

PRELIMINARY
UNEDITED
TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
FOR THE PERIOD:
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
THURSDAY, MAY 29, 1980

The House met at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please!

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Minister of Consumer Affairs and Environment (Mrs. H. Newhook), who is unavoidably absent this afternoon.

The government is today releasing the report of the Environmental Assessment Board appointed to conduct public hearings into the BRINEX proposal to develop a uranium mine at the Kitts-Michelin site in Labrador.

The members of the Board were Mr. C.W. Powell, Chairman; Mr. Hudson Davis, and Rev. Francis Buckle.

The public hearings were conducted to record the reaction of the people in the area to the Environmental Impact Assessment Statement submitted by BRINEX in May of 1979. The Board conducted its hearings in December of 1979 in the communities of Happy Valley, Goose Bay, Northwest River, Sheshatshit, Makkovik and Postville and heard submissions by a number of intervening groups and individuals. On behalf of the Minister of Consumer Affairs and Environment, I would like to thank the Board for their services and for the comprehensiveness of the report. I would also express our appreciation to the large number of members of the public who indicated such interest in the proposed project and participated in the hearings.

The Board has identified a number of areas of the public concern in which additional information would be required. However, the area identified in the report, which requires most attention, is that of the management and permanent containment of the mine wastes or tailings. This is a highly technical and complex subject on which a good deal of further information is required. The subject of waste disposal is one about which there has been much controversy in

PREMIER PECKFORD: the uranium mining industry and the government is, therefore, most anxious that it can be assured that there be complete environmental security in the matter.

The government has, therefore, accepted the recommendation of the Board which states that: "a development licence for the Kitts-Michelin project be withheld until BRINEX can show that it can and will safely and permanently dispose of the radioactive waste from its proposed mines and mill."

I have copies of the statement here now, Mr. Speaker, which will be available to hon. members and the reports are available and will be distributed over the next number of moments.

MR. G. WARREN: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. G. WARREN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, first I would like to say from the outset that I am indeed pleased to see that this government has accepted the recommendations by the Powell Commission. However, it is a sad day for Happy Valley-Goose Bay, which very much was depending upon BRINEX going ahead with this project because all in all there were probably 200 or 300 jobs that would have been created in this area. However, I think this government has seen the light that anything that is going to be damaging, in particular to human beings and the future generations -

MR. G. WARREN: I am thinking in particular of Makkovik Postville where this mine was going to be located. In the close proximity of those two communities where the main tributaries, the rivers and the majority of the residents in those two communities were relying on the fisheries for a means of living. And I am quite pleased to see that this government has taken the recommendations that the Board has stated and I hope that this last sentence that says, 'until Brinex can show that it can and will be safely and permanently,' I would like to reiterate that from those public hearings, Brinex were unable to show beyond a reasonable doubt that the tailings in particular were going to be taken care of in a proper manner. So I am quite pleased that this government has seen fit to stop any further development in the Kitts-Michelin uranium project for the time being and I hope that in future any such project of this magnitude would be taken care of by this means.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Are there any further statements?
The hon. the Minister of Finance.

DR. J. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the Departmental Observations and Report to the Auditor General for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1979. This is compiled by the Internal Audit Division of the Department of Finance and there are copies available for hon. members.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. the member for St. Mary's -
The Capes.

MR. D. HANCOCK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a couple of questions for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. As the minister is aware, Mr. Speaker, most secretaries do make errors in typing, and I know mine does and I can speak for most members on this side

MR. D. HANCOCK: of the House as well as the other side.
Going through this list, Mr. Speaker, I am just wondering if there was a typing error made when it came to St. Mary's - The Capes because I cannot find anything on this project or the road projects for the Province for this year for St. Mary's- The Capes. I am wondering if they are deliberately omitted or if the secretary made an error in typing?

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

MR. C. BRETT: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Kilbride (R.Aylward) just asked me the same question as I walked into the House. There was no typographical error. It is just that there was no money allocated for that district or the district of Kilbride this year.

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

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary, the hon. the member for St. Mary's - The Capes.

MR. D. HANCOCK: I would like to remind the member for Kilbride that he has not got 105 miles of gravel road in his district. If he has, I am sure as heck not aware of it. I do not know what I was going to say for a supplementary now, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear !

AN HON. MEMBER: After last night we are all laughing.

MR. HANCOCK: After last night -

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow the hon. member a certain amount of pause.

MR. HANCOCK: There is, as I pointed out, Mr. Speaker, 105 miles of gravel road in my district and

MR. D. HANCOCK: school children in that area have to travel over a distance of forty to fifty miles a day of dirt road to get to school each day the school season is open. And I am wondering, Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact what Mr. Crosbie said a few days, and the Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. Barry), that the feds in Ottawa are playing politics with the federal seats here in Newfoundland, if this government is doing the same bloody thing as the Minister of Energy and Mr. Crosbie in Ottawa, is the government here doing the same thing as they are being accused of?

MR. S. NEARY: Playing politics with the roads programme.

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

MR. C. BRETT: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what the question was. He asked me if -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. C. BRETT: I gather what he said, Mr. Speaker, was am I doing the same thing that Mr. Crosbie is accusing somebody of doing in Ottawa. Now I do not know what -

MR. D. HANCOCK: Mr. Barry is accusing -

MR. C. BRETT: I do not know what Mr. Barry is accusing somebody in Ottawa of doing. I do not know how I can answer that question really.

MR. D. HANCOCK: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A final supplementary, the hon. member for St. Mary's - The Capes.

MR. D. HANCOCK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The simple question was, Mr. Speaker, are you playing politics with this issue? That is all I asked. I cannot get a straight answer. I would like to wonder, Mr. Speaker -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please!

MR. D. HANCOCK: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I would like to know how much of this \$58.6 million is actually provincial money? That is pretty straightforward.

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

MR. C. BRETT: If I had a calculator I could come up with the exact figures. But there is \$15 million, that is the provincial programme, that is all provincial money; the Trans-Canada Highway funds, there is \$18 million and 75 per cent of that is being paid for by the Province; for the remainder of the \$58 million there is DREE and DREE is 90/10, I think, most of it is anyway.

MR. E. HISCOCK: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Eagle River.

MR. E. HISCOCK: My question is: basically during the election in which I took a great part down in St. Mary's - The Capes and while we were there the brochure was passed out on behalf of the PC candidate and basically in that PC platform of the Premier and it said basically to 'Step forward in the Eighties' and Newfoundland was basically looking for leadership of integrity, honesty and straightforwardness and hopefully most people expected -

MR. S. NEARY: And openness.

MR. E. HISCOCK: - and openness - this to come from the Premier. A lot of things were said in that campaign and a lot of energy put in towards the end. But re-construction and pavement of the road from Trepassey to St. Shotts and then Peter's River and Riverhead to Mall Bay, paving the road from Salmonier Line to Colinet and North Harbour and the road from

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MR. E. HISCOCK: North Harbour to Branch. I
cannot understand now -

AN HON. MEMBER: Do you have a question?

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please!

MR. E. HISCOCK: I cannot basically understand
now that this was promised and surely if people in this
Province are going to have any integrity in politicians,
in this Province and particularly in the Premier -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. E. HISCOCK: - when promises are given and
they are not kept.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!
If the hon. member has a
question I would direct him to ask his question now.

MR. HISCOCK: The question I want to ask the Minister of Transportation and Communications, is the Premier going to keep the promises that he has made and when can we expect these programmes to get on the go?

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

MR. BRETT: Mr. Speaker, there is no one in the House who has any more faith in the Premier than I have and I am certain that if he promised, if he promised that he is going to pave the roads in St. Mary's-The Capes, then he is going to do it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. BRETT: I do not think he says in that brochure that he was going to do it this year. I do not believe he did.

SOME HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. HANCOCK: Not off to a very good start.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Grand Bank.

MR. THOMS: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

MR. HANCOCK: Off to a slow start.

MR. THOMS: My question as well is to the Minister of Transportation and Communications. I do not know if the minister is aware -

MR. MORGAN: (Inaudible).

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr. Speaker, if the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) has something to say about the fishing industry in this Province, why does he not stand on his feet and say it at the right time and stop yapping?

MR. MORGAN: (Inaudible) down there.

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

I am having difficulty hearing the member ask his question.

MR. THOMS: I am having difficulty hearing myself ask the question with the Minister of Fisheries yapping over there, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the -

MR. NEARY: Keep your voice down, will you, today?

MR. THOMS: - is to the Minister of Transportation and Communications. At the moment there is an asphalt plant on the Burin Peninsula, I do not know how much longer it will be there, but it should not be there too much longer. And when it goes, of course, it could be another five years before we get one back. The previous member for the district of Grand Bank made a commitment that the short section of road between Lawn and Lourdes Cove would be paved, and that was a commitment made by the previous administration. I have the same problem, this year Grand Bank was left out altogether, but could the minister indicate to me whether or not funds could be found to complete paving the Loop Road in that area?

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

MR. BRETT: The hon. member need not worry, Mr. Speaker. Funds will be found some time in the future to finish that Loop Road, there is no question about that.

MR. THOMS: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary, the hon. member for Grand Bank.

MR. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, I do not mind vague answers but I wish the minister could be a little more definite. Maybe that is what we have to look forward to, another commitment made in the district and that is in connection with the new Grand Bank bridge. The plans and everything, design and everything have been done, approved, and we are waiting for funds to be committed on that one. Is there anything the minister could report in connection with the Grand Bank bridge?

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

MR. BRETT: Not in the report, Mr. Speaker, there are no funds allocated for the Grand Bank bridge this year. That is all I can say.

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, in view of the absence of the Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. Barry) my question is to the Premier. As he probably knows, we all heard this morning the Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. Barry) on public airwaves suggesting that the reason that the synchrolift situation in St. John's is being reviewed is purely political, that Ottawa or the government is punishing this area for electing somebody not on the government side. If one accepts that logic, is the Premier prepared to comment that that might be the kind of logic that was used by this government in refusing to extend or rebuild or reconstruct or do any work at all on the Buchans-Burgeo road this year in view of the kind of representation that has been made to this government over the years?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, we have many needs both in Transportation and Communications, we have needs in Municipal Affairs and Housing, we have needs in the environment, and a lot of money has to be found to deliver on public services and to provide a decent level of public services. We will do what we can and our utmost over the next three or four years to spend as much money as possible on those needed services. There are roads yet to be built and reconstructed, there are roads to be paved. There is a need for roads in the hon. member's district. There is a need for a lot more to be spent in all the districts of the Province. We are trying to be fiscally responsible as a government and we will do as many public services each year as is within our limits to do.

MR. FLIGHT: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Premier for his answer. I am wondering as the Premier well knows that over the years the people of Buchans and that area have accepted the fact that the Province itself does not have the capability, the financial capabilities, of building that road and they know that the only prayer that we have to get that road in place in any short term is with funding from Ottawa and therefore it would have to be included in a DREE package. So I will ask the Premier if he is prepared, because up to this point the Province have not seen fit to include that road on a priority list to DREE, would the Premier now give me his word or give the House his word that he is prepared to see that road be included, a request for funding for that particular road, the Buchans-Burgeo road be included in the next shopping list to DREE for funding for roads and infrastructure in this Province?

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

There are many requests that way too, Mr. Speaker.

MR. FLIGHT:

(Inaudible) refuse them.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

There is the Trans-Labrador Highway, which has to get underway, which has to get underway and is going to cost hundreds of millions of dollars. And I would suggest that the majority of funding for that particular highway will have to come from the federal government. There are other major secondary roads that have to be done. Burgeo road has to be completed, it is not completed yet. There is a lot of work to be done on that road. So there are a lot of existing secondary highways and may I say primary highways like the Trans-Labrador highway which have to be given very, very high priority. Then one must look at the existing Trans-Canada Highway and try to continue to get another agreement on that because we have only got not even

PREMIER PECKFORD: one-third, I suppose, one-quarter, one-fifth of the existing Trans-Canada Highway upgraded in the last three years so we need another agreement on that. So there are a whole bunch of highways which have to take very, very high priority, some of which I have just mentioned and others that I have not mentioned, and in due course we intend, also, to get involved in DREE programmes as they relate to the road that the hon. member mentioned.

MR. FLIGHT: A final supplementary.

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

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, as the Premier well knows, most of the roads that he - I think all of the roads that he mentioned in his answer have already gone to DREE and most of them are indeed being funded by DREE. The Burgeo road was practically completed by DREE and all the other roads he indicates have been funded by DREE or funds applied for. As he well knows the Buchans - Burgeo road to this point in time has not been acknowledged.

Now, I would ask the Premier, has the Buchans - Burgeo road been presented in a request? Has funding been requested for that particular road under any DREE agreement up to this point in time? Has this Province ever put forward the Buchans - Burgeo road for funding?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, no we have not put forward that road. We will be putting forward that road after we have some of the other very major priority roads which are now underway, which cost a lot of money. As I said, the Trans-Labrador Highway, by the way,

PREMIER PECKFORD: contrary to what the hon. member said in preface to his last question, has not been begun and there have not been any DREE funds put into that yet. It has to be begun. It is going to be along the Trans-Labrador Highway. So that is going to take a lot of funds, hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars to do that and that must be high priority because we must open up Labrador besides which, both on that Trans-Labrador Highway road and some of the other roads which are not built yet, including the one that the hon. member refers to, it is quite likely, as I indicated a couple of weeks ago, that environmental impact statements are going to have to be done on a lot of those new highways because there is increasing concern about that aspect of it. So as we get into new road projects I would submit that they are not going to go through the quick approval system that they have in the past as it relates to once the funds are done you can just go ahead and build it because there are going to be environmental questions raised which might inhibit the quick release of some of those projects.

But in any case, up to this point in time, the road that the hon. member refers to has not been put into a DREE proposal because there have been other existing and ongoing roads projects that have taken priority. But I can assure the hon. member that after those priority ones that are there now are taken care of then, of course, the request that he puts forward will also, then, be considered.

MR. FLIGHT: A final supplementary.

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

MR. FLIGHT: A final supplementary,
Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: The Minister of Labour and Manpower, I believe it is. Would the minister tell the House what action his department or any department of government have taken to try and get paramedics on the oil rigs offshore here? This has been recommended recently and it is almost essential in view of the distance the oil rigs are offshore and so forth, to have at least somebody on board who is trained to some degree in medicine, paramedics, I think they call them. Has the minister taken any action to compel the oil companies or whoever is doing the drilling to put paramedics on the oil rigs?

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

The hon. the Minister of Labour

and Manpower.

MR. J. DINN:

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to get

that question, especially from the hon. the member for LaPoile (Mr. S. Neary). There is obviously a change in policy again. He wants us now to take over everything with respect to the offshore. I will certainly have a look at that and maybe we can. We are controlling employment offshore and many other things, maybe we will look at the possibility of taking over paramedics and making sure that the companies hire paramedics offshore.

MR. S. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. the member

for LaPoile.

MR. S. NEARY:

Obviously the hon. gentleman does not

know the difference between making rules and regulations and having a government employment list.

I would like to ask the Premier - the hon. gentleman said they want to take over everything offshore. Why is it that the oil companies will not permit the news media to go aboard these oil drilling rigs when they are drilling? And why is it that members of this House who have asked to go out and visit the oil rigs to have a look at conditions have not been allowed to go out? Why is this? Is there any reason for it? Why can not the television cameras be brought onboard when they are drilling? And why can not members of this House go out and have a look? I went once in the Gulf of Mexico aboard an oil drilling rig. I cannot go aboard one here off the Grand Banks. What is the problem?

MR. L. THOMS:

Cameras should be allowed in here too.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

I do not know about the press, whether

they have had problems getting aboard the rigs.

MR. S. NEARY:

While they are drilling.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

- while they are drilling. It is a good

point, because I do not know if there is a safety factor there or not.

PREMIER PECKFORD: But when we begin our series of seminars now for all members of the House on the offshore, we intend to also try to get a schedule for visitation to the rigs so all hon. members can visit the offshore rigs and watch them in operation. I do not know what it has been up to now. I would have to take it as notice. The Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. L. Barry) just walked in. He might be able to give some information as to why apparently some members of the House and the media are having difficulty getting on the rigs while the drilling is taking place. Obviously, the implication to the hon. member's question is that -

MR. S. NEARY: No, it is nothing to do with safety.

PREMIER PECKFORD: - when the drilling is not in place, is not being done, then there is no problem getting on the rigs, as I take it.

MR. S. NEARY: It has nothing to do with safety.

PREMIER PECKFORD: So it is only when drilling activity is underway -

MR. S. NEARY: That is all the time, continuous.

PREMIER PECKFORD: No, that is not true. The hon. member does not know all about the offshore that he thinks he does. The Minister of Mines and Energy might have some information on it.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Mines and Energy.

MR. L. BARRY: I am informed, Mr. Speaker, that there is an insurance problem as far as companies are concerned with respect to the coverage of individuals unconnected with the drilling operations going back and forth. But we are hoping that we can work something out where we will be able to have members who are interested, or members of the press for that matter, get access to see the operations of these rigs. I might add that it is a terribly boring experience. You are involved in a two to three hour helicopter ride both ways where you are sitting down, it is too noisy to talk to anybody, you are looking at the surface of the ocean and that is it. And by the time you get out there you are ready to come

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MR. L. BARRY: back in again. I would personally
recommend that anybody who is interested in seeing the operation wait
until the rigs come in to the harbour and

MR. L. BARRY:

go down and have a tour of them at your leisure because the difference between seeing the actual rig and seeing it in operation, you do not learn a lot more in the two instances.

MR. S. NEARY: Final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms) Final supplementary, the hon. member for LaPoile, followed by the hon. member for Terra Nova.

MR. S. NEARY: I look forward to the hon. Premier's suggestion that we may be able to go aboard these rigs. Obviously, the Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. L. Barry) was out and a good many more people were out who managed - this is rubbish, garbage the oil companies are talking about, the insurance. They take all kinds of people on board except the press, the media and the members of this House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, my final question is to the Minister of Labour and Manpower (Mr. J. Dinn) and it has to do with a matter I raised some time ago about the amount of time worked on the oil rigs. I think it is twenty-one days they work now, and most people in this Province feel the work schedule should be reduced to two weeks on and two weeks off. And the minister promised to look into that, that something may be done about it. Can the minister give us a progress report on what is happening in this regard because the hon. gentleman just told us that it is awful boring out there? Well, these men are out there twenty-one days, they must be awfully bored. It must be awfully frustrating for them. What is being done to get two weeks on and two weeks off?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Labour and Manpower.

MR. J. DINN: Mr. Speaker, I was not aware that the hon. Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. L. Barry) said it was boring out there. It is boring going out and coming back.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. J. DINN: The fact of the matter is,

Mr. Speaker, yes, the hon. member asked the question -

MR. G. FLIGHT: Are they boring you out there?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. J. DINN: - about the shift schedule out there which is twenty-eight days on and twenty-eight days off. Now, to this point in time I believe we have a person who is doing a polling of all the individuals who work in the offshore and to this point in time, the last time I checked he did not have any dissenting voices with respect to the twenty-eight days on and twenty-eight days off. Indeed, most people who he had contacted to that point in time, and I am not sure of the number, most people were in favour of the twenty-eight day on and the twenty-eight day off shift.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms) The hon. the member for Terra Nova.

MR. T. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, I have a further question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. C. Brett). I have a new name for that department when I get into the Concurrence Debate. I will not give that name now -

AN HON. MEMBER: Get on with it.

MR. T. LUSH: - but when I get into that I will have to recommend a new name. But, Mr. Speaker, the minister in talking about these estimates through the media mentioned that he thought that the monies were well-distributed throughout the Province. I am wondering whether the minister is satisfied that the representation on his side of the House and the percentage of the vote that they got in the Province warrants giving PC districts 84 per cent of the monies allocated, that is, 16 per cent to Liberal districts? Maybe the minister did not notice that, maybe it is all by chance but maybe the minister can speak to that, does he feel that the present representation on his side of the House and the percentage of the vote that they got from the people of Newfoundland warrants giving 84 per cent of the total expenditures to members on that side of the House?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

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

MR. C. BRETT: Mr. Speaker, I am not permitted to say that the hon. member is misleading the House, you would rule me out of order.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh! You can say that.

MR. C. BRETT: I would not be permitted to say it. But the hon. member knows that that is very, very misleading. There is only \$15 million of a Provincial program and that was tabled.

MR. LUSH: I am talking about the total. I am talking about the total.

MR. C. BRETT: I know the hon. member is talking about the total, but the hon. member is also aware that \$18 million of that is going on the Trans-Canada Highway.

MR. LUSH: They are in my district. They are included in my district.

MR. BRETT: And eighteen and fifteen and what is left of fifty-eight is going in DREE. So the hon. member knows that. That figure is very very misleading. Very misleading.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. T. LUSH: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. T. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, taking these figures -

MR. WARREN: Do not let him off the hook.

AN HON. MEMBER: The minister is misleading.

MR. T LUSH: - and calculate them as they are,

MR. T. LUSH: it is the minister that has included the monies of the Trans-Canada in the district. That is not my fault. I am taking the total monies that are allocated, \$58million and if that is worked out you will find that eighty-four per cent of it is in PC districts and I am asking the minister can he justify that eighty-four per cent to members on the other side? You cannot fake the figures. That is the exact per centage.

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

MR. C. BRETT: Mr. Speaker, there is no trouble at all to justify that, none whatsoever in this world. If the sections of the Trans Canada Highway that most needed to be upgraded happened to be populated by people who voted Conservative then there is nothing in this world I can do about it. Absolutely nothing.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. T. LUSH: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. T. LUSH: I can readily understand the concern of the Minister of Mines and Energy (L. Barry) this morning when he was talking about the synchroclift.

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. T. LUSH: I can readily understand it. He is well-versed in that kind of perverted thinking. He certainly knows how it works. Now, Mr. Speaker -

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member has a supplementary?

MR. T. LUSH: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I did not expect it though from this freshly sanitized government, I did not expect that kind of thing, this program. I wonder if the minister - if all ministers are

MR. T. LUSH: familiar with this marvelous booklet presented by the Rural Development Association from my district to convince the government to pave roads. I would venture to say that the minister did not get a proposal from any group in this Province, certainly not the ones included here. And I wonder if the minister submitted this to Cabinet? Can he tell this House whether this proposal from the Port Blandford to Winter Brook Rural Development Committee was submitted to Cabinet? A marvelous, an excellent document supporting why the roads should be paved in the Terra Nova district.

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

MR. C. BRETT: Mr. Speaker, I can produce dozens of documents -

MR. LUSH: Table them. Table them.

MR. C. BRETT: - equally as good as that one. You know, every single district in this Province has gravel roads -

MR. LUSH: Table them.

MR. C. BRETT: - can come up with a document like that. Every single one. So, no, that particular one I did not present it to Cabinet. I do not think I was -

MR. WARREN: Why was not it presented ?
Why? Why?

MR. C. BRETT: - asked to present it to Cabinet. That was presented to me as the Minister of Transportation and Communications.

AN HON. MEMBER: Why did you not present it to Cabinet?

MR. C. BRETT: So it was not presented to Cabinet and as I indicated I can come up with dozens equally as good as that one.

MR. T. LUSH: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): I indicated a final supplementary. The

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MR. SPEAKER: (Simms)

hon. the member for St. Barbe, unless

he wishes to yield.

MR. BENNETT:

I yield.

MR. T. LUSH:

Mr. Speaker, the point of the matter is

that this Committee asked emphatically for the Minister of Transportation

(C.Brett) to present this to his colleagues.

MR. LUSH: There was also a copy to the Premier, and one to the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan), and one to the Minister of Lands and Forests (Mr. Power).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please!

MR. LUSH: My question to the minister is, in order to get these roads done next year do we have to require this rural development committee to go through this again, to come up with a document, or is the minister going -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. LUSH: - is this document going to be good for next year, this submission that they put in this year?

AN HON. MEMBER: A good question.

MR. WARREN: Speak.

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

MR. BRETT: Mr. Speaker, I do not know how to answer a foolish question like that.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. BRETT: Mr. Speaker, that is a foolish, silly question. That document is -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. BRETT: You are asking me whether that document will be good next year this time. I suppose the document will always be good. You indicated it is a good brief, so it will still be good next year. Whether or not it will have any influence on whether money is allocated to the hon. member's district I do not know. I have already told the hon. member that everybody, every district in this Province that has gravel roads can present a brief to me or to Cabinet equally as good as that one.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Barbe.

MR. BENNETT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question is directed to the Minister of Transportation and Communications and I have asked this question, Mr. Speaker, many times -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

Order, please!

MR. BENNETT:

- in the last year.

Mr. Speaker -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

AN HON. MEMBER:

No more than fifty times, I tell you.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

I am having great difficulty in hearing -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

I am having great difficulty in hearing

members on both sides of the House and I trust there will not be any points of order raised because I cannot hear anything that is being said.

The hon. the member for St. Barbe.

MR. BENNETT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible).

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member has already had his opportunity.

MR. BENNETT:

I guess I will be invited to speak up, Mr. Speaker, myself to get above the noise. In view of the commitment, Mr. Speaker, that was made by the Minister of Transportation to the people of Bonne Bay last year, there was a one-man delegation came in here and had a meeting with the minister and a written commitment was given, I understand, by the minister to that committee, for upgrading and paving

MR. BENNETT: of that route 431. It has been an ongoing thing for years and years and years, Mr. Speaker, and I wonder now how the Minister feels.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. BENNETT: Well, these people have this commitment in writing from the minister how he feels now with the programme that is presently being put in place by the minister's department and by Parks Canada, I would like to get his comments, and especially how many miles are to be done in that area by the provincial department, upgrading and paving?

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

MR. BRETT: Mr. Speaker, I am not an engineer so I do not know how many miles of road we can do. What is it? How much money was allocated? The hon. member can read.

MR. BENNETT: \$500,000 provincial.

MR. BRETT: Well, if it is \$500,000, I do not know, it will probably do six or seven miles of road. I could not be certain. As I indicated, I am not an engineer.

AN HON. MEMBER: It depends on the bids.

MR. BRETT: It depends on the bids, that is right.

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MR. BENNETT:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

A supplementary. The hon. member

for St. Barbe.

MR. BENNETT:

I have been asking this question ever since I have been a member of the House of Assembly and I would like to remind the House that I am a member for a district, elected. When I have called out to my district in the last couple of days, since yesterday, I have not made a distinction in party politics. I have called indiscriminately to PC known supporters, and they are telling me how many dollars are allocated for that stretch of road, \$500,000, before I tell them. They are getting their information from the President of the PC Association and I am wondering how they get that information and why it is not available to me as the member for the district?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

AN HON. MEMBER:

Or any other member.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. BRETT:

I do not know, Mr. Speaker, that does not have anything to do with me. I am very busy running the Department of Transportation and Communications and if some -

AN HON. MEMBER:

That does not surprise us that you

do not know.

MR. BRETT:

- member of the PC party or the President of the PC Association or whoever else in the hon. member's district got some information, well, I say good for him. I am glad he did.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

Time for one final question. The hon. member for Eagle River.

MR. HISCOCK:

My question is to the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Brett). I wonder basically what is the sense of asking a question with the arrogance of this government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. HISCOCK: The question I want to ask is a petition was presented in this House with regards to the road from Lodge Bay to Mary's Harbour and I want basically to know if that road is going to be constructed this year, next year? The Premier has referred to it as the 'twilight zone'. We have heard many demands for roads here in this House today as well as other areas but that is a road where pregnant women have to go over to the hospital on skidoos. It is an area where there is no road at all, no mail can get in there in the Fall or the Spring.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please! I would suggest the hon. member ask his question if he wants an answer, because there are only about thirty seconds left.

MR. HISCOCK: I want to know where the Premier referred to the Trans-Labrador road and DREE agreements and waiting and depending on the federal government and pushing it over on the federal government, does the provincial government have any intentions of putting a road from Lodge Bay, which is six miles, to Mary's Harbour and if so when do they intend to do it or are they giving it to DREE and putting off their own responsibility?

MR. NEARY: A good question.

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

MR. BRETT: Mr. Speaker, we have every intention of building a road from Mary's Harbour to Lodge Bay, a very necessary link, but when we will be doing it I could not say.

MR. SPEAKER: The time for Oral Questions has expired.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. MARSHALL:

Motion 9 Bill No. 62.

Motion, the hon. the Minister of Mines and Energy to introduce a bill, "An Act Respecting The Supply Of Electrical Power To Industrial Users of Electricity And Enabling The Board Of Commissioners Of Public Utilities To Set The Rates That Industrial Users Must Pay For Electrical Power," carried. (Bill No. 62.)

On motion, Bill No. 62 read a first time ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

MR. MARSHALL:

Order 4. Concurrence motion on Social Services.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

Order 4. Concurrence motions on Social Services Committee Report. I believe there is about one hour and thirty minutes remaining.

The hon. the member for IaPoile.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to have a few words about the Justice estimates. We had a few words yesterday about the appointment of the Assistant Deputy Chief of Police, we had some recommendations from my colleague here on my right in connection with removing the uniformed policemen from the courts, and I want to zero in for the few moments that I have now at my disposal on the Public Tendering Act, on the report of the Public Accounts Committee last year that the Public Tendering Act, that the Minister of Fisheries, who was then Minister of Transportation and Communications, broke the law of this land, broke the law in this Province. The Public Accounts Committee, made up of four members from the government side of the House, three members from this side of

MR. S. NEARY:

the House, unanimously, all of them, all seven, said that the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. J. Morgan) who was at one time Minister of Transportation and Communications, broke the Public Tendering Act, in other words, broke the law. And we had the Minister of Social Services (Mr. T. Hickey) appear before the Public Accounts Committee and under cross-examination and under questioning, he said that if the Public Accounts Committee reported him to the House as having broken the law that he would not wait to be flung out of the Cabinet, that he would do the honourable and decent thing and he would resign. That is what the Minister of Social Services told the Public Accounts Committee this morning, that if he were found guilty of breaking the law of this Province, he would not wait for the Premier to fling him out, he would do the honourable and decent thing and resign. That is what he said. Members of the Public Accounts Committee can confirm what I am saying. Well, apparently, there is a disagreement. His colleague disagrees with him. The Minister of Fisheries does not feel like doing the honourable and decent thing, if he did he would have resigned when the report was brought into the House.

I am now putting it to the Minister of Justice (Mr. G. Ottenheimer). We already know the Premier's view on this matter. We know that the Premier brushed it off by saying that it was just an honest disagreement between the minister and the Committee, an honest disagreement, an honest mistake, that the minister was quite justified in breaking the law because it was good for the Public Treasury for him to break the law. That is the argument they are using. And, Mr. Speaker, now it is up to the Minister of Justice. What is the Minister of Justice going to do about this matter? A law has been broken. The Public Tendering Act has been violated, deliberately, I might add, by the minister's own admission. The minister himself admitted that he deliberately broke the Public Tendering Act because he thought he could save a few dollars. That is the excuse he is giving. In other words, if you think you can save a few dollars it is okay to break the law.

MR. S. NEARY:

Now, Mr. Speaker, in that act -

MR. STIRLING:

The Minister of Justice (Mr. G.Ottenheimer)

should stay for this.

MR. S. NEARY:

Yes, the Minister of Justice is running

away now.

MR. OTTENHEIMER:

(Inaudible) discussing his

(inaudible) department.

MR. HANCOCK:

I wish I could say the same for your head.

MR. S. NEARY:

Well, Mr. Speaker, it is now up to the

Minister of Justice to take whatever steps are necessary to bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion. You cannot have two laws in this Province, Mr. Speaker, one for the rich and one for members of the House of Assembly - and one for the ordinary people; you cannot have that kind of a situation. That makes a mockery out of justice. It makes the administration of justice in this Province a farce, a complete farce. And remember, Mr. Speaker - this is how serious this matter is - four members on the government side and three members on this side make up the Public Accounts Committee, so this side of the House is outnumbered by the government members. But the decision was unanimous. All seven, four on that side, three on this side said the minister was guilty of breaking the law. And the Premier allows him to sit there day in and day out, carry on his duties, sit in the Cabinet, as if nothing had happened.

MR. STIRLING:

The Premier was in that same Cabinet.

MR. S. NEARY:

The Premier was in that Cabinet.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman may have supported the Premier at the leadership convention.

MR. WARREN:

Forty-seven votes, was it?

MR. S. NEARY:

He may have supported him. He gave him

however many votes he had. I do not know, it was just a handful of votes.

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible).

MR. S. NEARY:

How many?

AN HON. MEMBER:

Fifty-six votes.

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MR. S. NEARY:

Fifty-six votes.

MR. WARREN:

Oh, is that all?

MR. S. NEARY:

So maybe the Premier feels under some

kind of a -

MR. J. MORGAN:

You will get no rise from me today.

MR. WARREN:

You are ashamed, that is why.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

Order, please!

MR. S. NEARY:

Maybe the Premier feels under some

kind of an obligation and this is the payola, this is the way he is rewarding the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. J. Morgan), rewarding him by not flinging him out of the Cabinet, by not demanding his resignation.

MR. THOMS:

The Minister of Fisheries threatened

to tell all.

MR. S. NEARY:

Now what is the Minister of Justice

(Mr. G. Ottenheimer) going to do about this? People all over this Province

MR. S. NEARY:

are saying today, or were saying when the report came out, it is almost ancient history now, but they said to me, "Well, look, does that mean now that I do not have to pay my parking tickets? Does that mean now that I can go down and rob a bank and the judge will say, 'Oh, this was only an honest disagreement between me and the bank?' Is that what the Minister of Justice (Mr. Ottenheimer) is going to condone? People are amazed, they are amazed at this government who said they were going to be open and honest.

MR. STIRLING:

And the President of Treasury Board (inaudible).

MR. S. NEARY:

That is right. Going to be open and honest and a government comprising of members of integrity, high integrity. That is the kind of an administration we were going to have. Well, Mr. Speaker, mistake number one on the part of the government was the Premier spending \$118,000 to move up in Mount Scio House, mistake number two - and it will be an accumulation of blunders that defeats government not one particular thing, although it could be one major item - blunder number two was ignoring the recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee and not flinging the minister out of the Cabinet -

MR. HANCOCK:

You are losing your voice, Steve.

MR. S. NEARY:

I am losing my voice is right, Sir. And mistake number three, of course, was that monstrosity we saw passed here in the House last week, that so-called provincial flag. And now, I am told, Mr. Speaker, they are going to go around the Province having ceremonies to celebrate the flag reminding the people of how much they hate it, that is all they will do. All the Premier will do is remind the people of this Province how much they hate that big rocket, that big dart that is down the center of that piece of rag.

MR. S. NEARY: But, Mr. Speaker, seriously, it is a very serious matter. The Minister of Justice (Mr. Ottenheimer) has to deal with it, he has to tell the House whether or not he is going to assert his powers as Attorney General, or not as Attorney General, as Minister of Justice. As Attorney General he advises the Premier and the Cabinet and as Minister of Justice he has to enforce the laws of this Province. Is he going to assert his authority as Minister of Justice, charge the minister, impeach the minister, do something? The law has been broken, the minister is still sitting there in the Cabinet. What authority does the Minister of Justice have in this case? And what advice has he given the Premier on this matter as Attorney General? The longer the hon. gentleman sits back and condones this and allows it to go on, a black mark on the administration of Justice in this Provinces, it makes a mockery out of the administration of Justice, the longer people are going to think that there are two laws in Newfoundland, one for the members of the House of Assembly and the rich and another one for the poor. I will look forward to hearing the Minister of Justice comment on this matter. It has to be dealt with, it is not just going to evaporate in thin air.

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

MR. G. OTTENHEIMER: Mr. Speaker, my comments will certainly be very brief. The hon. gentleman is referring to the report of the Public Accounts Committee tabled a couple of months or so ago. And as it was stated at that time, it was the opinion of the government that there was an honest difference of opinion between the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) and others. If any hon. members opposite or indeed elsewhere have information or evidence

MR. G. OTTENHEIMER: which would suggest that there is wrongdoing in this or any other thing, then obviously they may lodge a complaint. But that is that, you know, I do not know if there is a great deal more to be said about it or that I intend to say about it.

MR. L. STIRLING: Would you permit a question?

MR. G. OTTENHEIMER: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER (Butt): The hon. member for Bonavista North.

MR. L. STIRLING: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When you say, 'If we have any additional information'. If information was provided to you that gave you the information that this was done with the knowledge of the minister, the complete knowledge of the minister, not a difference of opinion but the complete knowledge of the minister, would that be the kind of information that might affect your decision?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. G. OTTENHEIMER: Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. gentleman will agree that, you know, it is very difficult for me to give an answer to a hypothetical question. What I suggest is if any hon. member has what he considers to be evidence of wrongdoing then he should lodge a complaint. I am not saying with me personally, with the prosecutorial staff or with the police. That is the usual procedure.

MR. L. STIRLING: Would you permit another question?

MR. G. OTTENHEIMER: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Bonavista North.

MR. L. STIRLING: Having some difficulty with the Act - as you are aware the Act has no penalty. There is no penalty in the Act that says, 'If you break the Act you then do this', and the President of the

MR. STIRLING: Treasury Board indicated it should go through its normal course, through the Public Accounts Committee. Now, it went through the Public Accounts Committee. I can pause while you get a briefing, if you like.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: This (inaudible) here has one too many (inaudible) actually I have it.

MR. STIRLING: So if, for example -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible) looking at you.

MR. STIRLING: I am trying to get some indication from the minister as to what kind of evidence he is talking about because it is very difficult - the President of the Council, when I asked for that information before, accused me of trying to make politics, and 'wait until the Public Accounts Committee comes in'. The Public Accounts Committee has now come in completely finding the man guilty. I am trying to look for the kind of information you are talking about. Would you say that written evidence from a senior civil servant indicating that the minister was about to break the Act and then was told that he had broken the Act, would you say that that is the kind of evidence that you are talking about?

MR. SPEAKER(Butt): The hon. the Minister of Justice.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Mr. Speaker, first let me make something of a correction there. It may just be terminology but I think it is more than that. Words can be used, obviously, in different senses, but, you know, the Public Accounts Committee found the man guilty, you know, guilty using the loose term, fair enough, but the Public Accounts Committee nor this Legislature - there is obviously a distinction between the function of the courts and the function of the Legislature. People say the Legislature is the highest court in the land, and

MR. OTTENHEIMER: that is true in a specific sense. It does not mean that the Legislature and the courts, as we generally understand it, are one and the same and their powers and prerogatives are one and the same, nor is this that kind of a court, nor is it a sort of magisterial enquiry kind of forum. The Legislature, you know, is not that. And I do not think that I have anything to add to what I said before. I do not think I should tell the hon. gentleman what he should have or should not have or that, but, you know, if anybody has information which they have reasonable and probably grounds to believe, evidence of wrongdoing, then they should pass it along to the appropriate authorities.

But, I mean, this Legislature is not the appropriate authority.

MR. NEARY: Would the minister say the police?

MR. OTTENHEIMER: I would say the police.

MR. NEARY: And what is the procedure?

MR. OTTENHEIMER: The police, you know.

MR. NEARY: Phone the police and ask for

an investigation?

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Well, you give it to the police and then the police, you know, they obviously make their own decision.

MR. NEARY: Would the hon. minister (inaudible).

MR. OTTENHEIMER: No. No. The police do not come to me.

MR. NEARY: Oh, they do go to your department.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: The police do not come and ask for permission when they enquire into something.

MR. NEARY: Oh yes they do.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: They may be in -

MR. NEARY: I beg your pardon, they do.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: If the hon. gentleman thinks that every police enquiry that starts they come to the Department of Justice and say -

MR. NEARY: Right on.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: -'Shall we investigate this?'

MR. NEARY: Right on.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Or, 'Should we not investigate that', that is not the case at all.

MR. NEARY: Oh yes it is.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: No. the hon. gentleman is totally wrong there. He is totally wrong there. I mean, he must realize -

MR. NEARY: I am totally right.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: - that if somebody phones up to the police, or goes into the police suggesting that so and so has evidence of some planned robbery or this or that, the hon. gentleman really does not think then they phone the Department of Justice and say, 'Should we investigate this or should we not investigate this?'

MR. NEARY: Involving members of this House and the ministry they do.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: No. no.

MR. NEARY: Oh every time, I guarantee you they do.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: No. no.

MR. SPEAKER(Butt): The hon. the member for Grand Bank.

MR. THOMS: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think the Minister of Justice is still hiding his head in the sand on a great many things and when I heard again that there was no wrongdoing according to

MR. THOMS: the report of the Public Accounts Committee, that it was a difference of opinion between two different people, of course, that is, Mr. Speaker, a lot of nonsense, arrant nonsense. Because it was not a difference of opinion. I am not judging whether or not the Minister of Fisheries was right or wrong or whether he did or he did not do it, but the Public Accounts Committee of this House found that the Minister of Fisheries knowingly contravened the Public Tendering Act. Now, that is not a difference of opinion between two people, that is a unanimous decision of the Public Accounts Committee on which Committee there are four Tories. You cannot even say it is the Liberals out to try to get a Cabinet minister. It is not a difference of opinion, it is a finding of the Public Accounts Committee that the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) of this Province knowingly, on two occasions, contravened the Public Tendering Act.

But, of course, Mr. Speaker, both my friend from LaPoile (Mr. Neary) and Bonavista North (Mr. Stirling) and the Minister of Justice (Mr. Ottenheimer), they are missing the whole problem with the Public Tendering Act. The Public Tendering Act is not worth the paper it is written on, it is a toothless, useless document. That is what is wrong with the Public Tendering Act. And it was a Public Tendering Act that

MR. L. THOMS:

was drafted by the President of the Council (Mr. W. Marshall) but it is not worth the paper it is printed on for the simple reason that there are no punishments. Any minister, including the Minister of Health (Mr. W. House), can contravene the Public Tendering Act, anyone can do it. There can be an investigation, it can be found beyond a shadow of a doubt that any minister in this Province, this government, or any government has contravened the Act. So what? There is nothing, there is no clause in the Public Tendering Act which says that the minister in any way, shape or form is to be punished for contravening the Act.

MR. S. NEARY:

So the hon. thing to do is resign from the Cabinet.

MR. L. THOMS:

The Act is toothless. Now, the only remedy that the people of this Province have is if the Premier of this Province has the intestinal fortitude to give the kind of honest, upright, outstanding government that he stands in this House day after day and gives lip service to. And if the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. J. Morgan), of course, had any grain of decency or honesty in him he would resign.

MR. W. MARSHALL:

A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Butt):

The hon. the President of the Council on a point of order.

MR. W. MARSHALL:

We have allowed the hon. gentleman latitude from time to time because we do realize he is tending to become cloned with the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. S. Neary) but that is going too far. You are not allowed to impugn the honest or integrity of any member and the hon. member has done that by those words.

MR. SPEAKER:

That is a legitimate point of order and I would ask the hon. member for Grand Bank (Mr. L. Thoms) to withdraw these remarks 'honesty and integrity' as he refers to the hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. L. THOMS:

Of course, Mr. Speaker, I will be very glad to withdraw them. Now, I have got to figure how I can say that he - well, he just does not have the intestinal fortitude to do what is right and proper for a minister in that particular situation. And, of course, unless

MR. L. THOMS: the Cabinet, unless the Premier of this Province is going to give us the type of government that he has given lip service to since June 18th, then any minister can contravene this toothless piece of legislation until the cows come home. And the PAC or the police or the Department of Justice, of course, can find what they like but there is just nothing in the legislation to make it worthwhile, because there are no punishments provided for in the Public Tendering Act.

 The minister admitted during the Public Accounts Committee that, for example, the section dealing with renewing or extending of contracts - because the Public Tendering Act reads that: "In an extension of a contract it must be extended at the same unit price." So the minister said, "Well, I have got to take that literally, I have got to give my buddy the extension to the contract at the same price even if somebody else, who wants to get rid of a few yards of gravel, is prepared to sell it at a price less than the original contract." And, of course, we saw the convoluted logic of this administration when the Municipalities Act went through this House and it carried the exact same provision, where councils in this Province who are extending contracts must extend the contract at the same unit price. So if the Town Council in Grand Bank

MR. THOMS: wants to make a deal with somebody and get extra yardage from a contractor who has got it in his backyard doing nothing, he cannot do it. If the going price is \$100 a yard or whatever it might be, then he must pay, even if the contractor comes up and says, "Look, give me \$25 and you can have the lot of it." The Public Tendering Act prevents that from happening. And so what does this administration do? They force through a municipalities act with the same one - with the government admitting that this is a defect in the Public Tendering Act. They admit that. But they make the same mistake in the municipalities act. And the problem, Mr. Speaker, as I said, is that the Public Tendering Act is a useless, useless, useless document, because no matter what is found by the PAC, by the Police, by the RCMP, it does not really matter. The only check, the only check is for the person who is so found to be wanting to have the intestinal fortitude to offer his resignation, either that or to have a Premier who has the intestinal fortitude to ask for that person's resignation.

That is what is wrong with the Public Tendering Act. It is as simple as that. And until the Public Tendering Act has gotten some teeth in it you might as well throw it out.

MR. NEARY: Awfully discouraging.

MR. THOMS: It is terribly discouraging.

MR. NEARY: Disappointing. What a disappointment.

MR. THOMS: In the last session of the House I was told that the Public Tendering Act would be reviewed. I believe the Premier made a statement that the Public Tendering Act would be reviewed. There is no indication that we are going to get any new legislation or amendments to the Public Tendering Act. The Public Tendering Act is not a big document. I think the government should scrap it and get somebody in the Legislative Council to draft a new act. That is what is wrong with the act, it is badly drafted. It is badly drafted. Now, whether or not remedies were left out of

MR. THOMS: the act intentionally or not I do not know, but because they are left out, the Public Tendering Act is absolutely useless.

Mr. Speaker, my ten minutes are up. I have a few other things I want to say in connection with the Justice Head, so I will get another crack at it I guess.

MR. SPEAKER (Butt): The hon. member for Bonavista North.

MR. STIRLING: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Under this section I would like to try to find out from the President of the Council, who drafted the Public Tendering Act and said it was a great piece of legislation, never again would you ever have the kinds of things that in his imagination certainly, at least, happened, and when I asked a question in the House about what legal action was going to be taken, he got very upset and said, "Let it go through the Public Accounts Committee". I was sure that when the Public Accounts Committee Report came in that since there was nothing in the legislation that had a penalty for a minister, that the obvious thing would be, once the minister had been caught, the minister himself would voluntarily resign and if that happened I was sure that the President of the Council would not sit in a Cabinet with somebody who admitted to contravening his act, his precious act, the act that was to be the new look. I think one of the things that caused him to leave the previous Cabinet was the abuses under the Public Tendering concept. I was sure that the President of the Council certainly would not sit with that Cabinet Minister. And then I thought that the Premier, the Premier who was so anxious to disassociate himself from the same Cabinet that he had served in for seven years, I was sure that that Premier would have no other choice, since there was no other penalty, but to say that he was not going to have that kind of minister in his Cabinet. Instead - interesting the difference in concept, When a committee of this House brought in the flag, a committee of this House, from both sides, we were told that was the answer, here was a committee representing both

MR. L. STIRLING:

sides

which brought in a flag and, therefore, it should be adopted even though the people of Newfoundland had not seen it.

However, when you get a committee representing both sides of the House, and I have never worked with more conscientious people than the people on the other side of this House, they were very careful that they wanted to look into every aspect, gave the minister every opportunity to clear himself and there is no question that we came to the unanimous opinion that the minister had knowingly broken the law. And the legal minds said, 'Oh, yes, well, technically because this law is written in such a way - there was a fisherman fined a thousand dollars the other day because he used the wrong kind of net and when he went to the court did the court say to him, 'Well, boy it is alright if you put the fish back in and if you did not really intend to take more fish than you would normally take with another kind of net, that would be alright, and it was just a difference of opinion between you and the law enforcement officer about the kind of net you were to use? No, that fisherman got fined a thousand dollars.

But the Minister of Fisheries (J. Morgan) can break the law, and let us have not doubt about it, as far as the people of Newfoundland are concerned the Minister of Fisheries has been found by a Court of his peers as having broken the law. Now I hope that the President of the Council (W. Marshall) will tell us, where do we go from here? We brought in, under his drafting, a clean new piece of legislation which is the best in Canada and he suggested, 'Do not play politics with this, let the Public Accounts Committee handle it! The Public Accounts Committee has found that the man was guilty. Not only that, a senior Deputy Minister had told the minister, to use the expression of the Senior Deputy Minister, 'I have told him ad nauseam that he was breaking

MR. L. STIRLING: the Public Tendering Act, this great piece of legislation that the President of the Council (W.Marshall) has brought in.

Now, the legal people who are involved in drafting - my colleague from Grand Bank(L. Thoms) said there is not even a section that sets out a fine. What happens if you break the Public Tendering Act? Do you pay a thousand dollars? Do you get fired? What do you do? And we were sort of - the suggestion was well, give the man a fair hearing. Let him have his fair hearing and the Premier or the Cabinet will do the honourable thing.

I would like to ask the President of the Council, where do we go from here? It is one thing to adopt a flag that can be held up to ridicule, that is one thing, but what do we do? What is the thinking of Cabinet? What kind of thing can go on in the minds of the Cabinet, because great authority has been given to the Cabinet, under the protection of their oath of secrecy. Great protection for the Cabinet.

What do we do to let a Cabinet member know that as soon as he steps outside the bounds of what is expected conduct, like repeatedly, knowingly breaking the Public Tendering Act - what kind of a Premier can sit and say, 'Oh, that is a difference of opinion? I can understand it if a member for this side had a difference of opinion. This was found by members for both sides - members for both sides. Members who are very strong and loyal to the political party on the other side, the most outspoken defenders of the PC's were on that committee, the member for St. John's North (J. Carter), the member for Stephenville (F. Stagg), the member from Menihek (P. Walsh). These were people - and the new member for St. John's West (H. Barrett) - great spokesmen, and they were very concerned as we drafted that report. They said, 'Look, we have to be absolutely sure beyond a shadow of a doubt, absolutely sure

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MR. L. STIRLING:

beyond a shadow of a doubt that this man is guilty of the offense that we are going to report. And there was not the slightest doubt.

MR. L. STIRLING: And I am sure that everyone of us expected that the Premier would do the honourable thing. Now, the Premier was in the Cabinet, of course, at the time and this morning - the President of the Council (Mr. W. Marshall) might be interested in this - this morning a member who was also in that Cabinet, the Minister of Social Services (Mr. T. Hickey), offered two defenses for that minister. The first defense is that he never broke the law without letting his Cabinet know about it, he was not the only one who did it. His first defense was, 'Yes, he broke -' what was different was that he broke the law -

MR. L. THOMS: It is alright to break the law like this when you know (inaudible)

MR. L. STIRLING: Now, this is his first defense. The first defense was, "Oh, that was different. I know that the man knowingly contravened the Public Tendering Act." But what he said this morning to the Committee, his first defense, he never did it without letting the Cabinet know about it. The Cabinet knew about it. That was his first defense.

And the second defense -

MR. T. HICKEY: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: (Butt) A point of order, the hon. the Minister of Social Services.

MR. T. HICKEY: If the hon. member is going to quote me, he should quote me very accurately. I did not make any such statement. This morning what I said at the Public Accounts Committee meeting was that my colleague the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. C. Brett), although he probably did something outside the true meaning of the Public Tendering Act, did not do it on his own and was not alone in that decision. I did not say Cabinet, that is what I said.

MR. S. NEARY: Will you hang separately or hang jointly?

MR. SPEAKER: I would rule that there is no point of order but the hon. the Minister of Social Services took the opportunity to clarify remarks attributed to him.

The hon. member for Bonavista North,

two minutes.

MR. L. STIRLING: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I -

MR. J. DINN: Why do you not read it?

MR. S. NEARY: Oh, look at little Mussolini.

MR. L. STIRLING: Mr. Speaker, let me -

MR. S. NEARY: (inaudible) works for the telephone company.

MR. SPEAKER (Butt): Order, please! The hon. member for Bonavista North.

MR. L. STIRLING: Mr. Speaker, let me hasten

MR. S. NEARY: (Inaudible) letting you off there the other day.

MR. L. STIRLING: - let me hasten to add -

MR. S. NEARY: (Inaudible) the other day.

MR. J. DINN: Do down and read it.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please! I am having difficulty hearing the hon. member.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Bonavista North. Order, please, hon. gentleman.

MR. L. STIRLING: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me hasten to add that the Minister of Social Services (Mr. T. Hickey), he was Recreation at the time, let me hasten to add that what he just corrected is exactly what he said and he knew precisely what he was saying. He made the assumption that I said it was Cabinet and what he is really saying now is that we have to go back and open up that whole subject because, obviously, that minister knew that 'Mr. Morgan' did it but not alone, there were others involved in it. Now, I do not know who else it would be -

MR. T. HICKEY: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order, the hon. the Minister of Social Services.

MR. T. HICKEY: I do not want to continue to rise on points of order. It is not my wish to delay the Committee but the hon. gentleman has got to be awfully careful when he is quoting or inferring what I said or what I thought. He can only say or quote what I said. I did not say I knew about it. I said my colleague, the then Minister of Transportation

MR. T. HICKEY: and Communications, was not alone in that decision. I did not say who knew it, I did not say I knew it, I am simply saying he did not act alone. He had the blessing of someone other than himself.

MR. SPEAKER: (Butt) Once again, I would have to rule there is no point of order but the hon. Minister of Social Services took the opportunity to clarify remarks attributed to him.

The hon. member has thirty-five seconds left. The hon. member for Bonavista North.

MR. L. STIRLING: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The minister has now opened a whole new subject and I hope I will get the opportunity, if one of my colleagues intervene, to come back on that.

Now, let me get exactly what he said today, just said a minute ago, not alone in that decision. Okay. He admits, this minister, that he broke the law but one of his defenses if he was not alone in that decision and the second defense, that he used this morning, I presume he will agree, was that he was

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. L. STIRLING: - saving money. Those are the two defenses on the whole piece of business.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please! The hon. member's time has expired.

MR. L. THOMS: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the member for Grand Bank.

MR. L. THOMS: 'Len', do you want to continue?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Bonavista North.

MR. L. STIRLING: Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Social Services has opened up a whole new subject for us and it came up, to answer the question for the Minister of Finance (Dr. J. Collins), was this a Committee Report? No, it was not a Committee Report. Mr. Speaker, the most serious question that we have to try to find out is what is happening inside of that

MR. STIRLING:

Cabinet? What is going on inside that Cabinet? What kind of a standard do they use? What kind of a standard do they use to say, Well, it is alright for him to break the law. Now we have an interesting situation. We have a minister—and we had all of the information or we thought we had all the information. The Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey) now opens up a subject, did we really have all the information? Based on that we came to a conclusion. Now the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey), when we were trying to find out this morning what was the difference between what the Cabinet member did, I think that he in an honourable way said this morning that no Premier would have to throw me out, I would resign from the Cabinet if I did anything dishonourable. Now, I may be paraphrasing him, I may be giving him more credit than I should now but I thought it was an honourable thing that he said, I look at what I am doing in Cabinet as a sacred trust and if anything came back to me as having contravened an act or being guilty of an offence he would not have to throw me out, I would resign, I would do the honourable thing. Now I am not sure if that was exactly what you said. Did you?

MR. HICKEY:

(Inaudible)

MR. STIRLING:

Okay. So I was trying to find out what the standard was and the standard we found out now—he started to defend and he said, "Oh yes, I know that the minister broke the law." But the two defences that he put up were - let me use his exact quote here in the House, "He was not alone in that decision." In other words, he broke the law but because he was not alone in that decision he should not resign. He should not resign from the Cabinet because he was not alone in this decision. Now who else was it? That is a whole new subject that the Public Accounts Committee is going to have to resurrect and if I can persuade my colleague from LaPoile (Mr. Neary) to look back at some of that old material we might -

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MR. NEARY: No, I am going towards Walsh and McLean; A.B. Walsh and George McLean.

MR. STIRLING: Now, the hon. member who has been dubbed by - it is interesting in this House of Assembly where we go through the facade of saying well, we must have decorum. Like, for example, my colleague from Grand Bank (Mr. Thoms) cannot say that the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) was dishonest. He withdrew the remark. He can say that the Public Accounts Committee have found that the minister broke the law. He is allowed to say that. He cannot, like a fisherman, for example, he is the Minister of Fisheries now - if a fisherman goes out and uses the wrong kind of net or he takes his net in too late or too early, he can be taken to court and that fisherman does not get a chance to plead his case. The Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) came to a court of his peers, the Public Accounts Committee, who gave him a full hearing, a full hearing and now in this House we cannot say, "Oh my goodness they were trying to deceive us." We cannot say that they were trying to cover up. We cannot say that the Cabinet knew something that should not have been done. We cannot say any of those things but it is alright for a minister to say this morning, "But it was alright because he was not acting alone." We seem to have some kind of an idea that as long as you share the guilt with somebody else it is okay to have it happen. On the Flag Committee they could not tolerate public discussion and it was a joint committee. Now, what are some of the other things that were said to the Public Accounts Committee? A senior official Deputy Minister level, when the minister was in Transportation, the senior man said, "I have told the minister ad nauseam that he is breaking the Public Tendering Act." Another matter -

DR. J. COLLINS: Are you quoting the official?

MR. L. STIRLING: I am quoting the official.

DR. J. COLLINS: He said that word?

MR. L. STIRLING: He said that word. I am sure that the Minister of Finance (Dr. J. Collins) is not aware, because I am sure he could not sit in a Cabinet with a man of whom a senior official had said to that, 'I have told him ad nauseam.' I know it was a surprise. I know you are surprised by it. You did not read the material in the Public Accounts Committee.

DR. J. COLLINS: I was asking for accuracy.

MR. L. STIRLING: Oh, I am - absolutely accurate, agreed to by your four colleagues on that side. You know, another thing -

MR. D. HOLLETT: Five now.

MR. L. STIRLING: Yes, and a convert. That is right.

MR. J. MORGAN: You are biting water.

MR. D. HOLLETT: Ha, you nibbled again.

MR. L. STIRLING: A little nibble.

Do you know what else? I would expect that he will now be up on points of order and interrupt because he knows a few other things I am about to say. Another thing that he said was, 'We are going to go ahead and place this order,' and senior officials - Mr. Minister of Finance, listen to this - senior officials said, 'If you are going to send that letter out, you sign the letter because we will not sign it.' Senior officials in his department would not sign the letter which he sent out inviting two people to submit bids, and awarded a bid not in accordance with the Public Tendering Act. Why do you think that five people on that side - or four then, another one now - why do you think that those people without a blemish said, 'This man contravened the Public Tendering Act? Is the Premier aware that he was told again and again, so much so that the deputy minister of the day said, 'I told the minister ad nauseam'? And that is why the Minister of Finance showed such shock, to say, 'Did the senior official really use that expression?' And he did.

MR. L. STIRLING: This was in a Cabinet that seemed to be setting a standard based on the conduct that it is alright as long as the Cabinet knows about it. Do you know that the minister said to that Committee in his opening remarks? He said, 'I have never contravened the act without the authority of the Cabinet.' When the Premier of the day appeared he said, 'Well, I did not know what it was about.' Now, the Minister of Social Services (Mr.T.Hickey) has entered another character into this scene. The Minister of Social Services said he was not alone in that decision.

My time has run out again.

I would like to know what kind of standard that the Premier uses. The Premier, who I expected - I said to the people on the Committee, the Minister of Fisheries (Mr.J.Morgan) has been set up now and he is going to be flicked out within three or four days of becoming Minister of Fisheries. He is going to be flicked out because this Premier will not tolerate in his Cabinet somebody who has been found guilty by all his peers. I said, 'It will not last,' and we were speculating on whether 'Mr. Andrews' would be the new Minister of Fisheries after 'Mr. Morgan' was flicked out by the Premier.

From a political point of view, I think, as my colleague from LaPoile (Mr. Neary) has said -

MR. J. MORGAN:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. D. HANCOCK:

Now, you said you were not going to get up today.

MR. J. MORGAN:

Just a minor point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Butt):

A point of order, the hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. J. MORGAN:

Could I have some quiet, Mr. Speaker, please?

On a very minor point of order but a very important one. When referring to members of the House, members of the House have to be referred to by the districts that they represent, not by their names.

MR. SPEAKER (Butt): That is a legitimate point of order and I will ask all hon. members to refer to other hon. members by their district or their portfolio.

The hon. the member for Bonavista North (Mr. L. Stirling) has approximately fifteen seconds left.

MR. L. STIRLING: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would challenge the President of the Council (Mr. W. Marshall) who drafted this legislation to tell us, where do we go from here? We cannot take the man to court under any section of the act - he broke the act, like for example, a fisherman could be taken for breaking the act or for a parking ticket -

MR. STIRLING: People have been put in the jail for parking tickets. There is nothing in the Public Tendering Act that says what happens to a minister who knowingly breaks the act.

MR. SPEAKER (Butt): Order, please! The hon. gentleman's time has expired.

The hon. the President of the Council.

AN HON. MEMBER: He is going to get defensive.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I have no intention really or - it is regrettable that I have to follow the member for Bonavista North in speaking because I have no real intention of responding, as he wished to have us respond, in depth, to his statements. They have been responded to from time and time and time again.

This is a matter of the concurrence debates on the budget and I do not think it is going to profit us any to carry on the investigative type of thing that the hon. member likes to join with his colleague, the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) in. He gets up and he casts little indirect inuendoes against people about keeping commitments and all that. I have no intention of responding to that. I would say if the hon. gentleman wants to talk about keeping commitments he should really concern himself with his own house and keep his commitment to the people in Dover whom he promised he would set up a constituency office in his own district. And they are still not just waiting for the constituency office but to see the hon. member himself.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL: So I have no intention, Mr. Speaker - the hon. -

MR. L. STIRLING: (Inaudible).

MR. MARSHALL: The hon. gentleman is trying to pattern himself against the member for LaPoile, 'Steve' and 'Stirling', the SS men.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL: That is what he is trying to do, Mr. Speaker, the SS men, the great investigators, the great gentlemen trying to find skeletons under every rock.

MR. L. STIRLING: Oh listen to the expert in that.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, look, this is a matter -

MR. STIRLING: (Inaudible).

MR. MARSHALL: - this is a matter - I am not going to speak to the hon. the SS man, Mr. Speaker. I have no intention of responding to him. I will leave him to his investigations in the Public Accounts Committee, the Public Accounts Committee that this government set up, but which the hon. gentlemen there opposite, as you can see from his statement, 'we found someone guilty; they regard it as a great inquisition and on that is going to hinge as to whether or not that Committee can operate as an effective organ or not. And I doubt very much, if it continues on in the way in which the hon. member for Bonavista North (Mr. Stirling) and his immediate colleague, the other member of the team continue on, as they are reported to continue on, that it will be a very effective committee.

But I tell the hon. member for Bonavista North that he is just a little child when it comes to trying to measure up to the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) in the hon. member for LaPoile's modus operandi, and he would be much better off for his own future if he tried to develop one for himself.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we are now concerned with the report of the Social Services Committee. And I have heard speeches being made from time to time in this House but I have not heard anything relating to the departments themselves and the positive things. I am going to talk for just a few moments about some of the positive things. Did the hon. gentlemen there opposite, particularly the member for LaPoile, get up and mention anything about the new hospital at Channel-Port aux Basques? We heard today in this House, Mr. Speaker, about the alleged attempts of this government to only pave and only give services to districts where PCs are. We have not heard, Mr. Speaker,

MR. MARSHALL: once, not one word from the other side of this House about the hospital at Channel-Port aux Basques, which when you consider -

MR. L. THOMS: What about Salt Pond?

MR. MARSHALL: - when you consider -

MR. L. THOMS: What about Salt Pond?

MR. SPEAKER (Butt): Order, please!

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, when you consider the -

MR. DINN: The one near Salt Pond?

MR. MARSHALL: - when you consider, Mr. Speaker, the financial constraints in this Province it is a monumental task. The hospital did not go in St. John's. It did not go in the district of Trinity North. It went in what district? It went in LaPoile. And what is the type of reaction that we get? What kind of support do we get? The member for LaPoile himself gets up in response to the first speaker for the Opposition and has unlimited time to respond to the Budget Speech and spent the whole time talking about how bad the Budget Speech was. Now this is the same hon. member- does he not want his hospital at Channel-Port aux Basques? We have not heard a positive word, Mr. Speaker, coming from the other side of the House.

There are other matters, Mr. Speaker, before this House and this is the purpose of the committees and the concurrence debates. What about the ten per cent increase rates in social assistance? Instead of trying to lambaste the Minister of Social Assistance for their own imagined grievances, why about that positive step? Then again back on the health programme, what about the drug programme, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the citizens?

MR. H. YOUNG: What about the ambulance?

MR. MARSHALL: Are the hon. members there opposite not interested in that at all? Are they not interested in asking questions as to what is involved in this programme, what measures can perhaps be made to improve it? How we can possibly expand it in the future, are they interested? No, Mr. Speaker, they are not interested in that, they

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MR. MARSHALL: are only interested in their pathological and their psychological rantings, based upon, Mr. Speaker - led, as I say, by the two SS men on the other side of the House.

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

MR. SPEAKER (Butt): A point of order, the hon. member for Grand Bank.

MR. L. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, Your Honor has already ruled that you are not permitted to refer to an hon. member in this House by his name, you have to refer to him by the district he represents. I am wondering if it is not just as unparliamentary to call a person an SS man. The hon. the President of the Council (W.Marshall) has just called the member for Bonavista - North (L.Stirling) and the member for LaPoile (S. Neary) SS men.

MR. J. COLLINS: To the point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Butt): To the point of order, the hon. the Minister of Finance.

MR. L. THOMS: - with all its connotations.

DR. J. COLLINS: Would the hon. member tell us if we cannot do that can we refer to certain members as flip-flop members, would that be permitted?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh !

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

To the point of order, there is a point of order. Order, please! All hon. members in the House should be referred to by their districts or their portfolios that they represent. The hon the President of the Council.

MR. W. MARSHALL: I have to, Mr. Speaker, convey to you my apologies. I wish to make it known to the House that when I was talking about SS men I was not speaking in the general connotation but as I described them first as 'Steve' and Stirling! But Mr. Speaker I do understand and I will identify them - in future I will refer to these two gentlemen as the hon. the member for Bonavista North and the hon. the member for LaPoile. Now, Mr. Speaker, we have before this House in

MR. W. MARSHALL: - this category of departments many positive programs that have been bought in the Budget. What about the government's medical transportation program with respect to Labrador? Have there been any questions on that, Mr. Speaker?

MR. STIRLING: (Inaudible) over and over - three times and there was no answer.

MR. W. MARSHALL: Have there been any questions in the concurrence debates?

MR. STIRLING: Three times.

MR. SPEAKER (Butt) Order, please !

MR. W. MARSHALL: In the concurrence debates - the members seemingly most affected are the members from Labrador.

MR. STIRLING: They have asked over and over and there has been no answer.

MR. MARSHALL: The members on the opposite side, the members in turn - have we heard any questions in the concurrence debates from the members from Torngat Mountains (G. Warren) and Eagle River (E. Hiscock)? No.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, no.

MR. MARSHALL: Because they cannot get into the debate, Mr. Speaker. They cannot get into the debate because the front liners there wish to get on their and cast their little inuendos.

MR. YOUNG: (Inaudible)

AN HON. MEMBER: Nothing is sacred in front of (inaudible)

MR. MARSHALL: Now the hon. member, look I will tell you what is sacred about the - I remember the hon. member for Bonavista North (L. Stirling) when he was not the member for Bonavista North, when there was a great conference called one time of industrialists

MR. W. MARSHALL: in Newfoundland at the Arts and Culture Centre -

MR. L. THOMS: (Inaudible).

MR. MARSHALL: - and his great leader at the time, the only living father, was in charge of it. I can remember the hon. gentleman there opposite getting down in the stands, in the side, in the wings and singing, How Great Thou Art - not to the Only Living Father, because he did not do that at the time, but how great were all the contractors there at the time, these contractors who used to carry off contracts day after day in their hip pockets. But the very presence of the Public Tender Act, Mr. Speaker, number one, will prevent them from doing it in the future. In fifty years time, that is when we will see the effectiveness of it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. L. STIRLING: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Butt): A point of order, the hon. the member for Bonavista North.

MR. L. STIRLING: A point of order. I am flabbergasted. The member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall) has completely either fabricated or dug down to the deep, dark recesses of wherever his -

MR. B. TULK: That is all he is capable of doing.

MR. L. STIRLING: I got a two minute warning, thank you very much. I do not know what came out of that deep, dark mind to associate me, when I was at that time Deputy Mayor of the City, with some remarks that have absolutely nothing to do - it is a complete fabrication and innuendo of the worst order, Mr. Speaker. I have never had anything to do with a contractor, I have never worked for a contractor, made no such speech, and he is guilty of the worst type of image slandering that he has ever completed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I think I have heard enough to make my ruling that there is obviously no point of order, but the hon. member took an opportunity to clarify remarks or a particular situation attributed to him.

MR. SPEAKER (Butt): The hon. President of the Council has one minute left to conclude.

MR. W. MARSHALL: So that I can just clarify it, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman was in the wings, he spoke in support of a very prominent contractor or contractors at the particular time. As I say, I do remember him vividly, he was standing as small figure, as it were in the wings, as he stands now in the wings of the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) and in his shade.

But, Mr. Speaker, let me say this we are in the concurrence -

MR. L. STIRLING: A point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A point of privilege, the hon. member for Bonavista North.

MR. L. STIRLING: The member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall) is a blatant liar.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. W. MARSHALL: Now, Mr. Speaker, I have to ask for a retraction, an immediate retraction of that. You cannot call people that.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member must retract that. That is totally unparliamentary and the hon. member has to retract then to rule on the point of privilege.

MR. L. STIRLING: Mr. Speaker, that is my point of privilege that I have been completely maligned and the man is a barefaced liar and it is a barefaced lie.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of privilege, so I will have to ask the hon. member to withdraw that.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Name him. Name him. Fire him out.

May 29, 1980

Tape No. 1921

DW - 2

MR. SPEAKER (Butt): Once again I will ask the hon. member for Bonavista North (Mr. Stirling) to withdraw.

MR. L. STIRLING: Mr. Speaker, I have no protection against somebody who completely fabricates something and it is a deliberate barefaced lie. And I cannot withdraw something which is a lie.

MR. SPEAKER: I will recess very briefly.

RECESS

MR. SPEAKER (Butt):

Order, please!

I will give the hon. the member for Bonavista North (Mr. L. Stirling) one final opportunity to withdraw the term 'barefaced liar'.

MR. L. STIRLING:

Mr. Speaker, I have consulted with my colleagues and it has been pointed out to me that, in fact, if I continue to use that term, I am showing disrespect for the Chair and certainly none is wished. I certainly have no intention of showing any disrespect for the Chair, none whatsoever. And if it is understood in that context, Mr. Chairman, I certainly withdraw the remark as a matter of respect for the Chair.

MR. R. MOORES:

Hear, hear!

MR. L. STIRLING:

And I intend to -

AN HON. MEMBER:

No, that is not good enough.

MR. L. STIRLING:

If you will allow me to finish.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. L. STIRLING:

I can understand that things get said in the heat of debate. I intend to consult with the President of the Council (Mr. W. Marshall) because things were said on both sides. I am going to give the President of the Council - not at this meeting, but afterwards, after we discuss it, to find out the context in which he meant it, I am going to give him the opportunity to clear the air, and, Mr. Speaker, I categorically say that there is - and I am sure that when the member for St. John's East gets a chance to look at Hansard he will see that I could not sit here and accept the connotation of kickbacks, payoffs, rip-offs with a comment that he says I made ten years ago at a development conference. I have to reject that categorically as being untrue and a complete fabrication, and of the worst order, Mr. Speaker, because I cannot, Mr. Speaker - it is the kind of thing you cannot defend yourself against if somebody says something which is untrue, and it is, Sir, untrue. But in the context of the respect for this House and the respect for the Speaker, I withdraw the words, whatever they were that were offensive -

MR. SPEAKER:

Barefaced liar.

MR. L. STIRLING: - barefaced liar, and I certainly withdraw those words. And I really intend to consult outside the House with the member for St. John's East (Mr. W. Marshall) afterwards to find the context in which it was done. So in that context, Mr. Speaker, I withdraw the words 'barefaced liar'.

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Butt): The hon. the member for LaPoile.

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, word came in on the wire from VOCCM a few moments ago that there was trouble over in front of the police barracks this afternoon when the Police Brotherhood requested the Chief of Police to allow the Canadian Police Association representatives who are visiting the Province an opportunity to speak to the Brotherhood members after a parade they had on the parade grounds. The Chief of Police, Mr. Roche, denied the Brotherhood the opportunity to invite their guests who are visiting the Province from the Canadian Police Association to speak to the Brotherhood members and they were forced to go out then into the parking lot to hold their meeting. And I heard the President of the Brotherhood on VOCCM state that as a result of this discourtesy on the part of the Chief, as a result of this arrogance and this contempt for the Police Brotherhood members on the part of the Chief, that Monday when Mr. Coady, the new - Is he assistant or a new deputy? -

MR. L. THOMS: Assistant deputy.

MR. S. NEARY: - new Assistant Deputy Chief of Police is brought into the building that the Brotherhood will walk out in protest.

MR. L. THOMS: No, Deputy Chief.

MR. S. NEARY: Deputy Chief - Mr. Coady is brought in, the Brotherhood will walk out in protest. They are hopping mad, they are upset, Mr. Speaker, and I do not blame them. There were not asking to interfere with the parade in any way, they were not asking to interfere with the Chief's business about the parade,

AN HON. MEMBER: (inaudible)

MR. S. NEARY: it has to do with the Justice Department
and

MR. NEARY:

that is what we are discussing right now. They did not intend to interfere in any way, shape or form. They just asked if after the official proceedings were over, were terminated, if the Canadian Police Brotherhood people visiting this Province could go and address the members of the Brotherhood and they were denied that request. Now the situation is deteriorating, Mr. Speaker, it is getting worse. The government now have managed to get the teachers in the Province upset. They have managed to get the Royal Canadian Legion upset. They have attacked just about everybody they can attack inside and outside the Province. They have attacked the Government of Canada and now they have alienated the Police Brotherhood. They have alienated the policemen. The next thing they will be attacking the church. That will be the next on the list, the church will be the next.

AN HON. MEMBER:

I hope not.

MR. NEARY:

Well, my hon. friend may think it is virtually impossible, that it will not happen but I would not put anything past this crowd, would not put anything past them. Mr. Speaker, it is very, very sad indeed, very sad when you look at the way that a group of men are being treated at the present time who have to uphold the law, who have to maintain law and order in this Province. I think it is absolutely scandalous. Obviously the government have no respect for their own law enforcement officers, no respect at all. The Chief is apparently acting under the assumption that he is going to get the protection of this crowd and that he can do what he likes, he can go berserk. This crowd will uphold anything and everything and condone everything whether it is right or wrong, it does not make any difference. They have completely -

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible) hangover.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, I resent that remark and I ask the hon. gentleman to withdraw it.

AN HON. MEMBER:

I withdraw it.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, you talk about the decorum of this House and the name calling and who lowers the decorum and the smear

MR. NEARY:

tactics that go on in this House. We heard it this afternoon from the President of the Council (Mr. Marshall) who is setting the example.

MR. F. ROWE:

Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY:

Witch Hunt Willie, the reputation of Witch Hunt Willie in this House. All the witch hunts that took place after this crowd took over the government and all the royal commissions of enquiries and all the police investigations and search warrants that they issued and all the other dirt they did.

MR. HISCOCK:

They will not do them now though will they.

MR. SPEAKER (SIMMS):

Order, please!

MR. NEARY:

And they have not -

MR. HISCOCK:

The first seven years not at all.

MR. NEARY:

No, Mr. Speaker. I dismiss the hon. gentleman forthright, he just does not count in this House as far as I am concerned.

MR. THOMS:

He would not let Joey Smallwood speak.

MR. NEARY:

It is very sad, Mr. Speaker, the way the Police Brotherhood are being treated.

MR. E. HISCOCK:

Demoralizing.

MR. NEARY:

And if they walk out on Monday it is the minister's fault and the government's fault. They are driven to desperation, driven to it. And the government have dug in, the minister has dug in his heels, the government have dug in, Mr. Speaker, and I can see trouble brewing on the horizon, I can see trouble brewing. They have attacked the teachers. They have attacked the Canadian Legion. They have attacked the nurses. They have attacked Ottawa. They have attacked Nova Scotia. They have attacked Labrador. The next now to come is the church and any day at all that is likely to happen.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we started out this afternoon trying to deal with this situation of a minister who was guilty of breaking the law, who still sits in the Cabinet in this Province. The minister broke the law, the minister is guilty. The minister was tried and found guilty by a jury of seven people

MR. NEARY: and yet the Premier allows that hon. gentleman to sit in his Cabinet. It is absolutely inexcusable. There is no justification for it, **none** at all. It just does not happen under the British parliamentary system of government. It does not happen -

MR. HISCOCK: He has no regard for that.

MR. NEARY: - in any other jurisdiction in the world, in Canada, in the British Commonwealth, in any jurisdiction under the Union Jack. In the British Commonwealth of Nations the hon. gentleman would have been forced to resign, except in Newfoundland. In Newfoundland it can be classified, when you break the law and you are found guilty by a jury of seven people, it is classified as an honest difference of opinion between the minister and the jury. Just imagine -

MR. THOMS: **One honest and one dishonest.**

MR. NEARY: - in this case the - pardon?

MR. JAMIESON: The **Premier** said it was a judgement call.

MR. NEARY: A judgement call, he said, a judgement call. They took evidence, they sent for witnesses, they sent for documents. They sent for documents, and the Premier tells us it was a judgement call. The minister appeared at the hearing, witnesses appeared at the hearing. There were hearings day in and day out that went on for months and the Premier says it was a judgement call, a judgement call, an honest disagreement between the minister and the jury. Well, will they say the same thing about A.B. if he is found guilty? Will that be an honest difference of opinion between A.B. and the judge.

MR. SPEAKER: (Baird) Order, please! I wish to remind the member his time is up.

MR. NEARY: Well, Mr. Speaker, I hope **another** member will get up to speak so I can get back at this again, because we have no intention of letting this **slide by** and 'Witch-Hunt willie' can camouflage it and drag in all the red herring he wants but we are still going to have a go at it.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Eagle River.

MR. HISCOCK: I would like to direct a few of my comments towards the Minister of Education (Ms. Verge) and, basically, the Province has been expecting the minister to blossom and to -

MR. WARREN: Literally speaking.

MR. HISCOCK: - put some things forward in a very, very progressive manner in the Province with regard to education. Basically, we are finding that, again, as the Police Brotherhood as well as the Canadian Legion, the teachers themselves find that they really have very little direction. School boards themselves find themselves in debt for over a hundred million dollars, and they feel that they will need another hundred million dollars in order to have any new construction. Yet, the minister brags from the point of view that \$22 million or \$12 million was given this year for school construction and yet they were saying that we really need \$200 million to just get on an even keel in this Province. I wonder about the quality of education in this Province, not only here in St. John's but throughout the Province, the equality of producing first-class Newfoundlanders in all things, providing us with scholarships so that we can go outside. I know that this government is particularly against having any Newfoundlanders go outside its boundaries because, basically, we are becoming very parochial in our thinking, and that we have to stay here and have everything done in our own way and by our ourselves. But, in order for us to do some of these things, we need to go out and with scholarships - and I regret that, basically, this government has not really provided a very extensive scholarship program. For example, people ^{who} used to go in the Department of Agriculture to MacDonald College, and forestry, these scholarships now are done away with. Anybody who wants post-secondary education in this Province and needs to go outside has to do it with their own finances. Yet we are needing top skilled people all the time and, yet, we are having to bring them in from Europe and the United States and from various other parts, instead of sending our own people out.

MR. HISCOCK:

I asked the Minister of Education (Ms. Verge) several months ago, in actual fact, to have an educational inquiry into the district of Eagle River, particularly Williams Harbour, Pinsent's Arm and Charlottetown, Fox Harbour area. This is where we have one-room schools, kindergarten to grade 10, and instead of having two teachers, because of lack of accommodation we do not have the other teacher. The other teacher - two teachers are teaching over in St. Anthony somewhere, and you talk about the equality of education. The minister is giving praise that we are going to be bringing in Grade 12. Here we do not even have teachers, not qualified, we do not even have teachers to, basically, give us the minimum of elementary education. In coastal Labrador, no resource centre, no library centre, no music, no enrichment program. You have one teacher from kindergarten to Grade 10 in Williams Harbour - two - and in Pinsent's Arm the same way. Two teachers in one classroom, I mean,

MR. E. HISCOCK: not as big as the average size office here in St. John's. And yet the Minister of Education (Ms. Verge) said, "This is the jurisdiction of the G.E.C.. This is the jurisdiction of the school board. We have given them money."

MR. D. HANCOCK: She is known as the cop out Minister of Education in Labrador.

MR. E. HISCOCK: Maybe she might be known as the cop out minister but basically, what I feel is going around in the Province is that the school boards, the superintendents, the teachers in the field are becoming very, very disillusioned. We have now given the Minister a chance, we have given her a chance to come forward. And basically her attitude is with pro women's rights and feels that, basically, she is the only person in this House who advocates equality of sex within this Province and this Country. And the Premier will be tooting this bill that is going to be before the House now, and basically, I am sure there is no member on this side as well as the government side who has any problem in supporting this bill. But in the meantime, when we asked a question about roads and about dust problems the minister's reaction to it, let the men hang out the clothes, let the men hang out the clothes. She is so concerned about changing the word from Manpower and Labour to Employment and Labour that her head is so caught up with the liberation that she is neglecting her main responsibility and that is as Minister of Education.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. E. HISCOCK: I would like to ask the Minister of Education (Ms. Verge) what has the Province done for housing in Coastal Labrador with regard to education. Also rates at the University. The rates at the University are again - Student fees have gone up. Again it is being done when the students are out of University and are gone home after the term. And each year the increase comes then so that the students themselves are not allowed the opportunity to voice their objections. We have one of the greatest platforms and one of the greatest credits to the former premier of this Province, J.R. Smallwood, -

MR. S. NEARY: Hear, hear!

MR. E. HISCOCK: the University and the education, As soon

MR. E. HISCOCK: as Mr. Crosbie and the PC government ended up getting in here in this Government of Newfoundland and Labrador what did they do? Mr. Crosbie said, I had to pay for my university, let everybody else pay the same way. They cut the loans that were given to students, and the bursaries. And basically, now, we are seeing that the University is going back to the core group of doctors, lawyers, and St. John's businessmen, and people from rural areas are not given the opportunity to have - I ask the Minister of Education (Ms. Verge) with regard to the oil boom and with the high cost of rent going to be increased, and housing, what is the Minister of Education going to do for these students who want to go to Trade School and Fisheries College and University? And basically we will find out that housing is going to be out of their reach. With regard to the inequalities of education: I was very pleased that the minister changed her mind with regard to the French programme. It was not a matter of changing her mind, she had no other choice but to change her mind. Money that is given by the federal government has to be spent on programmes which are under the jurisdiction of the contract that was given. But in the meantime, this government still takes the attitude that any money that comes from Ottawa, more money - and if you ask for anything, oh, put it under a DREE agreement we are asking Ottawa. This government has completely given up its responsibility of any leadership, any direction in any area and always saying we are putting it under DREE. Down in Lodge Bay, if I may point out that I have asked a question of the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Brett); here you have a school from Kindergarten to Grade VIII and they have to go to Grade IX in Mary's Harbour. If this road was built they could commute daily and live with their parents, But no they have to be separated and have the extra costs and also the emotional burden of being separated from their families.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER: (Simms)

Order, please!

If I may interrupt the hon. member. I think he has a couple of minutes left, but it being 5:00 P.M. I have to advise the House that I have received notice of one matter for debate at 5:30 P.M. when a motion to adjourn will be deemed to be before the House, notice given by the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) arising out of a question asked the hon. the Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. Barry) and the subject matter is Energy Pricing.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker,

MR. S. NEARY: Could I withdraw that. I do not feel up to it today my voice is giving out, Sir. So I withdraw.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): I understand the hon. member for LaPoile has withdrawn and therefore there are no matters for debate at 5:30 p.m. when a motion will be deemed to be before the hon. House.

The hon. member for Eagle River.

MR. E. HISCOCK: So I ask the Minister of Education (Ms. Verge) what is she going to do with regard to student loans at the university. Is the government going to increase its grants for bursaries thereby allowing the opportunity for more students? The Minister of Finance said, 'Oh, it was the university increased them'. Yes, but we also have an obligation to provide equality and leadership for our young people of this Province so that they can, at least, develop their own human potential resource, if not anything else. And I also ask the Minister of Education, with regard to the educational inquiry in the district of Eagle River, is she just going to brush this aside? Or - I have had to write the fire department, the fire commissioner and ask him to look at, the Health Department, do we have to close these schools down in coastal Labrador? Is that what we have to do before, basically, some accident or some sanitary conditions continues in that area. So I hope that the minister will be able to reply to some of these things and start providing the leadership in the Department of Education that this Province has lacked in this past seven or eight years. That is one thing that this government can definitely say, they have a straight record, that the Ministers of Education for the most case have been completely deplorable and it is

MR. E. HISCOCK: about time that we start providing some leadership in this Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MS. VERGE: Mr. Speaker, I will just respond briefly to some of the drivel which we have just been subjected to.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MS. VERGE: First I would like to say that I am quite surprised at the hon. member for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock). He talks about the need for equality. He had quite a lot to say about the need for equality of educational opportunities for the students in his district in coastal Labrador communities when previously he had been heaping scorn on me for having concern for women's rights and for equality for women. I would ask him whether he is concerned about equality of opportunity only for the male students of his district -

MR. E. HISCOCK: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order, the hon. member for Eagle River.

MR. E. HISCOCK: I do not think at any point, when I made the point I made reference to the Minister of Education in her views on women's rights. I said that the minister cannot continue to give the image to this Province that she is the Mater Donna of women's rights in this Province. And that basically every person in this House would hope that the equality of the sexes in this Province is second to none and that all members in this government and Opposition supports it. So scorn! I have never scorned her from that point of view, if anything I compliment her. But I also would ask her to basically listen and realize that there are other people who are capable of sharing the same thoughts.

DR. COLLINS: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): A point of order, the hon.
Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS: It is so blatantly clear that
there is no point of order there. And the hon. member
is getting up trying to -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!
The hon. Minister of Finance
is speaking to the point of order.

DR. COLLINS: The hon. member was clearly
trying to prevent the hon. minister from replying to
questions that he had put to her. And when the reply
is being made he uses these spurious points of order to
try to avoid getting a proper answer.

MR. SPEAKER: With respect to the point
of order I would rule there is no point of order but
the hon. member for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock) took the
opportunity merely to clarify remarks that were attributed
to him. We have about two minutes remaining in the debate.
The hon. Minister of Education.

MR. E. HISCOCK: A point of privilege, Mr.
Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A point of privilege, the
hon. member for Eagle River.

MR. E. HISCOCK: The Minister of Finance (Dr.
Collins) accused me of bringing up the point of order
so that the Minister of Education could not have her
say. I basically have said it and I will get up on
any point of order to straighten out or clarify any matter.
And I ask the Minister of Finance to withdraw that
remark.

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Tape No. 1926

DW - 4

DR. COLLINS:

To that point of privilege,

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

The hon. Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, I think that the hon. member has just demonstrated again what I mentioned, that the hon. Minister of Education (Ms. Verge) is trying to respond to questions put to her. She has only a few minutes do it. The hon. member

DR. COLLINS:

keeps getting up and tries to prevent these questions being answered.

MR. SPEAKER (SIMMS):

Order, please!

I would rule there is no prima facie case but a difference of opinion between two hon. members. The hon. Minister of Education (Ms. Verge) has about one minute remaining.

MS. VERGE:

Mr. Speaker, I just have time to deal with the question of school construction. The Integrated, Catholic and Pentecostal Educational Committees which are the arms of the churches in education in our Province, which under our constitution have the responsibility of apportioning grants for school construction, do have a total of about \$100 million debt for the great number of schools which have been constructed around our Province in recent years. However, this debt will be repaid from government grants which have been pledged to those church authorities. So that debt is not of concern to those authorities because they are assured of the necessary financing to repay the debt. As I mentioned there have been many, many scores of new school buildings constructed within the past decade. Just within the past eight months government has authorized the DECs to proceed with the construction of \$24 million worth of new construction and that will go a long way to meeting the needs of people throughout the Province, to replacing the few buildings which are left which are not totally adequate and suitable.

As for the matter of scholarships; scholarships which are made available to our high school and university students are tenable by those students in universities and institutions outside the Province in cases where the programmes are not available within the Province. And I think that is a sound policy in the best interests of the Province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (SIMMS):

Order, please!

Time has expired for debate on the report of the Social Estimates Committee. So the motion is that this House concurs with the report of the Social Estimates Committee.

Those in favour "Aye". Contrary "Nay".

Carried.

MR. SPEAKER (SIMMS):

The next matter under Order 4, concurrence debates.

The hon. President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL:

Before we get to Order 4, Mr. Speaker, I might point out that now there is no Late Show this afternoon. I would think it would be just as well to go on to six because then you can fit this particular one in tidily, you know, this afternoon and tomorrow if members agree to it.

MR. SPEAKER:

Is that agreed?

MR. S. NEARY:

They want to go home early apparently.

MR. SPEAKER:

I understand there is no agreement.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. JAMIESON:

(inaudible) If you want to do it but we had anticipated that there would, in fact, be some time to discuss among ourselves, etc. the various headings. I certainly am not prepared. I want very much to get into it as far as the next one is concerned. I suggest we abide by the rules and adjourn at five-thirty.

MR. SPEAKER:

The next matter, Order 4 is the report of the Government Services Estimates Committee and under that report we will be dealing with the following departments, Municipal Affairs and Housing, Public Works and Services, Transportation and Communications, Finance and Labour and Manpower.

The hon. member for Grand Bank.

MR. THOMS:

Mr. Speaker, I am certainly going to take this opportunity to speak on some matters within the Department of Transportation and Communications. Mr. Speaker, for quite some time now there have been written commitments, verbal commitments, any kind of a commitment that you want from the previous member of the government, for the district of Grand Bank. There have been commitments by this government for the erection of a new bridge in the town of Grand Bank, and it is a bridge that is desperately, desperately needed in that town, and there is no question about it. I sat down with senior officials of this department. The bridge has been designed, it is ready to go to public tender. It has been promised and promised and promised and there is no doubt about the commitment made by this government and by the previous

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Tape No. 1927

IB-3

MR. THOMS:

member for the district of Grand Bank in relationship to the bridge,
none whatsoever. I do not think the Minister of Transportation and

MR. THOMS:

Communication can stand on his feet and say that that commitment to that town has not been made. Mr. Speaker, the same thing goes for about six or seven miles of dirt road existing in the town of Grand Bank. The commitment is there, the promise has been there, it is a part of the loop road from Lawn to Lord's Cove, a road over which, a road over which a great number of fishermen, a great number of fishermen truck their fish. It is a road over which ambulances must travel, it is a portion of the road that cuts off a very dangerous section of that part of the loop road. But, again, the commitment and the promise was there, it was there. Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to have thought that the fact that Grand Bank was left out entirely, entirely, in this year's roads programme was a secretary's error.

MR. HANCOCK:

How much dirt road do you have ?

MR. L. THOMS:

I do not have any Trans-Canada, I do not have any Trans-Canada so the roads programme cannot be cooked to make it appear as if Grand Bank or St. Mary's - the Capes is getting any funds. The minister, Mr. Speaker, did not even have the decency to put in one dollar to keep the head open, not even a dollar, not a cent, not one red penny, not one red penny did the district get. Well, Mr. Speaker, the district of Grand Bank, of course, has lived with the old bridge that is there now, the historic district-I do not like using cliches, but the district of Grand Bank has lived with that old bridge for some time, the town of Grand Bank. It will live Mr. Speaker, with the old bridge until government changes hands, just a few short years, in the next two or three years down the road.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh.!

MR. L. THOMS:

It will not be some, as the Minister of Transportation and Communication said this afternoon, sometime in the far distant future, it will not be. Because the minister, together with his administration in this Province, Mr. Speaker, is going downhill fast.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear !

MR. L. THOMS: Going downhill fast. It is digging its own grave every day. It has got a death wish, it has got a death wish and your Premier is taking everybody along with him.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear! Yes, right on, right on.

MR. L. THOMS: -with his puerile juvenile attitude towards everything.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh !

MR. L. THOMS: Can you imagine, can you imagine a man saying that the federal government of this country should be an agency. The hypocrisy really, the hypocrisy! The Premier of this Province says that the federal government is a mere agent of the provincial governments and yet the Minister of Mines and Energy, the Minister of Mines and Energy just a couple of days ago, in talking about the Lower Churchill, says that - well, we will be able to get the Lower Churchill on the go at some time, if we can get the co-operation and the dollars and the big dollars from Ottawa to do so.

MR. HISCOCK: And the Trans-Labrador Highway.

MR. L. THOMS: Now here is the principal, here is the principal going to the agent looking for the money. The heights of hypocrisy. And it is this sort of thing that the people of Newfoundland, they are beginning to find out just how shallow, just how shallow the Premier of this Province and the government of this Province really is, just how stupid the government, and especially the front bench of this government, is. Now, what we really need Mr. Speaker, is to get some new and leading lights into the Cabinet. I can see a number of them in the backbenchers.

MR. HISCOCK: I cannot.

MR. L. THOMS: -that would make excellent, excellent Cabinet Ministers.

MR. HISCOCK: Who ? I cannot.

MR. L. THOMS: But the problem, Mr. Speaker, is, the problem is that our present Premier, our present Premier cannot get rid of them, no, no, no -

MR. FLIGHT: The member for Bay of Islands, right ?

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Tape No. 1928

RA - 3

MR. L. THOMS:

because -

AN HON. MEMBER:

(inaudible) Grand Falls.

MR. L. THOMS:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, even yourself

MR. L. THOMS: would make a brilliant Cabinet minister, certainly, Mr. Speaker, much better than the cop-out Minister of Education (Ms L. Verge) that we have today. And the drivel that I heard during the Estimates coming from the Madam Minister, talk about drivel. You should have attended those meetings if you wanted to hear drivel. If I heard the constitutional argument once I heard it a thousand times from her. She could not go to the bathroom because it was against the Constitution. She could not do her thing because it was against the Constitution. That was drivel.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this administration should be pointed out for what they are and what they are doing. They are doing nothing. I am sure that the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. C. Brett), along with the Premier of this Province, who I outdrew seven to one during the election in a motorcade in Grand Bank - he got thirty-five cars and I got seven hundred cars. That goes to show you how popular he was in Grand Bank.

MR. J. MORGAN: It cost you a fortune, I hope.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. L. THOMS: And it did not cost me a cent.

I would suggest to the hon. the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. J. Morgan) that if he wants to see what the election cost me, look at the (inaudible) that I filed. Not a cent! Every single, solitary person who drove for me during the June election drove at their own expense, used their own cars and used their own gas.

MR. L. WOODROW: Did they vote for the man or for the party?

MR. SPEAKER: (Baird) I understand we are into the Estimates debate.

MR. L. THOMS: And what did I get? I think I was only fifth or sixth of the whole House with the majority. The Minister of Fisheries beat me.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

MR. J. MORGAN: You got in on your leader's coattails.

MR. L. THOMS: That might be. I have no way of arguing against that, Mr. Minister, none whatsoever. The present leader was the leader of the party when I ran, I cannot deny it. But if you think that that is the way I got in - Grand Bank is a fishing district, Grand Bank is 100 per cent a fishing district, let us see if you have the intestinal fortitude to leave Bonavista South and come down to Grand Bank and run against me!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. L. THOMS: As a matter of fact, if you want to test it, I would be quite happy for the Premier of this Province - I will resign, we will let you resign, okay? The Premier will call a by-election. We will both run down in Grand Bank.

MR. SPEAKER (Baird): Order, please! I would suggest the hon. member is straying from the debate.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. L. THOMS: Well, Mr. Speaker, I am easily led astray, you see. And you know, Mr. Speaker, when you go after mice like the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. J. Morgan), you are being led astray, you really are. But the problem, Mr. Speaker, is -

MR. J. MORGAN: (Inaudible).

MR. L. THOMS: Sure, we do not see the Premier in the House. How can you go after him? It is an empty, vacant seat.

MR. G. FLIGHT: He is at a press conference now and -

MR. L. THOMS: We discussed today the Estimates under the Department of Justice. The Minister of Justice (Mr. G. Ottenheimer) has been gone an hour and a half from this House. What is the sense of talking to the Premier of this Province in this House when he is not here. We had to goad him, we had to argue with him, we had to plead with him for him to get up on his feet and say something about the flag debate, a bill that he brought in. We finally got him on his feet -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I wish to point out to the hon. member that his time is up.

MR. L. THOMS: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. J. DINN:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Baird):

Manpower.

The hon. the Minister of Labour and

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. J. DINN:

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity in the House to thank the hon. members who attended the Committee meetings and asked a lot of questions about the various departments that we are discussing right now. The hon. the member for Grand Bank (Mr. L. Thoms) attended all of the meetings and played a significant role. I think just a word to the wise. The hon. member handled himself very well at the meetings and he would do well to do the same in the House of Assembly instead of getting up with a vicious personal attack on the hon. the Minister of Education (Ms L. Verge) and an attack on the Premier who is not here at this point in time, who is about the Province's business, Mr. Speaker, a man who can be signified and designated in this House as being at least dual-faceted on several issues that we have had to discuss in the House since this session started, dual-faceted, if not multi-faceted, the member

MR. DINN:

for Grand Bank (Mr. Thoms) who has been elected to the House of Assembly once in a row and already is challenging all hon. members to resign and go to the district of Grand Bank and I lay out the same challenge to the hon. member.

MR. THOMS: (inaudible)

MR. DINN: If he wants to resign his seat and run in Pleasantville, then I welcome the hon. member or any hon. member opposite.

MR. THOMS: (inaudible)

MR. SPEAKER: (Baird) Order, please! The hon. minister is straying from the subject at hand.

MR. DINN: I apologize, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. DINN: I have been drawn, I have been drawn -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. DINN: I have been drawn off guard, I have been drawn off guard by the hon. member for Grand Bank.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I am having great difficulty in hearing the minister.

MR. DINN: And, Mr. Speaker, there will be an election. There will be an election in this Province in another four or five years and the hon. member is quite welcome to come and run in Pleasantville and see if he can make it two in a row. He has been elected one in a row now and he may be elected two in a row if he runs against me in Pleasantville in the coming election.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to get down to some very, very important things that we should be discussing in this debate. We do not have a lot of time in Concurrence Debates. I congratulate the hon. member for the way he handled himself in the committees. He was there for all of the time that I was there. I think

MR. DINN: I spent some seven hours answering questions. I hope I - well, I did the best I could. I certainly answered all the questions that hon. members asked, but the quality of the answers was certainly equivalent to the quality of the questions. Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Grand Bank (Mr. Thoms) should be congratulated on the way he handled himself at that Committee. Unfortunately, he strayed today. He got up on his feet and made a viscious, personal attack on the Minister of Education (Ms. Verge) and the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Brett), who this year, unfortunately, is into an agreement for the Trans-Canada Highway whereby this Province has to pay 75 per cent of the Trans Canada Highway Agreement -

MR. G. FLIGHT: (Inaudible) because you are so stupid (inaudible)

MR. DINN: - and the federal government pays 25 per cent and - Mr. Speaker -

MR. SPEAKER: (Baird) Order, please!

MR. ROBERTS: There is no control at all.

MR. SPEAKER: I am having great difficulty in hearing the hon. minister.

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker, if you are having great difficulty hearing the hon. member then I think my voice can go a little bit louder. Certainly, those hon. members have not been affecting me very much.

MR. G. FLIGHT: Sit down, boy, (inaudible).

MR. DINN: The hon. members opposite, however many they gather over there, certainly cannot shout me down. Now, the hon. member for St. Mary's-The Capes (Mr. Hancock) is having his maiden speech in the House and he wants to get up. I know if I sit down now he will be the first to jump to his feet and ask very important questions on the departments which we are discussing. He is over there now and he wants to make a very important speech.

MR. D. HANCOCK: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order! The hon. member for St. Mary's - The Capes on a point of order.

MR. HANCOCK: Mr. Speaker, if we got some sensible answers, we would have had some sensible questions but asking the questions over there is like throwing your hat out the window, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WOODROW:

That is not a point of order

MR. SPEAKER: (Baird)

To the point of order.

AN HON. MEMBER:

That is not a point of order.

MR. DINN:

There is obviously no point of order,

but the fact of the matter is, the first thing that comes in a Question and Answer is the question. You cannot give the answer if you do not get a question, and if you get a silly question you give a silly answer. If you get a good question you give a good answer. Try some questions.

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible).

MR. DINN:

Now, hon. members have gotten up this

afternoon and made their speeches, made personal attacks on ministers over here, have not really dealt with the issues, and we are waiting for hon. members opposite to get up. Now, we will give them a night. They are going to have a half hour. They do not want to stay here from 5:30 until 6:00 today. We are going to go by the rules and we will break off. They will have that half hour before they fall asleep and then, Mr. Speaker, they will come in here tomorrow and we will wait for them and we will wait for them, Mr. Speaker, and they will ask some very intelligent questions, very important questions on the very important departments that we have to discuss here, Labour and Manpower - as to what the prospects are in the iron industry in Labrador. They will follow the lead of their leader, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, tomorrow, Mr. Speaker. They will follow his lead. He will be here tomorrow. They will follow his lead.

He will show them the way, ask the important questions of the day as he has done while he has been here, Mr. Speaker, and all hon. members opposite will take his lead tomorrow and deal with the issues in this Province, deal with unemployment, deal with Western Labrador, deal with the iron ore in Western Labrador, deal with the fisheries, deal with Labour and Manpower, deal with Municipal Affairs and Housing, deal with all these important departments, deal with Transportation and Communications. I believe there are over \$100 million in Municipal Affairs and Housing - not a question yet,

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MR. DINN:

Mr. Speaker, and I know that hon. members tonight will go home and do their research. They should be able to, Mr. Speaker, if nothing else, just take transcripts

MR. DINN:

of some of these very important committee meetings that we had, take those transcripts and read them and they will get some information in there. They might be able to ask some intelligent questions tomorrow on these very important and topical issues that the people of Newfoundland and Labrador are waiting for answers on. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we will deal with what job creation activity will go on in the various departments, what the federal government is planning for next year, what consultation has taken place since the new minister has taken over up there. When these new programmes are announced by the federal government they will know that there is no skulduggery or there is no fooling around. What we will actually have tomorrow, hon. members will come in and what we will have tomorrow is very intelligent and important discussions on all of the departments, Municipal Affairs and Housing and its programme for the year, Transportation and the difficulties that the minister has had this year with this agreement that we were forced to sign. And, Mr. Speaker, we will get on with the important things that this Province is waiting for us to deal with.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (BUTT):

The hon. member for Terra Nova.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. LUSH:

Mr. Speaker, there are many things that we want to talk about on this side in this particular section or this particular segment of the debate. And I can assure the hon. Minister of Labour and Manpower (Mr. Dinn) that we want to talk about many of the subjects to which he alluded. He talked about unemployment. We will certainly talk about that. We will talk about water and sewer and we will talk about the roads programme and we will get lots of time to do it. We will ask lots of good questions but I am doubtful that the answers will be forthcoming. Now, Mr. Speaker, about unemployment I do not know why the minister would want to talk about that. There is nothing that I can see that he can boast about when the unemployment rate in this Province

MR. LUSH:

was upwards to 15 per cent in the last month. The hon. minister obviously feels this is something to be proud about. He figures this is something to boast about. Now, we are going to be talking about those statistics because not because the minister says they are not accurate they are not accurate. You know the minister might know some things about some of the things in his department but I do not think the minister knows a lot about statistics. I know as much about statistics as anybody in this hon. House and these statistics are accurate. They are accurate by the criteria under which the labour force is measured, absolutely accurate to within three or four points. These statistics are accurate.

Mr. Speaker, it is getting up for five-thirty and I will adjourn the debate or do whatever the proper protocol calls for at this particular time.

On motion the House at its rising adjourned until tomorrow, Friday at 10:00 a.m.