repeat, for the consultations taking place - is whether the end result is, first of all, greater efficiency in carrying out the government's business balanced by the undeniable and the absolutely inalienable right of the public to know. This is what we must look for, this is what we must ask ourselves, and I have sufficient faith in the government to believe that there is no difference of view between us on that last and most important point.

One other point that I would like to make with regard to the parliamentary process and the parliamentary procedures is in terms of the government's approach to the whole question of making debate believable, credible and legitimate in this House by ensuring that, first of all, the maximum amount of information is made available so that debate can have some meaning. This I find is one of the more difficult things. I understand that it is not always possible on every occasion to lay, as it were, the whole picture before either this House or before the Province. But unfortunately, as has often been demonstrated in the past also, the secrecy argument is carried to extremes. So when I said earlier that

MR. D. JAMIESON: we will be asking hard questions, we will also be expecting full and frank answers. Because in the absence of those full and frank answers there cannot be the kind of informed debate which will, as everybody hopes, elevate the level of the discussion in this Chamber but, even more important, result in a better informed public.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as for the Speech from the Throne itself, there are only one or two observations that I want to make this afternoon by way, if you will, Sir, of an entry into my more detailed remarks whenever this particular debate is resumed. I suppose that history would be absolutely unforgiving if I became the first Leader of the Opposition I imagine in the history of parliamentary democracy who did not utter the phrase that the speech is more significant for what it does not contain than for what it contains, and so therefore I maintain the tradition by using that particular phrase. But I would like to give it something of a little different twist today by saying that the speech is also more significant for what it says over again than for what it says that is really new. It is a well crafted speech. It is a speech which exudes a kind of optimism about the future of Newfoundland that I share. I believe all of us on this side have an innate, an inherent belief in the future of this Province. If they did not, if we did not as Newfoundlanders then chances are we would not even be able to look back, as the Speech does, to 1934. Because how, without that innate optimism we could have survived through

MR. JAMIESON: First of all, one of the problems with long term planning - and I commend the government for doing it in this fashion, of saying, 'At the very least, this is what we are laying out before the public of Newfoundland for five years,' - one of the problems even under the best of circumstances is that, of course, it is extremely difficult if not impossible to have all of the pieces fall into place precisely at the same time. One of the difficulties also with a package plan - and, incidentally, I have worked on them in countries around the world - is that sometimes if the linchpin project is not in place or cannot be put in place, the remainder of the package tends to disintegrate because it simply will not function in its totality. Therefore, while we on this side can do no less than commend the government for doing what I think members here have been arguing for some time that they ought to do, namely, to do long term planning, my word of caution is that we should not have all our eggs, as it were, in one particular basket and that there should be fall back positions, reserved positions.

The second point that I want to make with regard to long range planning, and particularly this package which is in front of us today, is, of course, that as the government must realize - and I sympathize with them in this regard - there are so many elements in it that despite the optimism, despite the reaffirmation, which we share, of our anxiety to do more for ourselves, but there are so many elements in that package which are beyond not only the control of the Government of Newfoundland but are equally beyond the control of the Government of Canada that consequently it is going to be a very arduous job to move that series of projects forward in a manner that stays consistent and that brings the end result of some 40,000 jobs - or I believe that is the figure - at the end of some five year period.

Another observation I would like to make - and this is perhaps more by way of philosophical comment in keeping with the mood of this opening day - is that, of course, what a government must do, it seems to me, in these troubled times in which we are living, and what we

MR. JAMIESON: as an Opposition and we in our totality as a Legislature must do is strike the right balance between that long term planning and what I might describe as the here and now problems

I am going to be interested in the Budget for a number of reasons but particularly because of a rather ominous paragraph in the Speech from the Throne which talks about unpopular measures which the government is going to have to take with regard to both, I believe, current and capital expenditures. The forecast does not surprise me, incidentally, but I put it to you in these terms, Mr. Speaker, that what we have is a situation where the real test - the real test - is whether or not the Government of Newfoundland and the Legislature - because it is going to take all of us - are going to be able, even if the plan works in its totality, to match that pace of progress to what has now come to be called the revolution of rising entitlements. In short, what this does basically is challenge the Newfoundland people to look to the next five years and to be prepared in a sense, even if it works, I repeat, to forego certain advantages as of this moment so that that end result can be achieved. Now the difficulty, Mr. Speaker, with that is that when one looks at that revolution of rising entitlements, which used to be called the revolution of rising expectations when one looks at that you have two distinct elements within it. One is what might be called the discretionary expectation, the capability on the part of a person or a family or a community to be discretionary as to whether it puts its demands now, a year, two or three years from now, those kinds, and the here and now vital needs of individual Newfoundlanders today. Now that is the toughest part, that is how in these next months when we are facing in many instances, I emphasize, matters beyond our control, rising prices for energy, when we are facing a possible increase in inflation, certainly a cost of living the highest in Canada, plus an unemployment rate which by any

MR. JAMIESON:

standard is unforgivable, whether it is going to be able, the government, that is, to meet those very real needs and whether in fact it is at the same time going to be able to rein in those discretionary demands which I suggest have been part, at least, of the difficulty not only of Newfoundland but of the developed world over the last decade or so.

One last point, and I fear that I have gone on altogether too far already, but I will undertake to try to put before the government and my own colleagues in the debate more detailed expositions on various of these matters that I have raised. But I cannot take my seat, Mr. Speaker, without drawing attention, once again in the broadest brush strokes I can imagine for today, the difficulty in which the government finds itself in the Speech from the Throne on two highly commendable objectives. One is to make of Newfoundland a 'have' Province. None of us, least of all me, would want to see us in any other position. I can assure you that if there is any prayer that I have uttered more consistently than those relating to my own life and my family, it is that the day would come when I would be able in some public forum to say that Newfoundland had at last reached 'have' status. So therefore I have no quarrel with that objective and that goal. The quandry, it seems to me, in which we as Newfoundlanders now find ourselves is that we know that despite everything we are able to do we are not going to reach that 'have' status in the next five years which is the period embraced by the five year plan.

So in effect what the government's message in the Speech from the Throne is is that we are going to have to be even more reliant, more reliant upon Ottawa in the next five years than we have been in the past. What they are saying of course in essence is that the difference, and I would like at some stage to have it discussed fully, is the manner in which the monies come, the manner in which the power and authority are provided as opposed

MR. JAMIESON: to any stoppage of the flow of dollars. Now this of course raises the biggest single question that is reflected in the Throne Speech debate and that is an enormously interesting one and I am pleased that the government has said that it will introduce wide scale discussion upon it, and that is constitutional reform. It is probably, as I have said about some of the acts here in the Legislature, not the central topic of conversation around most Newfoundland living rooms each night, but nevertheless we must, if the government is to live up to this particular commitment that it has made, make every effort to put the options before the people of Canada because there are options.

Essentially, I suppose, indeed the phrase is actually in the Speech from the Throne, the message is more power to the Province, and that I repeat, probably is desirable provided we understand that at the same time there is no price, that in fact there is benefit. And so I emphasize once again that here is a big issue which has links to all of the other things which the Speech from the Throne has related.

Now may I say I hope, with no, on the one hand, sense of egotism, and with no patronizing sound on the other, that I believe that I have some experience in these matters, and I say to the Leader of the Government, the Premier, and to his colleagues, that if in any way, and under any circumstances, public, private, anything that they wish, whatever repository of knowledge I represent on federal/provincial relations, I am prepared to be of help. I say that because after all of the variety of things that I have done I cannot tell you, Mr. Speaker, how happy I am that I will be able, in a focused way, to devote whatever talents, whatever energies I possess, and those of my colleagues here, to the job of building that better Newfoundland, of translating

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MR. JAMIESON: that optimism into something very
much worthwhile, but of course it will be entirely up to the
government to decide whether or not there is anything which
I have to contribute. For my own part, I said earlier on that
I had been known as a child of the Commons. I hope today that
there will be the beginning of a new legend, if that is the
right word, and that someday far down the road someone will
say of me as well that I was a child of the House of Assembly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand in this Chamber today to follow Squires and Bond and Smallwood and Moores, Monroe and Alderice and Lloyd and many of the other great Newfoundlanders in this position.

First of all let me say, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate you on your election this morning to a very distinguished position in this Chamber and one I think which was taken on over the years since I have been here, since 1972, a really critical role in the operations of this Parliament. I think I would be remiss in my remarks on this if I did not mention that the present Minister of Justice and the Attorney General (Mr. Ottenheimer) brought to the Speaker's Chair, I think, a great deal of distinction and honour and competence and proficiency.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: And I am confident that you, Mr. Speaker, and I am sure I speak on behalf of all hon. members, will carry out that distinguished tradition that was not started but extended by the present Minister of Justice so that we will have in this House over the next three or four years an enlightened Speaker who will deal fairly with the issues that come before us from both sides of the House.

Additionally, of course, I would like to compliment the member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Butt) on his election as Deputy Speaker, and I am sure he too will carry on that great tradition.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, let me welcome the Leader of the Opposition, a distinguished Newfoundlander whom, when I was a boy, as a young man listened to on many occasions in the many positions that he held in government, in society generally, to say how happy I am sure, all of us are that he is back in the House of Assembly of Newfoundland from Ottawa. We welcome him here to this Chamber

Premier Peckford: and I look forward to his contribution to this Assembly. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that he will have many, many years as Leader of the Opposition in our Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: I shall, of course, indicate, Mr. Speaker, that I am very happy that the Leader of the Opposition saw fit over the last number of days and weeks to show great co-operation in things that we are going to try to do together to reform this Chamber. And I will say more on that in a few minutes.

Let me also, Mr. Speaker, congratulate the member for Menihek (Mr. Walsh) and the member for Port de Grave (Mr. R. Collins) for the way that they behaved this afternoon in their initial speeches to this Chamber. It is always difficult, you know, Mr. Speaker, and I know many of us here who have been in the House for some time who shiver and shake as we come into this Chamber for the first time and stand before the leaders of church and state and try to articulate a position which is intelligent and yet reflects some of the needs, small and large, of a constituency that they just come from, and I think both those gentlemen did well today in their opening speeches and I am sure that the House Leader for the Government will be after them right after this session is over this afternoon to get them involved in the Address in Reply debate, and in the Budget debate very soon, because they have shown that they have something to offer.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to indicate, and I think this is important for this opening session, and welcome to the House the hon. member for Gander (Mrs. Newhook), and the hon. the member for Rumber East (Mrs. Verge) who are now female Cabinet ministers, if you will, because I think it is a significant set up right now that we have in our Province as it relates to Cabinet formulation. And we have now two ladies in the Cabinet of the Government of Newfoundland who will I hope help us formulate new directions as it relates to

Premier Peckford: women's rights and as the House Leader indicated today we already have put forward on the Order Paper a major piece of legislation in that regard. And I would welcome them here as ministers of the Crown and hope that they will be able to participate in the debate

PREMIER PECKFORD:

and bring to the Government and this Chamber something different than we have seen in the past, bring new ideas, a fresh approach to a whole range of issues which perhaps us males are not so capable of doing as you two might be.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Well, Mr. Speaker, if the members of this Legislature and if the people of this province are really eager to see reform in this hon. House, I suggest today, and I say it sincerely and with every bit of truth and honesty that I can muster, that we fifty-two members have it in our own hands to do it. And let us start from this day, Mr. Speaker, and within the next number of days make the kinds of changes that are needed to the rules of this House so that the level of the debate, so that the efficient working of this House can actually happen. We can talk about resource development, Mr. Speaker, we can talk about social development, we can talk about cultural development, but unless we ourselves as individuals, as leaders, as elected representatives of our various constituencies, do it ourselves then the other reform, so-called that we will espouse of the next few weeks will lack in credibility right from the start. So that if we are really serious, Mr. Speaker, about making an attempt to elevate politics in this Province, we have it in our own hands and it rests on our shoulders. So that I hope, Mr. Speaker, over the next number of days in the proposals that I have now put to the Leader of the Opposition and to the Opposition caucus, that they will see fit to co-operate with these so that we can get on and make those changes, and it will be from that moment that the people of Newfoundland, who elected us here, will believe the other reforms and the other programmes and the other comments that we will bring forward. The foundation must be ourselves. We must reform ourselves, we must reform our own rules, we must reform the way we conduct our debates if we expect the people of Newfoundland

PREMIER PECKFORD: to believe the other reforms on social, cultural and resource development that we will be bringing forward in this hon. House.

So I say to the Leader of the Opposition, while I accept readily his co-operative spirit, I hope his two or three qualifications to that co-operation will not negate the possibility on Monday or Tuesday from the Government House Leader being able to give notice of reforms to this hon. Chamber, and that I think it is very incumbent upon us very early in the session to do that. Otherwise I think we will have lacked the test and we will have already started on that slippery slope down to where we were in the past number of years in this hon. House as it relates to efficient and intelligent debate as related to the big issues of the day. And so I think we have it on our own grass now and we must do it and we must do it quickly so that the people of Newfoundland can see tangible evidence of our desire to actually make those changes. And let me say, Mr. Speaker, on that point that it is not a matter of reforming the rules of the House so that we become the leaders of parliamentary reform and parliamentary rules in Canada or the British Commonwealth, what we are saying, Mr. Speaker, and why therefore I must test the Leader of the Opposition's comments on this point, it is to bring the parliamentary procedure of Newfoundland in line with many of the other Parliaments in Canada and the British Commonwealth, to bring it in line and up to where the Leader of the Opposition just came from, the House of Commons in Ottawa, because it was the Leader of the Opposition's party and leader in Ottawa which reformed substantially the rules of the House of Commons back in the early 1970s on which there are reams and reams of material and books written since to commend the former Prime Minister of Canada in the way he went about expediting and making the whole job of parliamentarians more efficient. And additionally, Mr. Speaker, and even more important is the fact that many private, ordinary

PREMIER PECKFORD: backbenchers in this hon. House since I have been here in 1972 have not had the opportunity to get involved in and participate in the debates and the estimates which are so important in this House. And the reforms that we have put forward, I think, do not put us in the forefront of reform in parliamentary procedure but rather try to bring us into the twentieth century where many of the other Parliaments of Canada and the British Commonwealth have been for some time and, secondly, will provide for many of the hon. members who hitherto have not had the opportunity to get involved in the parliamentary process in its fullest sense will give them the opportunity to do so.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, let me say that, as I have said many times in the last three or four months, that I firmly and honestly and sincerely believe that we are at the crossroads as it relates to us as a Province and our development. I firmly believe that. We are at the threshold of many, many things and we can cite statistics until they come out of our ears as it relates to our fishery and where it has gone since 1975 even, where our forestry has gone in the products, the value that we have been

PREMIER PECKFORD:

able to produce even in our agriculture, in our offshore, in our hydro potentials and so on. We can go through the whole list of hydro or resource developments and I think that any reasoned Newfoundlander, enlightened Newfoundlander will see that we have another chance to make it. We have another chance to do things correctly. We have another chance to do things right. That was not always the case, Mr. Speaker. We have had that chance before but we have muffed it on just about every occasion. In reading my Newfoundland history in the last number of days, it is shocking to learn about the railway of 1895 and the forest industry of 1905 and the forest industry of 1925 and then to get up to 1933 and 1934 and to see what happened, and then to 1948 and 1949 and the great social revolution that occurred after that. We have had, Mr. Speaker, on a number of occasions the opportunity to develop our resources giving us some return here in this Province, and on almost every occasion when it was a large natural resource project we did not do it properly. And that is perhaps one fundamental difference in the approach that the Leader of the Opposition took today and in the approach that this government takes. On the one hand, I agree with the Leader of the Opposition in the sense of the almost paradoxical position we find ourselves in as to on the one hand long-term planning and on the other hand the here and now social services. But by the same token, Mr. Speaker, we must recognize that where we failed many times in the past in that we did have resource development, we did have a Churchill Falls, we did have a Price (Nfld), we did have a Bowaters-and albeit they have been highly advantageous to our economy as far as they go - and we did have a railway, we did have minerals and many other things, and the fishery, but each time that that was reflected in a particular project we thought as Newfoundlanders that we had to give more away than what we were to get out of it. And that is no federal-provincial relationship. That is a desire of a people reflected by their

PREMIER PECKFORD:

leaders, whether in fact at that point in time a better deal could have been struck. And I submit as perhaps, Mr. Speaker, may I be so bold as to suggest, a new Newfoundlander, that now on the threshold of the Lower Churchill, that now on the threshold perhaps of Come By Chance, that now on the threshold of offshore oil and gas, that now on the threshold of fishery development, the question is not whether we can negotiate necessarily better deals with Ottawa, that we have some self-determination in ourselves on these issues which will not necessarily involve Ottawa or involve anybody else, on which we can make decisions which will in five to ten years bring in revenue to the Treasury which can then finance the additional public services that everybody needs. And that is where the key is as to whether Newfoundland's future can be secured. Obviously, Mr. Speaker, it is in federal-provincial relations. Obviously it is in changes in the constitution on offshore oil and gas and some fishery modification jurisdiction as it relates to Newfoundland and Ottawa. But the key element that we should never overlook in all our federal - provincial relationships, in all the changes we might want to the constitution, in all the new DREE agreements so that they become better, and all the new transportation leavers which must be put in place, the Trans-Labrador Highway, the Trans-Canada and a better deal and the CN being a permanent force in this Province, with all of these things, important as they are, that when we have the opportunity ourselves to make decisions they have not been proper decisions which brought to the economy and to the people of Newfoundland the kind of economic returns that we were entitled to as the owner of the resource. And I say, Mr. Speaker, that as we go down the road over the next few weeks, months and years that the bottom line must be black and the environment must be green before we can entertain large industrial projects which are not necessarily natural to our way of life here -

SOME HON MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

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PREMIER PECKFORD:

- and if there is going to be any concentration. So the key to it is, yes, we must negotiate and bargain hard, which the gracious Speech points out, as it relates to a five year plan and its interface

PREMIER PECKFORD:

with Ottawa on major projects like the Lower Churchill, like the distribution port at Harbour Grace, that is key, but equally as key is the determination of Newfoundlanders everywhere that when we have it in our grasp to make decisions ourselves on mineral development, which is the Province's responsibility, a lot of fishery development, which we can make a lot of which is the Province's responsibility, on forestry and on energy developments, that we do it knowing full well that we will get the first economic benefit out of it. And, of course, nothing demonstrates that better than the offshore oil and gas and the regulations that are put in place on that. And the same kind of attitude must be used by leaders in this Province over the next ten or fifteen years if we are to be any further ahead fifteen years from now than we are at the present moment. So, Mr. Speaker, it is one of attitude. We have had our resource development and our railways and our pulp and paper mills and our fishery ignored and then brought back - we have had all of that - and we have had our social revolution and our baby bonus and our family allowance, all of which is good and proper and must be, but now, Mr. Speaker, I believe we are at a different stage in our history where there has been in the last not too many years a revolution of attitude where most Newfoundlanders reflecting their past, Confederation and before, see that for some strange reason we have been given another chance, and now it is a revolution of attitude to say that we want to be good Canadians, but simultaneously and after saying that first, that we say, and rush to say right after that, there are many levers and decisions which we will have to make as Newfoundlanders under the constitution which was given to us in 1949 which can help make or break us as well. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, the Speech outlines two key areas in my view, one a plan - and every plan is going to be attacked and every plan cannot be fulfilled to the last detail - but, Mr. Speaker, what a plan does do is make the government accountable, and that is important because if we are talking about reforming politics let us reform it all the way. And I am willing, Mr. Speaker, as the leader of the government, to stand on the plan that we will put before the Newfoundland people and then put before Ottawa and

PREMIER PECKFORD: everybody else in the next six or seven months - stand on it and be accountable for it, have our aims and objectives. We are not looking at the past, we are not looking at the present, we are looking at the future, and through this Speech from the Throne, which is supposed to be one of aims and objectives and directions that government wishes to take, let us put our house in order, let us put a financial plan and a social plan and a resource plan on the table, the hon. Table, for all to see, and let us therefore push to make those things happen in the next three or four years. I hope with the Opposition's co-operation and constructive criticism on that plan that we can in the four or five years create those 40,000 jobs. And at the same time, Mr. Speaker, recognizing always that even if we are successful on reforming the rules of the House, and even if we are successful in conducting ourselves as leaders, not only in the House but everywhere respectably, and that politics elevates itself to higher heights than ever seen before, and if we even bring about all those resource developments that we talk about and all the social developments that we talk about, Mr. Speaker, we should never forget that there is another key element to the gracious Speech which in my view as most hon. members know is extremely important and that is the identification of ourselves, knowing who we are. Because, Mr. Speaker, we can have all the social philosophies, resource philosophies in the world, but if we really do not know who we are as people, if we really do not recognize - there was a time, Mr. Speaker, in the 1960s when we thought that we had to have somebody from outside to come in to tell us how we were to resettle ourselves. Well, surely we are now of age that we can determine our own destiny, that we know enough about our own history and past to determine our own destiny and to provide for ourselves a place in Canadian Confederation which will not mean we are the melting pot and that when you see one Canadian you have seen them all, that there is still a Newfoundlander in Canada and that there is still an Albertan in Canada, and all over, that we have that kind of thing. This is not a unitary state, this is a federation where all the various parts

Premier Peckford:

can have some realm of self-determination so that, as we go down the pathway of development in the next five years, let us remember that our cultural dimension in some context is just as important as the Lower Churchill, just as important as Come By Chance, because it is no good being a prosperous people unless you are happy people. That therefore will fill in the full equation and hopefully make this Province in the next five years, at least lay the groundwork and see the progress along which - there will not be a revitalization of the CNR in five years, but there can be a start towards it and a commitment on it. There can be, hopefully almost finished, on the Lower Churchill development, and a number of other large projects which are essential not just for themselves, but in the other industries that they can create. And so if that plan does nothing else but start setting timetables in which we will have a revitalized railway in fifteen years, that we will have a commitment to rational development of Labrador over a ten year period with commitments now in the 1980s, 1981 and 1982, then I think that is the kind of progress that we all want to see.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a fairly lengthy day, a momentous day. Just let me say that I look forward in the next number of days to continued co-operation from the Opposition. And let us get on on Monday the job of debating fully this Speech, and next Thursday the Budget which outlines the financial direction of the Province. Let us hope that in the next three or four years the various - the present Leader of the Opposition, plus many of the other more seasoned Opposition members on the other side, plus members here on this side can debate in a wise and intelligent way the direction of the Province and hopefully over the next four years we can see major improvements on all fronts to ensure that this Province does move ahead and that we are better off because we are here for this four years than we were before we came.

Thank you very much.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Here, here!

MR. SPEAKER (SIMMS): It is moved and seconded that an address of thanks be presented to His Honour in reply to the Gracious Speech, and that a select committee be appointed to draft such an Address in Reply.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt this motion? All those in favour "Aye"?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. SPEAKER: Contrary "Nay"? Carried.

The committee will consist of the hon. member for Menihok (Mr. Walsh), the hon. member for Port de Grave (Mr. R. Collins), and the hon. member for St. Barbe (Mr. Bennett).

NOTICES OF MOTION

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: I give notice that I will on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that a Special Committee of the House of Assembly be appointed immediately to lay down guidelines for the setting up of a Provincial Fair Prices Review Council with backup legislation to allow the Council to handle grievances and complaints from consumer groups and individuals who feel they have been the victims of unfair pricing, price gouging, profiteering, unethical procedures and practices by wholesalers and retailers, false advertising, questionable procedures in stocking shelves by the big supermarket chains, and unfair competition in price fixing in connection with the pricing of gasoline by both distributors and at the gas pumps, and increases in prices of heating fuel and electricity rates.

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

MR. J. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow beg leave to present the following Resolution:

WHEREAS it is vital that our children be fully aware of their cultural and historic heritage; and

Mr. J. Carter:

WHEREAS the education materials approved for use in the curriculum of our schools often bears no relationship to the culture, heritage and experience of the people of this Province; and

WHEREAS the relevance of our educational system must always be kept in view;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Government be encouraged to review the materials presently used in our schools with a view to ensuring that such educational materials adequately reflect the culture, history and experience of the people of this Province.

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms)

The member for Trinity-

Bay de Verde.

MR. F. ROWE:

I move the following

Resolution:

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please! Might I

ask the members of the Press Gallery to perhaps keep their voices down?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

Hon. member for Trinity-

Bay de Verde.

MR. F. ROWE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I give notice that I will on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

WHEREAS the fishing industry is of paramount importance to the economy of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador;

AND WHEREAS the Nation of Canada does not own nor possess jurisdiction in respect of the total fishery resource of the seabed in the area extending to the edge of the Continental Shelf and margin adjacent to Newfoundland and Labrador, the Hamilton Banks, the entire Grand Banks or to a limit extending 200 miles from the inner limit of the Canadian Territorial Sea, whichever is greater;

AND WHEREAS a development program for the Newfoundland and Labrador Fishing Industry to 1985 has been proposed by the Government without benefit of debate in the House of Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the harvesting, fleet development, processing and marketing of the fish have not been clearly defined;

AND WHEREAS the development of the fishery will have an impact upon the social milieu of the communities of Newfoundland and Labrador;

AND WHEREAS the financing of a fishery development program has to come from government sources and/or from the private sector;

MR. F. ROWE:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House fully debate all aspects of the fishery in order that the government may be directed to develop a strategy for the fishery in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador which would be in the best interest of all involved with the fishery and in the best interest of the Province as a whole.

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms)

Hon. member for Bay of

Islands.

MR. WOODROW:

I give notice that I will

on tomorrow ask leave to move the following resolution;

WHEREAS the actions of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries have given rise to great increases in the price of imported oil coming into Canada;

AND WHEREAS the world is facing the distinct possibility of severe shortages in the supply of oil in the near future;

AND WHEREAS our energy resources should be conserved for the use of future generations;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the governments of Canada and of the Province be commended for their efforts taken to date in the area of energy conservation particularly in the recent signing of a DREE Subsidiary Agreement on renewable energy sources;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that both governments be encouraged to devote even more attention to this critical problem so that consumers of energy in the Province will be assured of stable and low-cost sources of energy in the future.

MR. SPEAKER:

Hon. member for Baie Verte-

White Bay.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Mr. Speaker, I give notice

that I will on tomorrow move the following resolution;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Select Committee be appointed to investigate, consider and report upon the feasibility and the desirability of the

MR. FIDEOUT:

several proposals to develop the water power resources of this Province, including in particular those of the Churchill River and other waters in Labrador, and to investigate, consider and report upon the prospects therefore;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee have power to sit in and out of Session, to send for papers and other documents, and generally to exercise the powers which may be conferred upon Commissioners under the Public Enquiries Act, Chapter 314 of the Revised Statutes of Newfoundland, 1970;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee be authorized to sit from place to place throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms)

Hon. member for St. George's.

MR. DAWE:

Mr. Speaker, I give notice

that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following resolution:

WHEREAS the people in rural parts of the Province have a right to live and raise their families in their own communities;

AND WHEREAS maintenance of this pattern of population is essential to the preservation of our culture and heritage;

AND WHEREAS the success of the programs evolved over the last number of years through agencies such as the Department of Rural Development indicate the potential economic strength of the rural parts of our Province;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this government be encouraged to continue and expand its programs of assisting the rural parts of the Province both with regard to increased economic opportunity and through the provision of improved public services.

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

MR. SIMMONS: I give notice that I will on tomorrow move the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that this House supports a renegotiation of the financial provisions of Term 29 of the Terms of Union between Newfoundland and Canada with a view to having the annual \$8 million payment translated into 1979 dollar values.

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

MR. D. STEWART: I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following resolution:

WHEREAS the caplin is an essential food-fish for the cod and other groundfish species on which our commercial fisheries depend; and

WHEREAS in the last number of years the numbers of caplin reaching the inshore waters of this Province have radically declined;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this House urge the Government of Canada to take a very conservative approach with regard to the management of this Province's caplin stocks particularly with regard to the establishment of quotas so as to ensure that the health of our cod and other commercial species is fully protected.

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

MR. G. FLIGHT:

WHEREAS the senior citizens of this Province have throughout their working years contributed to and have indeed assured the growth, development and future prosperity of our Province;

AND WHEREAS a great majority of our senior citizens have fixed incomes;

AND WHEREAS inflation and the ever increasing cost of living continually erodes the ability of our senior citizens to maintain an adequate, even decent standard of living;

MR. FLIGHT:

AND WHEREAS our senior citizens have earned the right, and are entitled to share in the prosperity that they themselves created;

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this House urges the Government to bring in legislation this Session to exempt senior citizens from School and Municipal Taxes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province reimburse the taxing authorities for loss of revenue for such exemptions.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Placentia.

MR. W. PATTERSON: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following resolution:

WHEREAS the present ferry service from North Sydney to Argentia is strickly on a seasonal basis;

AND WHEREAS if a ferry service were to operate on a yearly basis, traffic congestion would be substantially reduced on the Trans Canada Highway, thereby improving driving conditions on our major Provincial road link;

AND WHEREAS sixty per cent of goods coming to Newfoundland are destined for centers East of Gander:

AND WHEREAS the port of Argentia is ideally and strategically located for efficient handling and distribution of goods and is capable of receiving vessels in a seventeen hour time frame from North Sydney:

AND WHEREAS in this energy conscious world it is recognized that goods can be moved more economically by means of water transportation;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this hon. House request Canadian National (Marine) to make application to the Federal Government for a year-round ferry service to operate between North Sydney and Argentia.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. member for Torngat Mountains.

MR. G. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow move the following resolution:

WHEREAS presently many medical occurrences in Labrador, because of a lack of specialized medical expertise requires transfer to a medical facility on the Island portion of our Province and is only accessible by air which;

- (a) is extremely costly
- (b) is subject to weather conditions

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador make available ambulance services for patients in Labrador comparable to the Island portion of the Province.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Menihek.

MR. P. WALSH: I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following resolution:

WHEREAS the hydro from the Upper Churchill Development is presently being exported to the Province of Quebec under a sixty year contract which is grossly unfair as to its terms; and

WHEREAS the people of this Province have a basic right under the Constitution of Canada to receive a fair price for the development of their natural resources;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the government of the Province be encouraged to undertake all legal means possible to have the Upper Churchill contract revised as to its pricing provisions so as to ensure that a fair return is paid to the Treasury of the Province.

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms)

The hon. the member for Grand Bank.

MR. THOMS:

Mr. Speaker, I hereby give notice that

I will on tomorrow move the following Resolution:

THAT this House set up a Select Committee to investigate the causes of increasing vandalism in Newfoundland and Labrador and recommend ways and means of curbing same.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Humber West.

MR. BAIRD:

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will

on tomorrow ask leave to present the following Resolution:

WHEREAS it is essential that balanced industrial growth take place throughout all areas of the Province;

AND WHEREAS the recently signed Industrial Development agreement for Western Newfoundland indicating that the Government of Canada is willing to assist financially the establishment of industrial infrastructure in this Province;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this House urge the Government of Canada to expand this programme to assist in the development of additional industrial parks in all regions of the Province.

MR. SPEAKER:

There being no further Notices of Motion that I see, and before the motion to adjourn is made, I would like to remind members and guests that there is a reception in the main foyer downstairs in this particular building.

The hon. the President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL:

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

MR. ROBERTS:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. ROBERTS:

Before the adjournment motion, I wonder if we could - and I apologize to my hon. friend, the President of the Council for not having an opportunity to mention it to him - could we start the habit of indicating - and I will ask a question, if I am permitted, of the hon. gentleman - indicating on the adjournment motion what business the government

MR. ROBERTS: contemplates calling on the next sitting day? I realize there will be times when the government will have to change their contemplated plans - that we understand - but I think it would help all concerned, Sir, if the Government House Leader could indicate to us what business they contemplate calling on Monday and perhaps we could make that a practice as part of the new era of which the Premier has spoken.

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, we have been in the new era for quite a few months now. The fact of the matter is I think the best procedure in future would be for perhaps the House Leader and I to discuss this outside the House rather than take the valuable time of the House itself. But what we contemplate doing on Monday is bringing before the House the proposed revisions of the rules, that is if the Opposition has had an opportunity to look them over, and hopefully we can get them passed as they are placed before the House. I do not think there will be need for any long time debate over them because the rules themselves speak for themselves. Their beneficial effect on the workings of this House will be quite obvious to anyone who reads them. And then we will get into the Address in Reply and so on.

MR. ROBERTS: Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: It has been moved and seconded that this House do now adjourn. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion? Those in favour 'Aye', contrary 'Nay', carried.

On motion that the House at its rising stands adjourned until tomorrow, Monday, July 16, 1979 at 3:00 P.M.