

VOL. 2

NO. 16

PRELIMINARY
UNEDITED
TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
FOR THE PERIOD:
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
MONDAY, MARCH 24, 1980

The House met at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair

Mr. Speaker (Simms): Order, please!

With respect to the matter raised on Friday past concerning Question Period, I would like to take the points raised in reverse order. First of all, the point of order raised by the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) who suggested that the hon. the President of the Council rose on a point of privilege: I have checked Hansard and there is no indication that the hon. President of the Council rose on any particular point.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Hansard simply indicates that he made a submission to the Chair which would perhaps help the Chair in his deliberations and following that, of course, the Chair also heard a submission from the hon. the Leader of the Opposition. So in that respect there was no point of order.

MR. NEARY: My apology.

MR. SPEAKER: With respect to the whole question of whether or not officers of the House may ask a question, let me state clearly, first of all, that we are referring here of course to presiding officers of the House, and not officers of the House seated at the table. I have conducted some research into this matter and have made enquiries in various other legislatures as well as the House of Commons. There is unfortunately no clear-cut or well defined answer to this particular question. However, in those other jurisdictions where I checked the matter out, I find that there appears to be no restriction on presiding officers asking a question if they are so recognized. There is, however, a precedent setting ruling, and I quote from Hansard, December, 1975, at which time the

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Speaker of the day ruled that parliamentary assistants as well as special assistants may not ask questions because part of their duties may be in fact to answer questions. So those, as far as I can determine, are the only exceptions. Finding nothing clearer, and finding no particular objections or restraints to other private members of the House asking questions, including presiding officers, I would have to rule that my original ruling on Friday applies in that any private member of this hon. House may ask a question of the ministry with the exception of those mentioned, parliamentary and special assistants.

The point was made by a number of hon. members as well that the Question Period is, generally speaking, an opportunity for the Opposition to question the ministry but there are certainly no restrictions or limitations placed on any other private member from asking a question during Question Period. I believe it is fair to say that this tradition has not been abused since I have become Speaker and in fact it has happened on very rare occasions.

The final comment I would like to make on the matter, for the benefit of hon. members to my right, in particular, who raised the matter, is that one of the major responsibilities which I have as Speaker is to use the rules to protect all member's rights and privileges and to be fair and just in presiding over all matters that come before this hon. House. And I assure all hon. members that I will consider my responsibility in that regard first and foremost.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

The hon. the member for Windsor -

Buchans.

MR. G. FLIGHT:

Mr. Speaker, I rise to kindly request

that this hon. House, through you, pay tribute to the late Mr. T. A. Soper.

In Buchans during the 1940s and 1950s and 1960s until his retirement, Mr. Soper was a legend in his own time. In the Province, he was one of the most prominent, one of the best known and one of the most respected people associated with sports, particularly hockey. Most people will associate Mr. Soper with the building and management of the great hockey teams of Buchans during the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. G. FLIGHT:

- the result of which was the raising

of the calibre of hockey throughout this Province and the development of our own Newfoundland talent in such places as Buchans, Grand Falls, Gander, Corner Brook, to mention a few.

That was only part of Mr. Soper's contribution. His leadership and dedication to sports, and more particularly hockey, contributed greatly to the building of our present provincial hockey programme, contributed greatly to the level of participation, calibre and competitiveness that we enjoy today. This is borne out by the tributes already paid to 'Gus', as he was so widely known. He has been referred to as 'a prince in his field', as 'a father of modern day hockey'. 'The hockey fraternity of this Province has lost a great and true friend,' - that is to quote some of the tributes, Mr. Speaker.

He was a builder. Mr. Soper approached his job in a totally selfless, unassuming manner, requiring no accolades or praise, and it was this trait, Mr. Speaker, that further endeared him to everyone who knew him.

Indications of the high regard in which Mr. Soper was held is the fact that he was nominated to the Sports Hall of Fame some time ago, and it is a source of personal regret that he could not be inducted into the Hall of Fame before his death.

MR. G. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, I move that this hon. House pay tribute and convey our condolences to the immediate members of the Soper family.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. the member for St. John's West.

MR. H. BARRETT: Mr. Speaker, I rise and appreciate the opportunity to speak on behalf of members on this side to endorse the words of my colleague opposite.

I had the distinct pleasure of knowing Mr. Soper, 'Gus' as he was affably known as in those days even to the younger people at the time in Buchans. He was a true gentleman, a sportsman and a person whom everyone respected, not only in the community of Buchans but throughout this entire Province.

It is with deep regret, Mr. Speaker, that we learned of his passing and we wish to be identified with the expression of condolences to his family. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: You have heard the motion. Those in favour, 'Aye', contrary, 'Nay', carried.

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms) On behalf of hon. members, I would like to welcome to the gallery today a delegation from the Local Improvement District of Seal Cove, White Bay, from the district of Baie Verte - White Bay, Mr. Winston May, Chairman, Mr. Stan Banks and Ray Osbourne, Trustees.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

MR. D. JAMIESON: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the hon. the Premier and the Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. I. Barry), perhaps the Minister of Finance (Dr. J. Collins) may be in a position to shed some light on the reports with regard to a proposal by the Province of Quebec. May I, as an opening question, indicate whether this reply, which the Premier has indicated has been received, or submission which has been received, is in fact an opening gambit, as it were, or a counter-proposal to Newfoundland's and what is its status at the moment?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Finance.

DR. J. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, this matter refers to power development in Labrador. Hon. members will recall that we have put forward a position to Quebec that we are willing to sit down and discuss Labrador power development with them but on the proviso that our rights on the Upper Churchill will be recognized and indeed will be an essential part of the discussion and will possibly be even the number one item on the agenda.

These attempts have been ongoing for a considerable period of time. There had not been much indication of movements on the Province of Quebec's side up to relatively recently and there does seem to be some movements in a recent reply sent by the Premier of Quebec following a very forthright and vigorous statement put to Quebec by the hon. the Premier. Further than that I can not say. The reply has to be processed and has to be considered and it has not got to that stage yet, but this is something that will be done as soon as possible when some more urgent matters are disposed of.

MR. D. JAMIESON:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Sirms):

A supplementary, the hon. the
Leader of the Opposition.

MR. D. JAMIESON:

Mr. Speaker, this is somewhat
frustrating in so far as we on this side of the House are concerned.
I refer the hon. Minister of Finance (Dr. J. Collins) to published
statements attributed to the Premier which said that the response
differed substantially from what had been discussed, therefore
when I asked the question, "Can he shed any further light on the
subject?" And his response is merely, "It has been received", can
I ask him this: Is it so far different from what was discussed
at what he has described as the very forthright meeting that it
does not form the basis for a potential settlement, or is there
enough in the response that would suggest that there are grounds
for moving ahead and that we can have some optimism that a settlement
perfectly satisfactory to Newfoundland is possible?

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. the Minister of Finance.

DR. J. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, I can only reiterate that this is an extremely complex and extremely important subject that needs considerable study before any new initiative is taken. All I can say is that our position was put very clearly to Quebec, we have gotten back a reply, and this will need to be studied in detail before the next step is taken.

MR. D. JAMIESON: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): A supplementary, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. D. JAMIESON: Mr. Speaker, I have purposely chosen to couch my question in a way that would not in any sense jeopardize the case - and I suppose that will be described by some people as being weak-kneed and lily-livered and all the rest that goes with it.

MR. RIDEOUT: Or responsible.

MR. JAMIESON: But I am trying my best to just elicit information, and I will ask this question then: Can the hon. the Minister of Finance indicate how long it is likely to be before the examination is completed, or what is the next step in this most vital matter for Newfoundland, on which I can assure the hon. Minister, he has the full support of everybody on this side of the House in getting the best deal possible for Newfoundland? What is the likely timetable? Would he care to sort of assess or estimate what that is going to be?

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. the Minister of Finance.

DR. J. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, I would like to go on record in saying that any questions that the Leader opposite asks are responsible. None of these adjectives that he chose to use, that he, I am sure, picked up from another source, in my view, that has never been the case. As far as the next step, as the hon. members know, the hon. the Premier is engaged now on a very important

DR. J. COLLINS: tour and is expected back towards the end of this week and I have no doubt whatever that one of the urgent matters to be considered on his return will be the letter in question.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. the Member for Grand Bank.

MR. L. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Ottenheimer) and it has to do with the Thomas Hagan death, a death that has a lot of people, certainly in the St. John's area, frightened and scared to death. The Minister of Health (Mr. House) has publicly said that the government is awaiting the outcome of a judicial inquiry before taking further action. I think he is a bit confused. I think he was referring to the Magisterial Inquiry which would be automatic in the case of a violent or unexplained death. It is not a judicial inquiry.

Now there are a lot of questions that have to be answered in relation to the Waterford Hospital, the question of admission, re-admissions, the releasing of patients, etc. My question to the minister is if he would appoint a public inquiry under the Public Inquiries Act, that could look into the whole ambit of problems associated with that institution?

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. OTTENHEIMER:

Mr. Speaker, what has been done

to date is actually the appointment of an inquiry under the Summary Jurisdiction Act, which is what used to be referred to as a magisterial inquiry; now, to be consistent, it is really a Provincial Court inquiry. And until that is completed and a report in, it would not be certainly my intention to appoint another simultaneous inquiry. But I should point out that - I am not going to read all of section 127 of the Summary Jurisdiction Act, just the relevant parts of it, But it is quite wide-ranging. As a matter of fact, the terms of reference, if you wish, embedded in the statute are broader than most terms of reference which would be done up for a particular commission. I will just read the relevant parts of it, 'Subject to this section whenever any person dies apparently as a result of violence, misadventure, negligence, misconduct or malpractice', and then further on 'by unfair means or during pregnancy' and a whole lot of other sections, 'the magistrate exercising jurisdiction in the district where the death occurred, or any other provincial judge or any justice designated therefor by the Attorney General shall conduct such an inquiry to ascertain the causes and circumstances respecting such death'. So as I say the Provincial Court inquiry procedure as defined in the Summary Jurisdiction Act is quite broad and we shall wait until we have the report of the Provincial Court inquiry and it would be, in my opinion, premature to state anything beyond that because we do not have the report yet. As a matter of fact, they have not sat yet.

MR. L. THOMS:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. member for Grand Bank.

MR. L. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, the present inquiry is broad enough in relationship to investigating the cause of death of Thomas Hagat, but there is no doubt in my mind that the magistrate would not go further than that. What I would like to see is a public inquiry under the Public Inquiries Act that would look into the whole gamut of problems associated with that institution, admission, re-admissions, releasing of patients and so on. It seems to me, Mr. Minister, there could be no problems with appointing another public inquiry, and will you give this your consideration?

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. G. OTTENHEIMER: Mr. Speaker, I certainly will give it my consideration and the hon. gentleman will, of course, recall that I did not rule out any possibility of any such inquiry. And I realize that an inquiry now resulting - or as a result of this specific death is not the same as an inquiry into the whole -

AN HON. MEMBER: The whole ambit.

MR. G. OTTENHEIMER: - yes - the whole ambit of patients receiving or having received psychiatric care, and their re-admission or the fact that they left such an institution. But obviously there is some overlap here

MR. OTTENHEIMER: there is some overlap because of the circumstances. So I am not ruling it out, I am merely saying I think while they are not the same there would be a certain amount of overlap and given the quite broad frame of reference, and bearing in mind the circumstances, or alleged circumstances with respect to this particular incident, that it would be preferable to await the report of that enquiry under the Summary Jurisdiction Act, and then make what decision would appear to be necessary in the light of those findings. I am not ruling it out, I am just saying at the particular time I do not think it would be appropriate until we have the report under the Provincial Court Enquiry.

MR. THOMS: A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): A final supplementary, the hon. member for Grand Bank.

MR. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, a magistrate can dispense with the magisterial enquiry into this particular matter I think in about five minutes, which is what will happen. However, another question in connection with it, a supplementary question, I understand that the Hagan family has had to move out of their house and is unable to use it and I was wondering if the minister would undertake to see that government would contact the Hagan family with a view to helping them in that particular situation. They are now renting in another area.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: I am sorry, I did not get a chance to hear the hon. gentleman.

MR. THOMS: I was wondering if the minister would undertake to get in touch with the Hagan family to review their situation vis-à-vis their having to move out of the home, which through circumstances really related to this patient, and the Waterford Hospital, they had to move out. Will you undertake to contact them and see what can be done to alleviate the situation?

MR. NEARY: The Minister of Health, Sir, they should contact him.

MR. THOMS: Will you take the initiative?

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Mr. Speaker, I think probably my best answer to that would be that I will take the initiative to have them contacted. I am not sure if my doing so would be appropriate, I do not mean me personally but the Department of Justice's doing so would be appropriate, but certainly a department of government immediately concerned with this area of welfare, I will do that.
Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that we have a medical school in this Province, over here on the campus of the university where research is taking place and so forth and so on, I would like to ask the Minister of Health if any research or any experimenting is done in this Province in connection with artificial insemination?

AN HON. MEMBER: What type?

MR. NEARY: Human.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

The hon. the Minister of Health.

MR. W. HOUSE:

Mr. Speaker, I do not think, of course, the field of artificial insemination is a research matter anymore, I think it is a reality, so that the member is more or less asking if there is a programme of artificial insemination in the Province of any sperm banking. I have searched this out and to my knowledge there is not. There may be childless couples, for instance, who may request this kind of thing and, of course, they deal with their own medical doctor or gynecologist and he refers them to sperm banking, or he will, I think, get information for them and direct them to certain mainland clinics or sperm banks.

MR. S. NEARY:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. the member for LaPoile.

MR. S. NEARY:

Do I understand correctly, then, from the hon. gentleman that there are no sperm banks in Newfoundland, that a gynecologist or a doctor will refer people in Newfoundland making enquiries to the mainland? Is that what the hon. gentleman is saying?

MR. W. HOUSE:

Possibly.

MR. S. NEARY:

Will that expense, then, be paid by MCP if they have to go to the mainland, can the hon. gentleman tell us?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Health.

MR. W. HOUSE:

Mr. Speaker, I said 'maybe'. I do not know of any doctor who has referred anybody for artificial insemination to a specific mainland sperm bank or a clinic that is doing that kind of operation. I do not know, possibly there could be artificial insemination done within the Province. It would not require any legislation.

MR. S. NEARY:

It would not have to be reported?

MR. W. HOUSE:

No, I do not think so. I have tried to find out, incidentally, but I cannot find whether it would require coming to our attention. But I think the best answer I can give is that there is no sperm banking, there is no artificial insemination taking place in the Province, but childless couples are referred, maybe, to outside clinics.

March 24, 1980

Tape 577

EC - 2

MR. W. HOUSE:

In that case, I do not know.

If they are referred out for certain purposes, if they went to the States, for instance, for abortion, we have determined that that is not something that you could collect for under MCP and I do not know if the reverse would be true or not, but I think that the reverse would be true.

MR. NEARY: A final supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): A final supplementary. The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I presume then, the hon. gentleman what he said in his last answer is that he is uncertain, at least he is unaware. But the sperm of some of those scientists and people who are trying to create the super race could very easily find its way into Newfoundland through private practitioners and they do not have to, at the present time, report it to anybody. But what about sperm banks? Would they be controlled by the government? Would they be here at the Health Sciences Complex, or can a doctor in private practice have his own sperm bank?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Health.

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, officially-I do not want to sound facetious in this because the member has asked me a question and I am getting some input from both sides. I am trying to answer the question seriously and what I said is officially, and that is all I can talk about, there are no sperm banks, officially there is no artificial insemination taking place in the Province. Whether there is some experimentation, I do not know. It would not - and I have tried to investigate this in other places - it would not have to be reported. I would like to talk privately with the member about it though.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Well, Mr. Speaker, I can tell the hon. gentleman I am not going to be a donor.

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

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a question or two to the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Brett) relating to the Province's intra-provincial ferry services, and firstly I wonder if the minister could indicate briefly just how these intra-provincial ferry

MR. LUSH: services are subsidized? Are they subsidized solely by the provincial government? Are they subsidized solely by the federal government, or is it a sharing arrangement?

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. BRETT: Mr. Speaker, it is a cost-sharing arrangement which we entered into with the federal government almost exactly two years ago. The hon. Leader of the Opposition, I am sure, is as familiar with it as I am. It is a seventy-five/twenty-five cost-sharing agreement and we are - I am not sure if it is March or April - we are entering the first month of the third year of that five year agreement. So it is shared seventy-five/twenty-five with the federal government paying seventy-five per cent.

MR. LUSH: A supplementary.

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

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, I am wondering just how or which level of government has the responsibility in allocating the funds to each ferry service? Again, whether it is done solely by the provincial governments or whether it is done by the federal government? Which government distributes the funds?

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. BRETT: Mr. Speaker, not exactly a distribution of funds. We have the existing services in the Province. I do not know how many there are but, for example, in the hon. member's district, St. Brendan's, the existing ferry services are subsidized, they are allowed a certain margin of profit and they collect some revenue from the people who travel on the ferries and then the subsidies are paid out by the provincial government. The money, of course, the federal government has paid to us and then we in turn pay it out to the ferries. But there is no allocation of funds as such. If we wish to improve a service somewhere, then under the existing agreement the provincial government has to pay the full shot.

MR. LUSH: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary, the hon. member for Terra Nova.

MR. LUSH: The minister indicated that it was in effect for five years, was it? Or was it four years?

MR. BRETT: Four or five.

MR. LUSH: Four or five years, I am just wondering whether the figure remains stable throughout that period or whether there is some clause in it where the money might be indexed in some way, where the monies are sort of raised each year to fit in with the cost of operating these ferries?

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

MR. BRETT: The federal government pays us. There is a formula, I am not absolutely certain what one it is, but there is a formula. It is a small amount each year. It is indexed according to the cost of living, something along these lines.

MR. LUSH: CPI.

MR. BRETT: Yes, I believe that is correct. But any improvements in any ferry systems, the provincial government has to pay the full shot.

MR. LUSH: A final supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): A final supplementary, the hon. member for Terra Nova.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, the minister will recall that a few days ago I presented a petition from the residents of St. Brendan's protesting the extreme inadequacy of their present ferry service and requesting that funds be made available in this fiscal year for the purchase of a new ferry. I wonder if the minister can indicate what is the situation in this respect. Will the people of St. Brendan's be able to look forward to a new ferry this year? What decision has the minister made in this respect or will he be making any decision on it?

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

MR. BRETT: Mr. Speaker, at the risk of being quoted by the media as making light of this, I would like to say that Bell Island is looking for a new ferry, Fogo Island is looking for a new ferry, and my hon. friend over here down in the Burgeo area is looking for a complete new ferry altogether. St. Brendan's is looking for a new ferry. The provincial government in all likelihood will have to bear the full cost of the ferry services at the end of the five year agreement; therefore, we realize that we have to sit down and take a very hard look and see exactly where we are going in the next three years and way down the road beyond that. And that is the reason that we have set up an

MR. C. BRETT:

in-House committee that will report to me probably within the next month, and I in turn will be reporting to Cabinet, they will be making some suggestions as to what we should do, what we are going to do and until such time as I have received that report and have gotten the approval of my colleagues in Cabinet, then I will not be able to tell the hon. member if we are going to have any improvements in the ferry service St. Brendan's, Bell Island or anywhere else for that matter.

MR. LUSH:

There will be no new services than?

MR. C. BRETT:

I do not know if there will be any new services or not. I cannot say and we will not know for a number of months.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

The hon. member for Bonavista North.

MR. L. STIRLING:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Brett) on behalf of the hard-working fishermen in Cape Freels. I understand that the dirt road leading to Cape Freels has now become impassable and this morning was so dangerous that the parents felt that they could not let the school bus take their children over that road. Would the minister like to make a comment, please?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. C. BRETT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to comment on it. This sort of complaint and these sorts of complaints will keep pouring into my office for the next two or three months until the mud and the rain and the snow and the ice has dried up. It is a matter that is of great concern to me because we are spending so much money. The total vote for road maintenance, Summer and Winter maintenance in this Province - and do not forget we only have a population of a half million people - and the total vote for maintenance

MR. C. BRETT: of roads and bridges in this Province this year will be \$50 million. And somebody in the press gallery had the nerve to suggest that I take it lightly! Salaries alone, \$28 million. Winter maintenance, almost \$8 million this year, and Summer maintenance, almost \$4 million. For anyone to suggest that we are taking that matter lightly, they obviously do not know what they are talking about. And I sympathize with the hon. member.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. C. BRETT: I sympathize with every member in this House who has any amount of gravel road in his district because I have driven over gravel roads and I know what it is like to have your muffler torn off and your gas tank leaking -

AN HON. MEMBER: Your rear end.

MR. C. BRETT: - your rear end, almost hit my rear end. And the government is very much concerned about it and all I can tell the hon. member is that we will do everything that we can do. I received this complaint this morning, it was on my desk when I came in, and I have instructed the staff to do everything that they can to enable the traffic to get back and forth. But this is going to happen, and every member of this House who has gravel roads is going to get these kind of complaints and, of course, I expect that you are going to pass them along to me and I will have to answer, no matter how many questions come up I will have to give you the same answer, that we will do all that we can do to keep the roads passable.

MR. L. STIRLING: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): A supplementary, the hon. member for Bonavista North.

MR. L. STIRLING: I can understand that the minister was upset and I also want to make it clear that

MR. L. STIRLING:

I was not being critical of his taking the matter lightly.

Out of that \$50 million, of course, the people of Cape Freels only want a little piece, just about \$40,000. Maybe the minister can clear this up for us. I have been given the impression that the government made a commitment to the federal government when they spent all the money on the main road and the loop road that they would upgrade and pave the side roads leading to that main highway. Is that true?

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

The hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. C. BRETT:

I can not answer that question, Mr. Speaker. I have no idea what commitments were given previously, I certainly have no idea at all. I can check on it for the hon. member.

MR. L. STIRLING:

A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A final supplementary, the hon. member for Bonavista North.

MR. L. STIRLING:

I take it the minister will check that and let me know. Could I have a commitment, then, that your people will be given full authority to take whatever action is necessary to maintain that road in its present state until after the Budget and then consideration will be given to proper reconstruction in this year's Budget? At least it will get in consideration and, of course, you will have to establish your priorities, Will it at least be considered in this year's Budget?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Minister of Transportation and Communications.

MR. C. BRETT:

I can only assure the hon. member that we will maintain the road to the best of our ability. They have already received instructions to do that, whether or not it will be in next year's Budget, I can not say.

Just to clarify another matter, I realize the hon. member was not suggesting that I was not concerned, I was talking to the press gallery.

MR. F. ROWE:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms) Time for one final question, the hon. member for Trinity - Bay de Verde.

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. C. Brett). Sir, in view of the fact that last year in a number of unincorporated communities in the district of Trinity - Bay de Verde, particularly New Harbour and the Greens Harbour area, where you have a fair amount of local dirt roads with small fish plants surrounding that particular area, in view of the fact that these particular roads were not upgraded and paved and the department ran out of calcium chloride for the Avalon area last year, could the minister assure the House, Sir, that this situation will not occur again this year and that there will be an adequate supply of calcium chloride in order to put over the dirt roads in these particular communities that I have mentioned where you do have a awful lot of truck traffic with the fish supplies being brought back and forth and the fish plant workers going back and forth?

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

MR. C. BRET: Mr. Speaker, in as far as that is possible, yes, I will undertake to guarantee the hon. member that these roads will be done. I do not know what happened in that case. It was the intention of government, and it is the intention again this year, to put calcium chloride on all of our gravel roads. I suppose it was a case of the engineers not ordering enough, and I do not know if our calcium chloride is ordered or not but I can assure the hon. member that I will take it up with my staff when I go back tomorrow morning and try to make sure that that sort of thing does not happen again.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Time for Oral Questions has expired.

I will ask hon. members to join me in welcoming to the gallery a two-member delegation from the Town Council of Old Perlican in the district of Trinity - Bay de Verde,

March 24, 1980

Tape No. 581

SD - 3

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

Mr. Harry Strong and Mr. Alex Pike.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear.

NOTICES OF MOTION

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Minister of Finance.

DR. J. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask this House to resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider certain resolutions for the granting of Interim Supply to Her Majesty.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVENMR. SPEAKER (Simms):

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. J. MORGAN:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to answer a question asked me on March 4th, I think it was, by the hon. the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) in connection with the activities of the Loan Board over the past twelve months. The question is in connection with the number of notices sent out since January 1, 1979 to fishermen who are in arrears with their payments to the Fisheries Loan Board. The answer, Mr. Speaker, to that question is that since January 1, 1979, there have been approximately 3,200 notices sent to fishermen who are in arrears in their accounts. In these categories, the loans were for boats, fishing gear and engines. There are approximately 1,600 accounts in arrears and these are all for boats, engines and equipment because there are no loans made by the Loan Board for fishing gear; it is for equipment for the boats but not for the gear.

And the third question, How many boats and engines have been repossessed since January 1, 1979? The repossession number - since January 1, 1979, there have been twelve boats repossessed. Eleven of these have been sold by public tender and these were primarily as a result of request of the owners of the boats asking the Loan Board to take the boats and sell them for them.

So these arrears in the Loan Board, these are the answers to it and I will gladly answer any more questions in connection with what we are going to do with them.

MR. SPEAKER:

Further answers?

ORDERS OF THE DAYMR. W. MARSHALL:

Order No. 9.

Motion second reading of a bill, "An Act Respecting The Establishment Of A Newfoundland And Labrador Arts Council," (Bill No. 16).

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. D. JAMIESON: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be able to participate in this debate. 'Debate' is probably the wrong word for it because, as my friend and colleague, the hon. the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) indicated in his splendid speech on Friday, there really is no quarrel with this particular piece of legislation, and in that sense, therefore, there will not be anything by way of debate in the conventional sense of the word.

MR. NEARY: Hard debate.

MR. D. JAMIESON: Hard debate. We on this side propose to support the legislation in whatever method or for however long it is going to be before this House, that is in terms of second reading, because there are a number of our colleagues who want to express themselves, because I think there is a feeling among all of us that it is important once in a while for this House to get away from the normal kind of day-to-day administrative type of legislation - as important as that may be - and to discuss matters which, in some respects, are probably more important to the future of this Province as 90 per cent of the other legislation with which we deal.

I think the member for LaPoile put it very well, if I can paraphrase him, on Friday, when he reverted to the biblical text, if I am not mistaken, to say that man does not live by bread alone. And if one could bring that up to date, I think what this new bill emphasizes is something which I personally have been trying for many years to get across to legislators and to the people of Newfoundland, and that is that economic and social development are now inextricably linked, that you can no longer regard such things as arts and culture as being the dory tied on to the schooner, as it were, something that you can cut loose and still be in good shape; that in fact the whole fabric of our society is now very inextricably tied up between our economic development on the one hand and our social development on the other, and in that respect, I am using 'social' in the broadest sense of the word, perhaps even a little more broadly than is envisaged in this Bill No. 16 which we are discussing today.

I make these comments with regard to the growing integration of our social and our economic life because of the

March 24, 1980

Tape 582

EC - 3

MR. D. JAMIESON:

profound changes that I see occurring
within our Newfoundland society.

MR. D. JAMIESON:

It is certainly one of the most unusual periods in our long and remarkable history. It is a period that is, as I am sure all hon. members have noted, a period of contradiction. For example, to use just a few, we have broken out of, to a very great extent, our historic isolation in Newfoundland, Despite the unenviable problems of the Minister of Transportation and Communications (C.Brett), the fact of the matter is that today Newfoundlanders are more mobile, both within the Province, and indeed worldwide, than they have ever been before in their lives.

The contradiction that I see here is that we are also, as a result of this new mobility, moving out into the world. My colleague, the member for Burin - Placentia West, has just had the most recent example of this in that his daughter was one of those who was part of a group which travelled widely within Canada during the last two or three weeks and we have had, as well, literally hundreds upon hundreds of students from Newfoundland, through various public and private grant programs, visiting not only other parts of Canada but remote locations as well.

The contradiction that I see in this, and it is a happy one, is that this has not resulted in any significant decline in what I would describe as the interest of Newfoundlanders in their heritage and their culture. Quite the contrary. And despite the doom-sayers who always felt that as soon as a Newfoundlander could get across the Gulf that was going to be the end of it, insofar as his relationship with his Province was concerned, despite all of those gloomy forecasts, partially as a result of this travel, I think younger people and others have come to have a new awareness, a new appreciation of the tremendous advantages and the opportunities that we have here within the Province of Newfoundland. This is one of the contradictions.

MR. D. JAMIESON: Now, a much more serious one, Mr. Speaker, which is relevant to this effort to maintain a balance between economic and social development, is the contradiction that one senses within Newfoundland today where there is almost, one could say, a euphoria, at least in certain quarters, about our economic prospects. There is a widespread sense that perhaps at last we are about to cross the threshold into a more secure economic kind of future. But that euphoria is matched by an almost equally high level of public unease. I think one can observe this in virtually every part of Newfoundland, perhaps in the remoter regions or in the more heavily fishery dependant regions than in, let us say, the urban centres of this Province.

But going along with this feeling that things are looking up for Newfoundland economically, is a mounting concern that perhaps what is in store for us is not as good as we may be, on the one side, thinking it is going to be. So we have again this kind of contradictory feeling. I am sure that almost all hon. members have run into it, as recently as this weekend I did, when I found people saying, first of all, not only do we hope that there will be oil and gas, but we hope that we can manage it properly. And then other people saying, I hope we never see a gallon because it is going to make such a vast difference in our lifestyle and in our society.

Obviously, Mr. Speaker, I am using these references in this particular case, not to argue the merits or otherwise of economic policy, we will probably have an opportunity within the next few weeks or months to do that in great detail once the budget is brought down, But what I do want to lay before hon. members is the proposition that never before in the history of this

March 24, 1980

Tape No. 583

EL - 3

MR. D. JAMIESON: Province, has it been more important
that we understand clearly and unmistakably that unless there is an
equally determined

MR. JAMIESON:

commitment on the part of those in places of responsibility, such as in this House but not exclusively legislative, to develop and ensure that the social side of our lives is well protected and well enhanced, then we could well wind up in a decade or two with a far more prosperous people than we have today, but with a far less happy people than we have today. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, if I can delve very briefly into history, let me say that as one who can remember very vividly pre-Confederation days in Newfoundland, the growth that has taken place economically, the improvement in our standard of living has been phenomenal, just simply phenomenal. Indeed, if one were to ask thirty-one years ago, or approximately thirty-one years ago, where Newfoundland would be by 1980, a person who forecast where we now are would have been told that he had holes in his head, that we simply could not move ahead that fast in three decades. Now that is what I am calling the economic side.

The hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) made reference on Friday to the former premier, J.R. Smallwood, and since I was one of those who was in Ottawa during the time of the negotiation of the Terms of Union I do not believe that I am putting exaggerations in his mouth when I say that even he, a born optimist in the absolute extreme, even he did not anticipate that there would be this level of growth and expansion on the economic side in Newfoundland. And ironically as well, by the way, and this is purely a matter for the record and perhaps irrelevant to some extent to this debate, the interesting thing is, and when I listened to the Premier the other day with regard to the economic straits of the Province, that it was almost a paraphrase of the words of the one man who refused to sign the terms of Confederation and who was the father of the most recent Minister of Finance of Canada, who said that the day might very well come in Newfoundland, when the government

MR. JAMIESON: would find itself in very, very bad straits whereas the individuals making up the public of Newfoundland would find themselves in reasonably decent circumstances economically. That, by the way, is on the record and I hope some historian, now that the documents relating to Confederation have been made public, I hope someone will take the trouble to look up these facts because they are fascinating in terms of telling us something of ourselves and the history of the past thirty years or so.

But to revert to my own comments about the history of this Province, let me say, Mr. Speaker, that when one talks about the establishment of an arts council, it is clear in this bill that what we are saying is that Newfoundland has a very distinctive, unique heritage and culture which must be preserved at all cost and must be enhanced. If you boil it all down that is what you come down to.

Now historically what is interesting, and I believe germane to this particular debate, is that except for individuals working exclusively on their own, and usually in remarkably difficult circumstances, there was up until thirty or thirty-five years ago hardly any assistance of any kind for the creative person in Newfoundland. There were exceptions. The Grenfell Association, for example, did a good deal to encourage native art in Northern Newfoundland and Labrador. There was the odd bit of help from this group or that group, usually churches. There was an occasional generous wealthy person who put a person through college or university or musical training or whatever the case might be. But with these notable exceptions that culture we are speaking about, that heritage, that enormous reservoir that we now possess of 300 or 400 years of our history, was the exclusive product of the creativity of individual Newfoundlanders, like, for example, the very gifted and talented mother of the hon. the Minister of Rural Development (Mr. Goudie) and the like. That is important. I hope in a moment that I will

MR. D. JAMIESON:

explain in a little more detail why it is. But also on this historical note to which I am referring, I think we also ought to recognize that until comparatively recent times these were isolated pockets of creativity in Newfoundland, they were isolated examples of culture, because we did not have a homogeneous society in this Province. We had people living three and four and five miles away from each other in different communities who scarcely saw each other from one year's end to another. Furthermore, because of the nature of our development in Newfoundland and also because of the variety of our beginnings, there was still not a single kind of cultural development within Newfoundland. I refer, for example, to the enormous differences that one finds, not making any odious comparisons one with the other, between, let us say, the culture and the heritage and the people of the Southern Shore as against the Southcoast of this Province or the Northeast coast of the Province, or for that matter Labrador. Now this culture then that we have been talking about and which is now preoccupying us-I think much later, by the way, than it ought to have but that is another matter - this culture only started to come together when a couple of things began and they teach us a couple of lessons, it seems to me. The first flowering of this in our lifetime, in the post-Confederation period, came when people had a sufficiently solid economic base that they could start thinking about something else. In other words, you cannot get very poetic or very excited, you cannot become very creative if you have an empty stomach or if your children have not got shoes on their feet. And so while it is true that some of our current literature, that some of our songs, some of the various tales that

MR. D. JAMIESON: are told have their roots in that poverty, have their roots in that privation, as did a good deal, by the way, of the Irish culture from which much of this was borrowed, the fact of the matter is that no people are going to blossom in the cultural sense, no people are going to do a decent creative job in the cultural sense unless there is economic stability along with opportunity. That, I believe, is terribly important once again in relation to where we go from here.

Now one other matter with regard to the history of Newfoundland which once again I think is relevant to this Bill is the fact that over the years to which I have been referring, that is, let us say, from the turn of the century up until twenty or twenty-five or so years ago, not only did we not have a homogeneous culture but in many instances the division of our various communities, the lack of communication between them, resulted in a great deal of bitterness and a tremendous amount of what I might describe as unhealthy competition. I was interested - not only interested but saddened today, of course, to participate in the resolution with regard to the passing of Gus Soper in the sports area. I knew Gus Soper extremely well, worked with him intimately, and I see in the gallery, and I hope I may be permitted for drawing attention to him, another old friend of mine, Aubrey MacDonald, Aubrey Mac, who will remember what I am talking about when cultural events in Newfoundland and sports events in Newfoundland were almost - you could describe them as bloody-minded exercises either between communities or between different groups.

MR. S. NEARY:

St. John's and Bell Island.

March 24, 1980

Tape No. 585

DW - 3

MR. D. JAMIESON: I think it is parliamentary to say that the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. S. Neary) was a rink rat. I do not believe that that is an unparliamentary expression. But he will confirm that -

MR. S. NEARY: I met the hon. gentleman for the first time, by the way, over on Bell Island.

MR. D. JAMIESON: That is right, over on Bell Island. I think he will confirm that because of the lack of communication which existed that there was an incredible amount of unnecessary and, I believe, looking back in retrospect, damaging rivalry as opposed to a kind of coming together as a result of intercommunity kinds of dramatic and cultural activities. I believe I can lay claim to having helped stage the first Regional Drama Festival in Newfoundland,

MR. D. JAMIESON:

certainly it was one of the earliest, and I can remember how we had to placate two or three of the groups before we could bring the adjudicator to the social function at the end of the evening because they were ready to string him up on the grounds that in some way or other, he had not given a decent adjudication to this community or to that community, but had favoured St. John's. And, of course, in those days, I suppose - somebody described the other day the overpass versus this side of the overpass and the other side of the overpass - well, in those days, artistic activities, cultural activities and sports activities, all three of them, all you needed to do to be popular was to be from the other side of what is now the overpass and to be against St. John's.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. D. JAMIESON:

It was as simple and straightforward as that. And I was about to say that I am pleased now to see that while it still exists, while there is still a certain amount of antipathy towards, let us say, St. John's or Corner Brook or Grand Falls or whatever the case might be, and while we still have communities living cheek by jowl that will not get together and co-operate, that I do believe that the younger people and perhaps even the members of Parliament who go down to Fortune to play hockey - I do not know - but certainly the exchanges between the younger people, the sorts of things that emerge from the Kiwanis Music Festival, all of these kinds of things, are starting to break down this kind of bitterness which I can assure hon. members was a very damaging deterrent to the real growth of artistic development and artistic activity in Newfoundland, not to say to the general commonality of our feeling about this Province.

The other interesting point - I think it is worth mentioning here - is that once again, even though we talk about our ancient songs, our ancient legends, our ancient stories, if you are an historian on this subject, or the slightest bit interested, you will discover once again that the vast bulk of the kind of material which we now instinctively think of when anyone mentions Newfoundland culture

MR. D. JAMIESON: has emerged in the last thirty-five or forty years. I would venture to bet that one man did more than anyone else to make us conscious, for example, of Newfoundland songs, and that man was Gerald S. Doyle; that before the days of radio, hardly any of us, with the exception of us corner boys in St. John's who could get hold of Johnny Burke's pieces which he had printed and used to sell for two cents on the corner, hardly any of us were familiar with what are now said to be the great historical legends of Newfoundland in song and verse. I do not believe that it was the case. I think also that in conjunction with Mr. Doyle, Bob McLeod deserves an enormous amount of credit for the manner in which he publicized these songs.

And by the way, since we are having a kind of freewheeling debate and I gather it does not matter all that much whether one stays in context or not, let me say this, that I wish that some of the arty types who will take these Newfoundland folk songs and add frills and trills up and down until you cannot find the melodic line in all of the fancy arrangements, I wish they would sit down with Bob McLeod and learn how to play a Newfoundland folk song.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. D. JAMIESON: Because I had the dubious honour of having heard an orchestral group who were genuinely proud of themselves - I will leave out the city in Canada - and who brought me there and said, 'You are going to be pleased; we have done a Newfoundland suite.' I sat there and I listened, and I might have gotten four bars of the Kelligrews Soiree jammed in between a whole series of 'trills', as I call them, and librettos and God-knows-what-else, and then a few more bars of Up the Pond, as we call it, but it was a disaster from a Newfoundland

MR. JAMIESON: point of view, or from a Newfoundlander's point of view, let me put it that way. And I make that point, by the way, in connection with something else to which I hope I can come to before my time expires or before hon. members lose their patience with me, but I have had, I think it is fair to say, a fair amount of experience in both the creative arts and also, of course, in sports as we talked about a few moments ago. And I do think that we are now moving toward a position where some of these negative sides of those developments are going to be put behind us. You know, I have had a lot of experience in my life, Mr. Speaker, and I will tell you one thing, again I do not know how relevant it is, but it is worth recording anyway, that of all of the things that are supposed to bring mankind together, whether it be at the provincial level, whether it be nationally or internationally, of all the things that are supposed to bring mankind together, which are supposed to be examples of our civilization, which are supposed to demonstrate that we have risen out of the mire of our beginnings, that two things which cause the most trouble are sports and arts and culture. And I tell you, as someone who has been through the mill on things like the Commonwealth Games and on a variety of other issues of that kind, as we are seeing now vis-à-vis the Olympics, that unless this arts council understands and deals properly with its mandate we can see ourselves, and I can see a position in which far from creating a homogeneous kind of Newfoundlandia, that you will have an expansion of that historical difficulty that we have had all along the line. And I want to suggest a couple of ways in a moment as to how that can be prevented. But let me at this stage challenge all members of this House to address a particular problem that I am not sure that we have given enough attention to as a people.

I am not sure that, understandable though it may be, we have not been so pre-occupied with economic matters in this

MR. JAMIESON: Province, of necessity I emphasize, we have not been so pre-occupied with that that we have not seen what has been going on around us and one of the main reasons why this bill is so important and that is the remarkable, very serious, oddly enough, increase in the amount of leisure time of tens of thousands of our people. The history of this Province that produced the heritage I have spoken of, that produced the kind of basis for the arts we are speaking of in this bill, was a history which meant that from daylight to dusk and beyond people were totally pre-occupied with the business of simply staying alive. There was then no opportunity or very few opportunities for leisure. But today, even though we still have very hard working people, and even though there are times during the fishery when dawn to dusk and beyond still is true, and even though there are other workers, perhaps in the lumber woods and elsewhere who put in a long day, and even though there may be housewives who are at it with large families for long periods of time, given all those things, one of the real challenges to us in the eighties and the nineties and the twenty years left of this particular century will be to ensure that our population knows how to use leisure effectively, and that is one reason why this bill is so important. It is not going to solve the whole problem. In a moment I am going to express reservations as to whether it is going to be effective or not, but

MR. JAMIESON: it is a start, it is something we have to do. But I have not the slightest doubt that hon. members agree with me and agree with references that have been made by the member for Grand Bank (Mr.Thoms) and the member for LaPoile (Mr.Neary) and others about the growth of things such as vandalism, permissiveness and a lack of concern for property, for other people, that most of these things have their origins in sheer, unadulterated boredom. That is part of the problem.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. JAMIESON: Anyone who wants to move around Newfoundland, as we all have to do in our respective responsibilities, and meet with young people, will find one phrase more than any other that comes to the fore, and that is, "There is nothing for us to do." And nine times out of ten you have to concede that they are right. So, Mr. Speaker, if this Arts Council does nothing else but address itself to this phenomenon of the last part of the twentieth century, the phenomenon of people working, let us assume on oil and gas, for instance; I am told that the process is two weeks on and two weeks off. I know that on many vessels now operating around our coast there is two weeks on or two weeks off, twenty-eight days or whatever the cycle is, the implication is the same, that there are long periods of time when people, having worked hard, admittedly, face what for many of them? Moonlighting if they can possibly get it in some instances, but I do not think the Minister of Labour (Mr.Dinn) is all that enthused about doubling up on well paid people. In addition to that, I think we have something in the order of twelve paid holidays a year in Newfoundland. Is it twelve?

MR. NEARY: Yes.

MR. JAMIESON: I suppose three week's vacation with pay is reasonably commonplace. The four day week is starting to slide into certain kinds of employment. Certainly the great majority of people are five days. So if you ran all of that through a computer you would find that of people's waking hours - never mind the hours they spend sleeping and perhaps they spend too many at that - you would find that the amount of time people have for leisure is greater than the amount of time that they are required to do a job in order to earn a living. If you want a frightening statistic, and I can confirm it, for our Western society, by the year 2000 and perhaps some years before that, twenty-five per cent of all of the people alive at any given moment will be able to do the work of the remaining seventy-five per cent and themselves as well. Science and technology and labour saving devices and a hundred and one other things will make that much difference. I will not explore that in too much detail, but the point is that it is in terms of arts and culture and these kinds of activities. Now the second point that I want to make is one which I am curious about because I have not heard these figures since I have been in this House. I do not know whether I have even heard them alluded to. I have no doubt that the hon. the Minister of Manpower (Mr. Dinn) responsible for these matters has seen them and must be as concerned about them as I am. On a single page, it is the demographic statistics of Newfoundland, the age distribution of the population as of December 11, 1979, just a few months ago, and what we have in this Province is between infancy and age twenty-nine - and I suppose when I look around most of us would be on the other side of that twenty-nine - but from infancy to age twenty-nine in the Province as a whole we have 325,200 people under twenty-nine years of age

March 25, 1980

Tape No. 588

AH-3

MR. JAMIESON: out off a total population in round figures of let us say 550,000 or something of that order. Call it 600,000?

MR. HOUSE: 570,000.

MR. JAMIESON: Alright let us say that. If you add on the next ten year group, bringing it up to thirty-nine, Jack Benny's -

MR. NEARY: Now you are getting closer.

MR. JAMIESON: -now you know you are getting closer, but you remember Jack Benny was the perennial thirty nine - if you bring it up to thirty-nine, we have 391,200, nearly 400,000 out of 570,000. And then

MR. D. JAMIESON: in the next group, which is adding
on those below fifty-four -

MR. S. NEARY: Now, that is better.

MR. D. JAMIESON: Now we are getting to it, Are
we into it now?

AN HON. MEMBER: Now you are talking.

MR. D. JAMIESON: We are now into 460,500 and if
you are fifty-five years of age or older in Newfoundland today -

MR. S. NEARY: You are over the hill.

MR. D. JAMIESON: - there are only 77,000 more like
you, out of 570,000 people, right. 77,100 over the age of fifty-five.

MR. S. NEARY: We are representing the senior
citizens.

MR. D. JAMIESON: Now, this House really ought to
address itself, and I mean this seriously-I do not know at what point
or how - to not only what those figures mean today but, much more
significantly, what they are going to mean in the next ten to twenty
years, because what is clearly going to happen is that the higher
age bracket is going to increase and increase dramatically over the
next twenty years, Furthermore, on the low end of the scale the
numbers are, I suggest, likely to go down, because I believe it is
a matter of record now that the family formations are smaller.

MR. S. NEARY: Unless artificial insemination (inaudible)

MR. D. JAMIESON: Unless the
member for LaPoile's artificial insemination. question had more
implications then it appeared on the surface to have had.

Now, why do I quote those figures
this afternoon in relation to this particular bill? Because what
I am saying here is that we have 171,200 females, 154,000 males
under the age of twenty-nine who are, in a sense, the core of the
work force, if you leave out the school children, and that leisure
question becomes of immense importance. Furthermore, that is where
your creativity lies; you could extend it to thirty-nine if you like, you
could extend it to forty or forty-two whichever, and there are plenty

MR. D. JAMIESON: of older people who still have a good deal of creativity left in them, but that is where it has to come and that is where the efforts of this arts Council, at least in the first instance, ought to be based.

Now, my emphasis on these statistics is important for another reason and that is because unless this group understands that its most important activity, and its mandate, I believe, is spelled out on the bottom of page one, "Establish a council etc. to foster and promote the study, enjoyment of and the production of works in the arts of the Province and to encourage the preservation and public awareness of cultural heritage." Now, that is essentially it and I suppose quite properly, as the fellow said, "You can drive a truck through that," it could be almost anything. But what it ought to do more than anything else is be concerned with community involvement, with large numbers of people; this should not be an elitist group. And there is a real possibility, I suspect, that that could happen. I have seen it happen elsewhere, I have seen it happen before but really if this council is going to make Newfoundlanders more aware, then it is not going to do it by some remote kind of activity being sponsored in some hoity-toity kind of climate or atmosphere where the ordinary person would not be exposed to it in a dozen or even a hundred years.

The whole concept behind this Bill of ensuring a greater awareness of our culture and our heritage means that it must find a technique and a method of getting to large numbers of people. And by the way, when I talk about leisure time, and I am sorry that the Minister of Education (Ms. L. Verge) is not in the House this afternoon, but I would hope that in concert with the Department of Education - we have several teachers in this room, including a number on this side who might be prepared to agree with me - that one of the things that we will have to do in terms of the curriculum, in terms of working with this Arts Council is to teach people how to live alone, in a sense, how to be content with themselves, a greater sense of self-sufficiency. Because, once again, one of the problems that one sees in that

MR. D. JAMIESON: up to twenty-nine age group is, of course, that put them on their own devices and they are lost. The first thing they have to do is follow what I suppose you could describe as the herd instinct. Now, our educational process surely must be at fault to some degree, and certainly this arts council can help in showing younger people how in solitude, if you wish to put it that way, in reading, in music, in creativity of their own kind, the sorts of things which many of us see around still in the smaller communities where people are engaged in arts and crafts and things of that nature where you do not need this kind of herd instinct, as I have come to call it, in order to lead a very satisfying kind of life.

So the arts council can help in that regard. And one other thing I want to say about this problem and about the challenge facing this group, and that is that there is a tendency, and I speak here as someone with, I think it will be conceded, fairly wide experience in the media, there is a tendency for arts councils of this sort to ignore the mass media; that unless it is on a stage somewhere, unless it is a personal kind of event that it is not a success and many, many groups have faltered and foundered because they have not used the most remarkable tool yet devised for the dissemination of information of a cultural and a heritage nature, namely, the broadcast media.

I always am, I do not know whether I would say bamboozled, but I am always certainly a little bit amused when I see reports, and this group will be the same, probably, saying at the end of it's first year, "We are pleased to report that 27,000 or 28,000 people saw such and such a production when it toured all of Newfoundland last year." "27,000 or 28,000! They will consider it to

MR. D. JAMIESON: be a real achievement, and it will be, but if they went on the air at 4:00 a.m., on television, the chances are they would pick up more people with that particular presentation than would be the case otherwise. Now, they are not mutually exclusive, and I am not seeking to make that point, but I do suggest that if we are going to avoid a kind of elitism here, if we are going to be sure that the maximum degree of awareness is created, and believe me there are a lot of receptive minds in that 0 to twenty-nine who do not have the same kind of awareness that we have and who, by the way, are wedded to the electronic media, if we are going to get them, then we cannot go the elitist route.

One other point of advice for this particular group: my friend from LaPoile (S. Neary) spent a lot of time the other day and I was amazed both by - he said he did not have a very good memory, but he did awfully well in terms of recalling the number of creative people who have come along over the years. To tell you the truth, I am not going to start mentioning any because I am going to leave some out and probably, like people said to you, you forgot this group or you forgot the other group.

MR. S. NEARY: I forgot the native group.

MR. D. JAMIESON: You forgot the native group, I made some reference to them, but the facts are there to be seen for themselves. Every one of those who is a professional made it virtually on his own, and what I am saying here is that this arts council - I notice there is a reference in here, there is a reference to being able to 'foster and promote, through grants and otherwise, the traditional arts of the Province and the arts of groups indigenous to the Province.'

Strangely enough, it is my own contradiction here; I agree with that and yet it worries me, because, you know, if we get into a granting structure that is not

March 24, 1980

Tape No. 590

EL - 3

MR. D. JAMIESON: properly handled, that is not
properly dealt with, you will find that there will be mediocrity
sucking at the public trough, that is what will happen.

MR. NEARY: Right on.

MR. D. JAMIESON:

You will find that this person or that person will get to somebody in the arts council and will say, 'She has a wonderful voice! She could be the diva of the Metropolitan Opera if only she had the chance!' So, therefore, this granting process, whatever it is, has got to be very carefully scrutinized. I do not know of very much by way of honest-to-God, top grade professional talent that will not come to the surface regardless. It is nice and it is helpful that if someone is in a particular group, someone will single him out and say, 'Look, you should get professional training,' but ways are always found for that kind of thing. There is very little of Gray's Elegy around as far as I could see in my years in the creative business, that if you have the talent it will surface.

The other point, of course, is that there is a real tragedy, Mr. Speaker, involved when younger people who do not really have it are encouraged too much to believe that they have. I have seen a lot of lives that have been ruined, a lot of people who have been frustrated because they have spent years and years and have been very, very strict in holding to their training regime and the like, and just simply did not have it when the chips were down. So you do not do people any favour by making it easy for them to become professionally creative. In the long run, it will be a question of their own talent doing it. Certainly, there is room to be helped, and God knows, now across Canada there are any number of awards, any number of places where that can happen.

But the theme I wanted to mention was that the arts council should not become just merely and simply and solely, or even primarily, a group which is designed to help this or that person and to leave out the vast majority of the people.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there is a great deal more I could say on this subject, but I think my time must be just about up, and even if it is not, I think I have made most of the points that I wanted to get into this discussion and this debate.

The whole key to it is going to be the people you appoint. That is the number one essential element. The second thing is going to be that it has its own understanding and definition of

MR. D. JAMIESON: what its mandate is and that everybody else knows what that mandate is, so that we are all working, in a sense, from the same ground rules. By the way, I do not think it is worth moving an amendment to this particular bill, but I would like to suggest that the government might want to give some thought, if it has not done so already, to including private contribution in this particular kind of fund, that at some stage it might be worthwhile to have various groups or individuals adding to the kinds of grants that are possible under this particular programme.

But it is a good start. Whether or not it will be enough, combined with all of the other things we are doing, to stand off the tremendous surge of mainland and North American and world influences that are overwhelming us hour after hour, whether or not a humble arts council is any match for an earth satellite bringing 250 signals into the television sets of the most remote part of Newfoundland, whether that can be done is open to question, but it is a task that is well worth trying and, certainly, the government have the full support of this side of the House in putting this legislation through and we will watch its implementation with a great deal of interest and, I would hope, constructive criticism from time to time.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (R. Baird): The hon. the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. J. GOUDIE: I wish to add my support today, Mr. Speaker, to this piece of legislation proposed by my colleague, the Minister of Tourism, Recreation and Culture (Mr. R. Dawe), and, in my initial remarks, wish to associate myself with the comments put forth by the Leader of the Opposition, the gentleman who just took his seat, in some of the concerns he expressed and also to commend a gentleman who spoke on Friday for what I thought at least was his finest hour or finest twenty minutes, I think, as it turned out to be, the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary). I thought he made some very valid remarks and made them in a manner which was enjoyed, I know, by people on this side and certainly by people on the other side

March 24, 1980

Tape 591

EC - 3

MR. J. GOUDIE:

of the House.

In adding my support for this bill,

Mr. Speaker, I have only three or four observations to make. But

MR. GOUDIE: I think one observation made by the Leader of the Opposition which is very valid and which I can attest to in one sense in that I was a part of a function here about twelve years ago where a number of people from various parts of the Province were brought together to take part in some discussions about the arts and heritage in general, but I think the idea of an arts council and the sort of action which an arts council would foster, or at least help foster, continue to foster in this Province, would be the bringing together of people from all parts of the Province. I think we might agree, Mr. Speaker, that several years ago when the new Labrador Party was founded, one of the main reasons behind the foundation or the formation of that Party was that many of the people of Labrador felt that there was a lack of understanding and a lack of appreciation for problems, the lifestyles, some of the difficulties that the people of Labrador had living there at that time, and out of that frustration was born the New Labrador Party, and whether or not the people elected by that Party went about it in a way that was acceptable to everyone else in the hon. House, can be debated by each individual member in the House I would think, but that was the idea or the rationale behind the formation of that political party and I think the idea of people being able to get together through the arts is going to go a long way towards fostering a better understanding of the various lifestyles that we have.

One thing that comes to my mind; I do not remember if it was 1977 or 1978, I had the opportunity to go down to the LSPU Hall one evening, along with the gentleman who was then the Leader of the Opposition, I believe, the member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Roberts), to see a play put on by the Mummies,

MR. GOUDIE: a play called Weather Permitting. I do not know if anyone else in the hon. House here today had the opportunity to see that particular play, but what the group had done was taken about six weeks of their time, prior to presenting this play, and lived in two or three communities on the Coast of Labrador, became familiar with at least the immediate lifestyle of people there, and through talking with residents of these communities learned a little bit about the history of each area, and the detail which they presented in that play Weather Permitting, and the way in which they presented it, I thought went a long way toward illustrating some of the old lifestyles of some parts of Labrador and some of the present day values that people have there as a result of that lifestyle and some of the difficulties they have gone through.

I had the honour at one time as well of having worked with the broadcasting media, radio, for ten years. I had an opportunity to interview quite a number of people in various parts of the Province. But in 1967 for the 100th. Anniversary of Confederation, I had the opportunity of working with a colleague of mine and between the two of us put together fifty-two half hour radio shows called Labrador History. And most of these interviews have been kept in the Archives of the CBC station where I worked and they are being made available now to groups like Them Days Magazines, who put out a quarterly publication recalling some of the history, stories, and values of the days gone by. One of the things, though, that I think I enjoyed as a broadcaster more than anything else was in 1966, for the Come Home Year celebrations I think they were called then, was having travelled to all the communities on the North Coast of Labrador, from Rigolet to Nain, interviewing people, but I was also

March 24, 1980

Tape No. 592

NM - 3

MR. GOUDIE: sent to record a group of Inuit people who had formed a choir, seventeen individuals singing and one person playing an organ, recorded this group. The Moravian Church in turn got a copy of that particular tape that I did and had it made into a long-play album and I understand as a result of that album which the Moravian Church released, that group, the Nain choir, was brought down to St. John's and some other parts of the Province for

MR. J. GOUDIE: a number of performances and were very well received in the areas in which they performed. I think one of the most interesting things I discovered about that particular group at that time was that one of the things that they had done -they had done several things such as teaching themselves to sing the various parts of music; the gentleman who was playing the organ played one of these four console things, completely self-taught-but one of the major accomplishments I thought that they were able to bring about was that they translated the music which they had performed for that album, and other selections which they do in other places, translated it directly from the German language into the Inuit language, the Inuktitut, without going through that English translation at all. The sheets of music that they had used to sing from which had been passed down from father to son, and mother to daughter, I suppose, was all handwritten, there were no mechanics involved in any kind at all and apparently it was a very difficult process to translate from German to Inuktitut and get the message across at the same time. But they apparently were able to do that and put on quite a presentation over a period of several months in various parts of the Province.

I think the Leader of the Opposition's (Mr. Jamieson) comment about the effects of large-scale developments in this Province on our traditional lifestyles is again a very valid comment. Everyone, I guess, is thinking these days about the potential of offshore oil and gas and so on. In my particular area if certain developments go ahead, if they do, it is going to have an implication on lifestyles as well, I think, when you think in terms of further hydro developments, possibly year-round transportation in and out of Labrador, the woods industry and so on. So lifestyles

MR. J. GOUDIE: are going to change and we in the Happy Valley - Goose Bay area, I know have been used to that kind of process since the 1940's when we were set upon, if you will, by the American culture and values, the Canadian at that time and the British, through the establishment of the bases at Goose Bay, and we were very much a very cosmopolitan area for quite a number of years. And, of course, the different values, the different art forms that took place, the country and western singers coming up from the Southern states, the English performers coming over from Britain, the Canadian performers coming across from all parts of Canada led us to some points of confusion at various times in our lifestyles when we consider what had taken place before that. Just one example, for instance, a very mundane example, if you will, of one of the changes that took place: My father and oldest brother were trappers, well, all of Dad's life and most of Horace's life, and they travelled inland every year in September in an eighteen foot freighter canoe taking four to five months supply of foodstuffs and so on with them to tramp in on what is called the heights of land and now the the Smallwood Reservoir, that is the area flooded by the hydro development, and as a result they were very stringent having to carry so much weight such a great distance, they were very stringent in what they used to take with them. For instance, they were able to build, all of these trappers, not just Horace and Dad, but all of these trappers were able to build a cabin usually eight by eight feet square and five or six feet tall with fourteen nails. Obviously anyone carrying fifteen or twenty pounds of nails 300 miles inland is a fairly - well, it is unnecessary load for people to carry along. So they had everything cut pretty fine.

MR. J. GOUDIE:

And, of course, one of the,

I guess in the old days and still today, one of the favourite commodities that they used to take along in addition to the tea and grease and a few other things, was tobacco. And everyone had makings in those days but after the base was built in Goose Bay they would usually carry maybe a ten dollar supply of tobacco with them in the Fall which was to last them anywhere from three to five months depending on the run of furs. One day a friend of my brother's was working with the American air force and he offered to take his book in that week, his tobacco book, and purchase stemu—as we call it here, the Indians call it—for the two fellows going in the country. So they gave him the ten dollars that they would have normally used to purchase tobacco for their trip and he came back about an hour later with four arm leads like you would carry an armload of chunks of wood all piled up and this guy came back with four armloads of cigarettes, tailor-made as well, I might add, which went a long way to their enjoying the trapping activities that particular Winter than they would have had they gone in with the makings the way they used to. I do not know if I am getting off the topic or not, Mr. Speaker, but I guess our heritage sort of

MR. GOUDIE: dictates our culture and
it all goes together.

I am not all that familiar
with performers in this Province. I am familiar with a
couple. One gentleman in Labrador I worked with, in
terms of having recorded his music and assisted in
putting out a couple of his albums, was Gerald Mitchell.

MR. LUSH: A lot of the performers
are here.

MR. GOUDIE: That is true. A lot of
the performers are here in this very Chamber, yes.

Gerald Mitchell, who is a
very accomplished artist as well - I think the member
for Terra Nova (Mr. Lush) might, having spent some
time in Labrador, have been exposed to Gerald Mitchell's
paintings, I am not sure. But one of the fine things
I think, that has happened to Mr. Mitchell is that he
has been painting now for, I do not know, fifteen or
sixteen years, I guess, and at one time was not all
that polished an artist and as a result his paintings
were selling for very low prices. But I visited the
gentleman during the Christmas Season home and he is
getting a much better price for his paintings. They are
a much better quality, I think, than what they were
when he first began. Obviously people improve with
years when they keep on practicing the same trade.
But he is now moving back to Makkovik, his birth-
place, to study the sea, I think is the way he put it,
to try and expand the type of paintings he has been
doing in the past and also carry on with his music
that he has been going along with as well.

The Leader of the
Opposition mentioned, I think, that he had been
exposed to - did he say a Newfoundland suite? - this
weekend, a montage of music that had been collected

MR. GOUDIE: or put together and presented by someone or other.

The only performer, I guess, that I am familiar with at all on the Island part of the Province is a girl by the name of Laverne Squires. I do not know if anyone in the Chamber has heard her perform or not. But she and some of her colleagues in music have been trying, I guess, to promote for years, certainly since I have known her, the last thirteen years, the Newfoundland folk songs and digging up many of the old ones and travelling around the Province and collecting by word of mouth from some of the old timers in the various parts of the Province some of the songs that were written and composed in years gone by and putting them forward.

So I think the more people we can get involved in the arts these days to try and preserve some of the things that we have inherited from our forebearers, be they songs, stories or whatever, then they should be encouraged as much as possible to do that. I would hope that this type of bill, to establish an Arts Council, would go towards doing that type of thing.

Of course, the ability of people to tell stories - the Leader of the Opposition, I think, referred to my mother. There are other people. Ben Powell - I do not know if anyone has read his book Labrador By Choice which was recently released - Ben Powell, I guess, was the father of Charlottetown in Labrador, having moved there and then literally, in many ways, built the place over the years.

Farley Mowat's book, about the White Eskimo, which was released several years

MR. GOUDIE: ago, I think is another very valuable addition to writings relating to Labrador and to the Northern part of our Province.

We have a poet in Labrador as well, Mr. Harvey Mesher. I do not if anyone has read his works or not, but he has done some in the past. I do not know how well his writings have sold but I think hon. members, if they had the opportunity to read his particular publication, might find some his writings rather interesting.

The arts, I guess, have begun to come on stream in Labrador, in our part of the Province, more in the last few years than previous to that.

The Carol Players out of Labrador City - Wabush, out of that area, have won quite a number of awards provincially for the type of work they have done. Kathy Pottle, I think, one of the people associated with the Carol Players, has done some script writing and I believe they presented one or two of her plays over the years as well. And they have gone on to national competitions and have made quite a name for themselves over the years and, apparently, are continuing on in that vein according to what they have been telling me and some other people recently, at least.

The Mokami Players, as well. The Ike Rich Players. I do not know if anyone in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, knows or knew the late Isaac Rich out of Happy Valley - Goose Bay. The member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) knew him when he was alive. Almost a culture onto himself, I think.

MR. WARREN: I am still alive boy.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. GOUDIE: When the late Mr. Rich was alive. Obviously the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) is still alive and kicking.

But the late Mr. Rich died within the last year and he, up until his death, was one of the few remaining, I do not know if there is anyone left now, people in Labrador who

MR. J. GOUDIE: was educated under a scheme put forth by Sir Wilfred Grenfell and carried on by other people in the IGA whereby they took students, or took people out of Labrador and took them to various schools. Isaac himself had gone to school in Boston and finished his high school and some university work there before he came back and went trapping on the height of land in Labrador.

I occasionally receive telephone calls, and this is just a sort of preliminary remark to what I am going to say next, receive telephone calls - as a matter of fact, the last one I got was regarding a speech made last week by the member for Torngat Mountains (G. Warren) from the ladies up in Hansard wanting to know the spelling of certain place names and people's names in Labrador. I guess place names, people's names and so on are also very much a part of our heritage because many of them have been dictated by incidents or lifestyles or whatever in a given area. I think we have some beautiful names in Labrador and to put them on the record, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to mention them and I will also tell the ladies in Hansard, who are busily typing now no doubt, that I will be up a little later on to give them the spellings so that they are not misspelled in the records.

But Michikamou, which was at one time the largest body of fresh water in this Province is, now a part of the Smallwood Reservoir up at Churchill Falls is one, Shabugamou is another one. I do not know if that is the one the gentleman was talking about last week or not. Kenamu, the Kenamu River, one of the best salmon rivers around, I suppose. It used to be, although it is not much of a salmon river anymore. I guess the salmon have -

MR. S. NEARY:

(Inaudible) find out about that one?

MR. J. GOUDIE:

- I do not think he was ever there,

no~

MR. S. NEARY: (inaudible) that was only (inaudible).

MR. J. GOUDIE: I do not think he was ever there.

But I was told an interesting story one time by my brother and a couple of friends of his. This was one of the last areas in our part of Labrador where the Indians used to harvest the salmon in the old traditional way where they took their canoes at night and went out with the birch bark torches and speared them on the spawning grounds. And there was an interesting story about a Mr. Blake living at North West River, who was about five foot one, I guess, and one day decided he was going to spear a sixty pound salmon in the canoe and the story is fairly interesting about the fun they had, or he had, trying to get the salmon aboard the canoe after he had speared the thing and not being big enough to handle the fish, lost it and lost his canoe and lost the whole works afterwards anyway. Sebasquachu, Mr. Speaker, is another very interesting place name, I think, about ten miles below North West River, I do not know, perhaps the member for Torngat has been there as well. The present Minister of National Revenue, Mr. Rompkey, spends Easter time in that area at -well, actually at Mulligan itself where there are quite a number of summer homes built by residents of North West River. But the Sebasquachu River is also a very popular fishing spot in the spring and early winter. The Moonie Rapids on the Churchill River itself, Mr. Speaker, one of the areas which will provide us, I hope, with additional hydro power some day another very colourful name. I guess we are all familiar with the Mealy Mountains. I know my colleague who is introducing this bill, the Minister of Tourism (R. Dawe), will be invited up there shortly. Whether or not he will have time to go I do not know, but he will certainly be invited there by some of the people connected with the Snowgoose Mountain Ski Club to investigate or look at the possibilities of having skiing activities carried on in the Mealy's, one of the very real tourist potential areas in this Province in terms of winter sports and skiing and at Torngat Mountains which means "dwelling place of the devil," I think, something like that, North of Nain -

MR. S. NEARY:

Not the hon. gentleman again?

MR. J. GOUDIE: Not the hon. gentleman again, no. I have had him dead once and a devil on another hand but no, that is not what I am saying at all but a very colourful name and a very real part of our Province and one of the areas, if it ever is brought about I guess, to be included in our National Park, one of the two areas discussed, the Mealy Mountains area being the other discussed last year. The Kiglapait as well would fit into that or come within the confines I would think of a National Park. Hebron and Okhakh, more place names but - pardon -

MR. WARREN: Adlatok.

MR. J. GOUDIE: Yes, Adlatok is another one but I guess we will not discuss that one any further.

MR. S. NEARY: (inaudible) familiar with that one here.

MR. J. GOUDIE: Familiar with, yes. Of course, we are very familiar with that one, also a very scenic and attractive part of our Province.

MR. S. NEARY: (inaudible) the real owner of Adlatok.

MR. J. GOUDIE: Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to address the Combined Councils Conference a couple of weeks ago, in North West River and at that time I indicated that one of the things we were trying to do in terms of helping preserve a heritage, I

MR. J. GOUDIE:

suppose, in our part of the Province was to try and get included in the next DREE agreement some funds to provide for the construction of a museum in Labrador which brings in as well, related to this effort, the Labrador Heritage Society which has, I think, now three or perhaps four branches, at least three branches in Labrador. And one of the main objectives when that Society was set up several years ago was to try and have some of the items returned to Labrador which had been removed. Red Bay, for instance, is very concerned now that all of the artifacts and so on from the Basque whaling galleon will be removed from the area and never brought back. We realize that scientists have to remove items from a given area to study them and date them and evaluate them and so on, but we think it is also very important, not only for Labrador but for other parts of the Province, that these items be returned eventually.

MR. G. WARREN:

Where do they take these items.

MR. J. GOUDIE:

At Red Bay, what they are

suggesting, and it will probably take place, since I think Ottawa is the only location in Canada where they can carry out certain dating techniques of the wood and other artifacts that are related to this Basque galleon, but the point I was going to make here was that one of the areas which was a receiving area, if you will, for many of the artifacts and documents and so on that came out of Labrador is Bowden College in Brunswick, Maine. They have a museum there and one entire section of that museum is set aside - the first thing you see, as a matter of fact, when you walk into the museum is a stuffed harp seal and a couple of bedlamers there as well and a couple of young seals - that is what they look like to me. In any event, there is a tremendous amount of hunting implements, cooking implements, archives, pressed flowers, all sorts of things there. I have made two visits there, I believe, so far. I have been dealing with the Vice-President of Bowden College and we have an agreement in principle, at least, that if a building can be constructed in Labrador suitable to accommodate

MR. J. GOUDIE: this type of thing, fireproof and safetyproof and so on, then Bowden College is interested in beginning discussions to establish which items would be brought back to Labrador and left there in this centre and become the responsibility of the museum itself but also the Labrador Heritage Society which was =

MR. S. NEARY: Where would you put the building, North, South?

MR. J. GOUDIE: That has not been determined yet.

Mr. Speaker, what I would suggest is that these items, I think, would have to be brought back to a central area first and then brought on to the other respective areas from which they originated eventually.

In the hon. member for Torngat Mountains district (Mr. G. Warren), up at Hopedale, there is quite a collection of items there, The building itself is what - over 200 years old now, I believe - wooden structures that were built by the Moravian Mission and I am told, and I believe it is accurate, that these buildings were the first prefab buildings that were ever brought to at least that part of the Province, or perhaps any part of the Province, they were all made in Germany and brought over and assembled in the community of Hopedale itself. So, I think these are all very important items to be concerned with as well. I realize that we are talking about an Arts Council here, Mr. Speaker, but again I say my feeling is that our heritage determines, to a great extent, the art in which we are presently involved and the art which we have inherited over the years and for that reason I would like to add my support to all members who have spoken so far, Mr. Speaker, on this particular debate, add my support for this Arts Council which will be established after this Bill receives approval and passage by the hon. House and commend my colleague for his introduction. I thought he made some excellent remarks. Someone said, I think, that he was reading his speech or something like that, perhaps he was, I do not know. I thought his remarks were very valid as were the remarks of the member for LaPoile (Mr. S. Neary), the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. D. Jamieson), and everyone else who spoke so far.

March 24, 1980

Tape No. 596

SD - 3

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear.

MR. SPEAKER: (Mr. Baird)

The hon. member for Terra Nova.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear.

MR. T. LUSH:

Mr. Speaker, it is certainly

refreshing to take part in this kind of non-adversary, non-confrontation
sort of discussion

MR. LUSH: about a bill, about a piece of legislation that we all support, And when one looks at a piece of legislation that seems so commonplace, really, that seems so logical, one wonders why such a piece of legislation was not passed a long, long time ago. I suppose it has to do with the development and the advancement of our society that sometimes delays the presentation of legislation that seems quite obvious and quite logical.

It was quite refreshing, Mr. Speaker, to listen to the hon. member, the last member who spoke. He brought back many memories to me of my associations in Labrador when he was speaking to this particular bill. And he himself, Mr. Speaker, comes from a tremendous background. A moment ago when he was talking about performance, I was indeed reminded of him, because he himself is an exceptional performer. He ran a CBC program for years in Goose Bay. I just forget what the program was called but, as I recall it, he was playing the part of an old furrier, an old trapper, and he did a commendable job. It was a program that I loved to listen to every day and he did a marvellous job. Then, of course, it is his mother who has made quite a name for herself, of late, in literature, in trying to preserve the Labrador culture particularly as it relates to hunting and trapping, almost a part of our culture that is now becoming extinct in a way. It is certainly encouraging to note that people have attempted to get these experiences down on paper to preserve them for future generations. Because, Mr. Speaker, as I have said, it is a culture, it is a thing of our past that is becoming extinct and it is something that future generations will not be able to appreciate other than through the legacy and in terms of literature that people like the hon. member's mother has left for us to delve into and to study and to appreciate. I always remember when I was in Labrador myself the enjoyable conversations that I would have with many of the furriers and the trappers. As a matter of fact, the area that they would frequent to hunt and trap was in the area of Churchill Falls where the new hydro plant then went. Many of the developments, as a matter of fact, sort of ruined, if you will, the areas in which they hunted. It was tremendous to chat to those people and find out their experiences,

MR. LUSH: how they would leave Goose Bay and North West River to make that long trip up to Churchill Falls and be there for two and three months alone in their own little lean-tos, as they were doing. They were taking care of their line, and they were men of tremendous courage, men of tremendous fortitude. It is a part of our literature that is rather thin, really, and we ought to certainly pay great respect to people like the hon. member's mother who has made a great effort to make sure that that part of the Labrador culture, in particular, is preserved for future generations.

 Another aspect of our own culture that I find is lacking is in the area of the forestry and logging in particular. That was, again, another tremendous feature of the Newfoundland culture that again, with technology, is almost extinct.

MR. T. LUSH: You know, that was again a tremendous area, a rich culture. All of those men from all parts of Newfoundland went in the lumber woods and stayed for months on end and the great experiences of those people, these hard working people, the deprivation and the conditions under which they worked. I find again that this is probably another area where we have not done a tremendous amount of writing. There is some, but not, certainly, the kind or the volume that one would like to see in that particular area. I think we have a fairly substantial amount of our literature that takes into account our fishing and this sort of thing, but logging and trapping, in particular, are two areas -

AN HON. MEMBER: The Badger Drive.

MR. T. LUSH: Badger Drive - well, we have it reflected in our folk songs, certainly, but in terms of what I would call literature, in terms of stories, novels, that sort of thing, very little done in that respect. It is a rich area, and as I said again, something that is going out of fashion, if you will, with technology taking over and not as many logging camps around when people commute rather than stay in the lumber woods. And I expect the Minister of Health (Mr. W. House) knows all about it, because I understand he worked in the logging camps as I did - a great experience, an experience that I would not have given up for anything, a tremendous experience.

So, Mr. Speaker, we support this bill because it is, as I have said, a bill that is long overdue and because of what it is doing, trying to encourage and promote the study and enjoyment and production of works in the arts of the Province and to encourage the preservation and public awareness of cultural heritage. And, Mr. Speaker, in the act it sort of outlines what the arts include and as we look down through these I am sure there is hardly a member as we look down through all of these but instantaneously a name comes to us of some person in our own area, a person who would fit into either of these. As we think of

MR. T. LUSH: the theatre we can think of people that have made it at the national level as the hon. member from LaPoile (Mr. Neary) was mentioning when he was talking the other day.

MR. NEARY: He got another award, by the way, since I mentioned him.

MR. T. LUSH: Yes, that is right. When you think of dance I am sure that everybody can immediately think of people in their own community that were tremendous dancers whether they be these old fashion square dances and tap dances, and of course, getting up to the modern times, as the hon. member for LaPoile was talking about the other day, when they have a disco entry in the Guinness Book of World Records down in Port aux Basques .

MR. S. NEARY: You do not get anything for that. All they send you is a tie and you have to pay for that.

MR. T. LUSH: Is that right? But the point of the matter is that just about any of these ,we can think of people who have displayed tremendous talent. Literature - again in the last few years we have had a goodly number of people in writing Newfoundland literature, be it in history or be it the pure fiction or whatever, a number of Newfoundland books coming out by Newfoundland and Labrador authors and indeed getting more and more of this kind of materials in our schools now, and of course it is being promoted by the government and by the Department of Education and certainly something that we on this side commend and hope that we can get more of it as this council will, no doubt, do. But there has been a tremendous increase in the amount of Newfoundland literature in our schools. For a number of years now we have had history books in our schools written by Newfoundland authors,, geography books and other fictional materials and non-fictional materials, novels and this sort of thing by Newfoundland authors , and you know that makes school more interesting. There is something psychological about reading a textbook and reading names of Labrador and of Newfoundland and quite a change from looking at names in the U.S. and names from up-a-long and it makes a kid more interested, it is something with which he can relate when he sees Come By Chance and when he sees Goose Bay, and to say nothing, of course, of the music in the names that the hon. member again was mentioning when he was talking about Lake Michikamou and all of these others.

March 24, 1980

Tape 598

MB - 3

MR. T. LUSH:

And I again became very nostalgic remembering all the large fish that I pulled out of that lake - Lake Michikamou - and fished

MR. LUSH: in many of the rivers and lakes to which he was referring. But, Mr. Speaker, there has been, certainly, an increase in Newfoundland literature and certainly an effort by educators to bring it all together and to get it into our schools. Just a comment on that: I am not sure that I ascribe to this excessively. I think that there has been, possibly, and overemphasis by people in certain segments of society to bring in Newfoundland literature. I think we have to have a balance. I do believe that we are moving in the right direction. I believe we have plenty of Newfoundland materials in our schools, not that we do not need any more. I certainly would like to see whatever we can get in our libraries but I particularly refer to school texts and this sort of thing. I think there is a limit to that sort of thing. I do not think we need to brainwash our people year after year with nothing but Newfoundlandia, as the educational people call it. I think there has to be a balance and I think there is probably a fair amount of Newfoundland literature in our schools now, particularly in terms of literature and in terms of geography. I think what we can do is possibly make the courses a little more sophisticated maybe, and have one of the - let us say, for example - we do them I believe at the moment. Newfoundland History is done in Grade V, I believe, as is Newfoundland Geography. I believe, maybe, that that might be a little bit - I was going to say a little bit too early maybe, but -

MR. TULK: It is too heavy.

MR. LUSH: Yes, it is a little too heavy, it is a course that should be done, maybe, in Grade VIII or -

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible).

MR. LUSH:

Well, the minister says

Grade VI. I believe it is even a little too advanced for that, particularly certain parts of it. But Grade V is a little too early for the kinds of texts that we now have there. So rather than promoting more Newfoundland materials in the school in terms of textbooks, I think we have to work on what we have there and maybe make sure that we put a good course in geography, or a good course in history, or put it together as social studies and put it, maybe, in Grade VIII or Grade IX where kids at that time can really appreciate what they are doing. Because I think Grade V is a little too early for the kinds of materials that we are now doing.

But anyway, Mr. Speaker, that was just a by-the-way. I was suggesting that, looking at all of these arts, instantaneously people come to our minds. We cited theatre, dance, folk arts, literature and then music. If there is one thing that Newfoundlanders have a lot of talent in it is certainly music. Again, the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary), when he made that excellent speech that he made on Friday, I think it was, made some reference to the fact that he could not play a musical instrument. But, you know, he did illustrate a Newfoundland characteristic that I find, more than in any other group of people, and that was that he loved music. Even though he could not play music, 'did not have a note in his bones', he said that he loved music and would love to be able to play. And, you know, this is what I find about Newfoundlanders, they have a great appreciation for music.

I am amazed at all of the talent that is around. As I travel throughout this

MR. LUSH: Province just about everywhere you go they have their own bands. You go to a club on a Saturday night and you hear the music; there is good music coming out of there and you say, "Now, where is that band from?" You possibly think they are from Grand Falls or they are from Corner Brook, but the band is from here, from here in Traytown, or from here in Gambo, or from here in Glovertown or whatever. It is tremendous the number of bands that are around. And the talent that they display, tremendous, tremendous ability. And it has always been that way because there are so many Newfoundlanders who can play so many musical instruments, be it an organ, or be it a piano accordion or a harmonica. I have just never seen the like, the number of Newfoundlanders who can play musical instruments.

MR. JAMIESON: By ear.

MR. LUSH: That is right. You get into a party and it is ten or twelve, you can be sure that somebody there in that group can play some kind of musical instrument. There is no question about it, great talent in the area of music.

And, of course, I suppose when one looks at it it was brought about by our geographical location, by our climate and all of these factors together, where people tried to be creative to make themselves happy, to try and entertain themselves and out of that came a great culture, a great heritage. And many of these people, Mr. Speaker, in all of these areas could have become famous people if at that particular time, possibly, we had had an arts council, somebody who would direct them, somebody who could instruct them as to which way to go, this sort of thing, how to get

MR. LUSH:

organized in whatever area they were in. What tremendous, tremendous talent all over this Province in the area of music and I expect there are members in this hon. Assembly, members here who have great prowess, great skill with some musical instrument. The hon. member himself was a great trumpet player and can play any kind of a wind instrument. And I suppose that fits him as a politician, can play any kind of a wind instrument. I do not want to make it too much known around because people will want me to display.

MR. JAMIESON:

You do not want to blow your own horn.

MR. LUSH:

That is right. But it is tremendous as I said, Mr. Speaker, the amount of music talent that is around us and it never ceases to amaze me when I go out around, as I say, on a Saturday night and go into this particular club and go into that particular club and hear bands playing and come out with great music and ask where they are from, you know, they are right from the area.

AN HON. MEMBER:

What club?

MR. LUSH:

Well, Saturday night, and it is not so much the club I like the music. I hear the music and I want to go in and I want to listen to it. I have tremendous appreciation for music and wherever I hear it I have to find out who it is that is doing it. As a matter of fact, I was responsible for bringing the first Newfoundland band into Churchill Falls because, as I have told this hon. House so many times, everybody seemed to in Labrador or in Churchill Falls, that part, everybody was aimed towards Quebec and when you had a big party and you had to bring in a band, of course, these people who organized that sort of thing thought

MR. LUSH:

that the only place to get a good band was in Quebec but I tell you I taught them a lesson. As a matter of fact, we brought in three bands from here in one year and made a tremendous impression on the people in Churchill Falls. I am just trying to remember the names, but one was the Garrison Hill Band - I do not know if they are still going now - and the other one was the band that was very popular at the time - oh golly what were they called? I just forget. Skinner, do you know what group he is in?

MR. F. ROWE:

No, I do not.

MR. LUSH:

Anyway it was a West Coast band but it came out of here in St. John's. Then, of course, we had our own local fellows down there from down around Goose Bay and North West River who sometimes would play in between, you know, instead of taking a break. I remember one time it was very, very embarrassing where they had our local band there, and it was for a Christmas party, and we had this band brought in from Montreal supposed to be a real top-notch band and people would say that rather than have a break have a local band to play because lots of times those fellows would not play the kind of music you would like and it was at this particular time - I believe it was a Christmas party - it became very embarrassing when the big band was playing nobody was on the floor. It was only during the break when the local band played that the floor became filled. So anyway I think enough said about that particular point to illustrate the tremendous talent that is in this Province in music and, I suppose, here again in St. John's. The hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Jamieson) and the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary), both mentioned Mr. Robert McLeod. Today we have two people in St. John's who have made a great impact in the musical field and that is Ignatius Rumboldt, the man at Memorial University who has done a tremendous job in doing

MR. LUSH:

our own songs here in Newfoundland, has a couple of records out. And then there is another person who might not be as well known to a lot of hon. members but a man who has made a tremendous contribution in church music and that is Dr. Eric Abbott who has made a tremendous contribution in the field of Salvation Army music and that is no mean feat I can assure you because in the realm of Salvation Army music there is a tremendous amount of it and he has made a name for himself internationally with respect to Salvation Army music, in its composition and also in song. So just about anywhere along the line that any hon. member can mention people who have made tremendous contributions in one way or another in the Newfoundland culture.

Just in literature, I passed that one but again on the line of talking about people who have made a great contribution, a

MR. T. LUSH: a young and upcoming artist in my own district, I am sure a person who we should all know about and I am sure the Minister of Health (Mr. House) knows about him, Kevin Major. Again a young man who has been making a great impression in literature. In the last little while he has won, I think, two or three awards, in the last couple of years, and last year was asked to tour Canada in selected areas to read selections from his writings. And so a tremendous talent in Newfoundland in several of those areas. I wanted to make a comment. We have been talking about sports although there is nothing in this to suggest it has anything to do with sports. When we are talking about what the arts include the last phrase says, 'And other similar and interpretative activities'. But you know there is just one - talking about the area of sports - I would like to comment on here and that is figure skating. It is one group of people which get little or no financing from government and in this Province there is a tremendous amount of talent in figure skating. But, of course, it is so expensive that only the very wealthy people can get at it. And when I think of the tremendous numbers of boys and girls in this Province who could make it in figure skating it is certainly aggravating to know that they cannot do it because they cannot afford to get into it. So I am just wondering if somewhere along the line this interpretative activity, whether the figure skating people might not be able to wiggle themselves in there somehow because it is certainly an art and a tremendous art with that. And it is one sports group in the Province, that as I have said before, gets very little finance from the government, very little assistance, if any. I would go as far as to say I do not think they get any at all apart from the benefits, of course, that go to

MR. T. LUSH: rinks and this sort of thing. But people in figure skating get very little assistance from the government and we have a lot of talent out there. Again I could go off naming names of people from Gander, Corner Brook, Clarendville, here in St. John's, people who have made it in figure skating to the national level and with a little assistance could certainly develop themselves to the maximum potential and become people of national recognition.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we support this Bill wholeheartedly. The setting up of this council, I believe, will have a very positive effect on the arts in this Province to say nothing of the money that is going to be made available to them where they can certainly then encourage and promote young artists in the Province. I believe just the setting up of it, just having it, the psychological impact of this council being there is going to have a very positive effect. Also, of course, it is going to be an organization, a group of people who will be able to disseminate information and give advice to many of the budding artists around. You know, we have so many people throughout Newfoundland who do not have a clue where to go in terms of, let us say, for example, writing a book - I think it was the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) the other day who said, 'Almost every Newfoundlander wants to write a book'. And many of them can do it, I can tell you, but they do not have a clue how to go about it, you know, how to get it published and this sort of thing, they do not know how it is done. But man, when it comes to writing a book, Mr. Speaker, they sure can write a book, I can tell you!

March 24, 1980

Tape No. 601

DW - 3

MR. T. LUSH: I meant to say also, Mr. Speaker, -
again I was so intrigued by the member for Naskaupi (Mr.
Goudie) when he was recounting the cultural experiences
and the culture of his area he mentioned storytelling. But
you know, that is a tremendous feature of Labradorians and
of Newfoundlanders - they are just natural at it. I
remember the first place I went teaching in Musgrave Harbour
back in 1959 and I can tell you 1959, Musgrave Harbour was
as isolated as it could be. You could get down there in
the Fall in boat but once the ice came in you were there
until June.

MR. LUSH: I did not care about that too too much back in those times. As a matter of fact, they put a road through and I did not even know it was going through. The road got through sometime just before Christmas, and I was not even concerned enough about it to look into it. You know, I figured I was going to be there til June anyway. But there was a gentleman there who made my life very, very enjoyable, I can tell you. Every night about seven o'clock he would stroll over to the house where I was boarding. I was boarding with his son. He would stay over there and always tell me stories, and it was just fantastic the man's ability to tell a story. You know, whenever he would get to the climax - he would chew tobacco - and whenever he would get to the climax on the other side of the house, whenever he would get to the climax of the story, he had to stop and come over to the stove and let the drippings from the tobacco out. Then he would go back and I was there spellbound, "Man, will you tell the story, what is it going to be about, you know? Tremendous! Again, as I said, it is the kind of skill that we have developed as a result from a quest of, undoubtedly, our geography, of our climate and the conditions of the land where people had to fabricate and do things to make life interesting, where they had to get down and try and compose a song or sing a song, try to play a musical instrument, try to write, try to do something.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I believe with the tremendous amount of culture that we have or in preservation of culture in literature, in song, poetry - and again another area we have not touched on, but again the tremendous poets in Newfoundland, tremendous poets, people who have made great contributions to the English literature, poets who are recognized in the whole English world, not just in Newfoundland, but poets who are recognized. Some of them complicated, too, I had to study them at university. I frankly wish some of them did not write the stuff they did it was so complicated, but in the field of poetry some great contributions. So, Mr. Speaker, just about in every area, as I have said, Newfoundlanders and Labradorians have been noted for the tremendous talent and the tremendous ability in the area of the arts. To think

MR. LUSH: how much it developed when we did not have an Arts Council, to think how it developed just by people out there being spontaneous, people out there being creative and deciding that they wanted to get down on paper a part of our heritage, Mr. Speaker, was indeed commendable. With this Arts Council, there is no question about it that we are going to be making great strides in the field of arts because, as I have said before, just the existence of an Arts Council, I believe, is going to have a tremendous, positive effect on the development of arts in this Province. Then, of course, the fact that they are going to have monies, and I do hope they have monies, Mr. Speaker. I hope that it is just not said here. I know that there is a limitation on what we can give them, but I do hope that the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) in this year - I expect he is going to give them some money - I hope that he will give them an ample amount to get going. Maybe some of us here, when we retire, will be able to take advantage of it and start writing books and one thing and the other as we write our memoirs and, you know, things that politicians do. Anyway, I certainly hope that the Minister of Finance will, as it says here, give them - well it does not say an ample amount but it does say give them money - well I would certainly qualify that and put in an adjective and say I hope that the Minister of Finance will see fit to give them an ample amount of money. And so, Mr. Speaker, they are going to be valuable in that sense, they are going to make a great contribution in that sense, but also, as I have said before, the fact that we have a structure set up, a council that is going to promote the study of the arts and the enjoyment of the arts in this Province and creativity, that they are going to have a wealth of information that they are going to be able to help young, budding, potential artists with to get them out of their, say, frustration or whatever, to put them on the right tracks to where they go, what they have to do to develop their particular talent. For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, and many more that I have not mentioned, we on this side of the House give wholehearted support to this bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms) The hon. Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, just to indicate my support for this bill, and I understand that both sides of the House, as the hon. member who just sat down said, both sides of the House are going to unanimously support this bill and it should get speedy passage as a result. The surprising thing, really, I suppose, is if there is such support for this bill on both sides, why was this sort of bill not brought in before? It seems so obvious now that we needed a bill like this. There is such obvious good which will come from a bill like this you wonder why

DR. COLLINS:

this House has not been asked to bring in, been asked to vote and been asked to ratify a bill like this in the past. And it is difficult to answer a question like that. All one can say is that whoever initiated this bill clearly had his head screwed on right, shall we say. And I think that the mark of the Premier is on this. I think there is clear evidence here that the Premier is behind this bill. My hon. colleague, the Minister of Tourism (Mr. Dawe) is actually bringing in the bill and he has had a lot to do with it but I think also one can see the hand of the Premier on this. And I think it really shows a form of genius that you can bring in something like that. It is so obvious when it is done that it was not done before. That is one point I would like to make.

The other point is that I am a little bit disappointed it was not in effect when I was a youth because at one time I wrote a poem and it was a very good poem apparently because it was in school and I got one of those little pins for it. I do not think you get those pins just for any old thing. So this must have been a tremendous poem and if this arts council had been in effect one does not know what my fame might be at this time, I might have been the poet Laureat of Newfoundland for all the people in this House know. We really do not know what loss this Province suffered just because this council was not in effect when I was going to school.

Mr. Speaker, of course this will not establish all the arts as many people have said already. I can recall also when going to school, we had an orchestra in our school. I believe, really, it was the first official or formal orchestra in the Province. I may be corrected on that but if it was not the first it certainly was among the first.

DR. COLLINS:

It was at St. Bon's School and there was a school orchestra with violins and violas and trumpets and saxophones and you name it. I never could make the orchestra. As a matter of fact, like the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary), I had very few talents in that regard. The only instrument I ever managed to play was something called the jews'-harp, I think that is the proper name of it. It is one of those things you put in your mouth and you strum. As a matter of fact, at one time I thought it was the juice harp because when you did put it in there you would tend to get a little juicy in the mouth. But I think the actual name of it is a jews'-harp and it is not as you can imagine very difficult to play.

MR. NEARY:

How do you spell that?

DR. COLLINS:

J-e-w-s I believe. And it is not very difficult to play and I think the range that you can get out of it is fairly limited but I did manage to master that. So I suppose that is some sort of a compliment.

Mr. Speaker, I think it has been said - I do not know if I know the exact term - but it has been said something along the lines, 'Show me a people's art and I will show you what those people are like'. Perhaps someone in the House can actually give the aphorism in actual detail but that is the sense of it, 'You just show me the art that a nation or a people or a community throws up and I will tell you what sort of a community or what sort of a nation or what sort of people you are dealing with'. I think that is very apropos in Newfoundland. We take pride in the music, the distinctive music that comes out of Newfoundland. It is an indigenous music. It is a music of our people. And I think that the fact that we did create our own form of music and our own type of music shows that we were a self-reliant people, that we were an independant

DR. COLLINS:

people, that we could bring forward something of real value and for our own purposes.

Newfoundlanders also are quite well known for their ability to make models, you know, model boats and -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

DR. COLLINS: Not those sorts of models. Perhaps those models too but model boats and other types of things like this. In others words, I think that tells about our people that we are good craftsmen, the people of this Province they work well with their hands, they are craft orientated.

I think Newfoundlanders also enjoy acting and particularly acting with a touch of comedy about it. I think that this tells about our people that they are realists, they have a sense of the reality of the world. They do not take the world too harshly. They can see the humor in the world but they can keenly observe the world and get those little extra meanings out of the world.

And then, Mr. Speaker, our people are quite noted for their dance ability. Not only the dances that we have ourselves evolved but that we have remembered from our progenitors, that we have cultivated and we have retained the dances that have come from our forebearers. I think that this shows a vigor in our people. It shows a sort of gregariousness and a hospitality. We like to be with people and do

DR. J. COLLINS:

things with people and associate with people. So, I think that our art, the art in Newfoundland, really does tell a lot about our people and it tells a lot of good things about our people.

Mr. Speaker, this Arts Council, of course, I think it has already been said, is not only to deal with Newfoundlandia, it is to deal with the arts on the broad scale and I personally hope that it will have an effect on the type of music that one is bombarded with so much these days. I am not talking about Newfoundland music and I am not talking of all forms of modern music but we do have a singleness of the type of music I think now that you hear on the radio, television, so on and so forth that this is - I am telling my age now, I suppose - but I find that sometimes a little bit hard to take on a continuous basis. And I would hope that this Arts Council will bring in more of a mix of music to our society. I do not mean get into the real heavy classical stuff but a little light classical stuff and somewhere in between -

AN HON. MEMBER:

Faith Of Our Fathers.

DR. J. COLLINS:

I can recall when I was going to university on the other side of the water there was a programme on BBC called The Third Programme and that tended to go for that sort of music and that type of entertainment. Now, this is not to say that one is being snobbish about things or whatever but I am just saying that I think a variety is a good thing and it seems to me that the type of music we are bombarded with nowadays is sort of not varied enough and I hope that this Arts Council will promote more variety.

Mr. Speaker, I think it was said by one member there, he had a few misgivings about this because private donations might not be possible. My reading of the Bill is that there would not be any problem there, that this Council will be able to accept monies and donations from the public and that this will enhance their budget and in actual fact they will be treated as registered charity under the Income Tax Act. So, I think that this Council,

DR. J. COLLINS: hopefully, will get, I can assure the hon. member over there that this government will do what it can to finance this council, so it will help in that regard, and I feel sure that the public, when it sees the worth of this council, will also help with this funding through donations and I look forward to very good results from this Bill and this effort that we are asked to accept. And I would certainly support this Bill wholeheartedly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. F. ROWE: Mr. Speaker, I understand that the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) wishes to speak on this bill so I shall cut my remarks as short as I possibly can.

Mr. Speaker, one thing about this bill that disturbs me just a little, and I do not think anybody has brought it out yet, is the fact that in spite of the fact that all members in this hon. House are going to support this particular bill establishing the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council, nobody has brought up the fact that we can have all the councils and all the administrations and all the acts and all the regulations and all the what have you's that you wish and still we could have a situation where nothing is actually being done. And I would hope that when this arts council is established we will not see a situation where we do have a body which will sit down, and I am just pointing out some of the possible weaknesses or hazards that may be involved in this particular act, where we do not have a body which sits down and will not do anything or can not do anything because of lack of funds on the one hand or on the other hand, the body itself may consist of a number of people who are intent only upon pushing their own pet projects or their own type of art form, if you wish. And I think therein lies an extreme danger with the setting up of this particular

March 24, 1980

Tape No. 604

SD - 3

MR. F. ROWE: arts council. So I hope that under Section 6 there where we have mention of the membership, "The council shall consist of twelve members to be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council", that the Cabinet of this particular administration will make sure that the composition of this particular

MR. F. ROWE:

council would be such that number one; we will not have these individuals pushing their own pet projects or their own art form, if you wish, and that they are as broad as possible in trying to tap the enormous cultural and art resources that we having lying in this Province all too often dormant at this present time. So I hope that the members opposite and particularly the ministers in the Cabinet will take that point to heart and will consider it when they are appointing the members of this particular council.

Sir, another thing I would like to point out is this -and I will not be too long on it - that we should not separate art, if you wish - art is identified there somewhere - includes theatre, dance, folk arts, literature, music, painting sculpture, the graphic arts, crafts and other similar and interpretative activities. We should not separate these forms of activities from what I would consider to be the pragmatic aspect of our culture in terms of helping to employ Newfoundlanders. Let us just look at a few examples, Mr. Speaker, I can remember when I had the honour of representing St. Barbe North going into a fishing community called Anchor Point which was heavy on the fishing of scallops and the total beachline was covered with what I would call outcroppings of scallop shells, tons and tons of scallop shells, after the scallops were shucked. And I tried during that particular time to find out a way to put to some use these scallop shells because if one takes a trip down the Eastern Seaboard of the United States or to the other Atlantic Provinces, you go into these handicraft shops and you see scallop shells being sold at a ridiculously high price for anything from ash trays to little trays to serve up fish foods in, to making these sailing boats using the scallop shells themselves as the sails on

MR. F. ROWE: these particular boats. I even went so far, Sir, as to try to - I got a chemical breakdown of the scallop shells in Anchor Point to see if it was economically feasible at all to use it for such a thing as the making of fertilizer. But here is an example, Sir, where in this Province we do have these wrinkles, these big curly snails and we have scallop shells and we have very many other assorted shells that can be used in some form of a handicraft employing Newfoundlanders and at the same time allowing them to express with their hands and their minds some particular type of art form.

So I would not like to think that in the pursuit of art that you always have to have a situation where money is coming from the government into some artistic form. I firmly believe that in many aspects of art forms that the people of this Province can pursue it and actually make a good living out of it personally, bring money into their community and obviously into the Province as a result of the tax structure.

Another example, Sir, is this whole business of taxidermy. How many homes have I gone into in rural Newfoundland where I have seen beautiful works of taxidermy, beautifully mounted seals, the jar seal, whitecoats, different types of seals, where I have seen various species of birds mounted in many rural Newfoundland homes. And I ask, 'Who is the taxidermist in town or where did you get this done?' And invariably we have seen an old fisherman who has been doing this work for years and his sons and daughters who have turned around and followed in his footsteps in stuffing animals, for the want of a better expression, and instead of selling them and putting them on the market in a place like St. John's, Montreal or Toronto we have these works of taxidermy

MR. ROWE: works of taxidermy sitting in the homes of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians throughout the Province. I am a firm believer, Sir, that there are many Newfoundlanders who can do beautiful works of art, as far as taxidermy is concerned, and can market this material through St. John's, through Montreal, through Toronto and bring in a fairly sizable dollar for that particular work of art. Another thing, Sir, is if you, again, travel the Maritime provinces and the Maritime states, the states of the Eastern Seaboard and, I suppose, the same thing would be true over on the Western part of North America, is the use that is made of driftwood in the making of lamps, tabletops and what have you. Sir, I can go down with example after example after example of the types of things that can be done in this Province. The point that I am really making is this, Mr. Speaker, when we are setting up an Arts Council, I would hope that there would be a little bit of economic pragmatism shown when this council gets to work, we do not have a situation where the council is coming to government day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year, looking for grants, looking for loans, in order to pursue some art form when, in fact, if this council pursues some other avenues we can find that some very artistic Newfoundlanders can use the shells that I mentioned a few minutes ago, driftwood and that type of a thing, taxidermy, and bring dollars into this Province instead of being an actual drain on the provincial budget.

AN HON. MEMBER: Nobody (inaudible).

MR. ROWE: I realize that. Sir, another point that I would like to make is this, that I think that this Arts Council, if it goes about its job properly, can do a terrific job for tourism in this Province. I am quite frankly sick, Sir, of having to go outside of this Province to get what I would call a Maritime atmosphere when it comes to restaurants or clubs, where you can get good Maritime music, a good Maritime food menu and, for that matter, a good Maritime liquor menu, Mr. Speaker. In order to find a really good atmosphere for the Atlantic Provinces in terms of entertainment, we all too often have to go over to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, P.E.I. or Maine, New Hampshire or

MR. ROWE: what have you, in order to get a good fish meal, a good night on the town in a marine atmosphere, if you wish, or a Maritime atmosphere. Unfortunately, we do not find it in our own native Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, and I would hope, Sir, that one of the terms of reference for this Arts Council will be to do something and suggest something in the private enterprise sector which would create a situation which would help our tourist industry by having Newfoundland art, which could be anything from entertainment in a club or restaurant right to the food itself.

So the last point I would like to make is this, that we have some of the greatest scenery in North America in this Province. All one has to do is take a trip along the whole length of the West Coast from Port aux Basques to Cook's Harbour -

AN HON. MEMBER: South (inaudible).

MR. ROWE: - and I am not mentioning other parts of the Province. Obviously they have beauty as well. One of the most satisfying experiences for a person, particularly a person who likes geology, is to take a trip from Port aux Basques to Cook's Harbour where you get just about every variety of topography that one could ask for throughout North America, albeit on a smaller scale than you might get, for example, over on the West Coast where you have the Rocky Mountains.

MR. F.B. ROWE: We have in Newfoundland and Labrador the equivalent of a miniature Rocky Mountains and I would like to see a situation where we could engage more Newfoundland guides to bring in mainland tourists from the Mainland of Canada, the mainland of the United States and other countries of the world, give them a truly good interpretative and educational guide of the topography and the geology of Newfoundland. Because I have been told, and I know this because I have studied at the University for a number of years, I had studied geology and was, in fact, intending to become a geologist. But I have been told by geologists who have come to this Province that Newfoundland and Labrador is a geologist's delight. And there are an awful lot of people in this world who are students and do have as their hobbies - what is the word? - topography - there is another word geomorphology, topography, geology and the study of rocks and the study of gems and minerals and this kind of thing. But we do, Sir, have that potential there and I think that it is incumbent upon an arts council to bring out these, what I call, economically pragmatic aspects of our culture rather than, and this is not to take away at all from music and painting and this kind of thing, but I do think that we have to do something that is pragmatic in the sense that it is not a drain on the provincial budget, that we would have, in fact, money coming into this Province by utilizing our culture.

You go into places in Massachussetts, you go into places in New Hampshire, you go inot places in Maine, P. E. I., New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and they are exploiting all of the aspects of their maritime environment. You come back

MR. F.B. ROWE: to this Province and you do not see the same type of exploitation and use thereby bringing money into the Province.

So, Sir, with these few remarks I would like to add my support to this particular bill and sit down because I understand that my friend from St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter) would like to speak to this particular bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Butt): The hon. the member for St. John's North.

MR. J. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, because it is so close to six o'clock, I think it would be more appropriate if I were to adjourn the debate.

I think if that were put to the House perhaps they would be agreeable. Call it six o'clock.

On motion, the House at its rising adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 25, 1980, at 3:00 p.m.