

PRELIMINARY
UNEDITED
TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
FOR THE PERIOD:
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1981

The House met at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please!

I want to apologize to hon. members:
The Order Papers have not yet arrived - there was a problem with the printing machine-but they should be here momentarily.

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. the Premier. It has to do, Sir, with a continuation of the confrontation politics that we have seen for the last couple of years in this Province. First we have the Minister of Labour and Manpower (Mr. Dinn) who is in trouble, the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Brett) in trouble, and now the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan), who has been continuously in trouble ever since he took over that portfolio, has followed the bad example set by the Premier and giving Newfoundland a bad name. Now what does the Premier intend to do about these nonsensical, silly statements that are being made by the Minister of Fisheries that are causing all kinds of concern and giving Newfoundland a bad name in other parts of Canada?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I had to debate this morning between nine and ten o'clock of whether I would come to the House this morning or not, because I had vying allegiances. And one of the allegiances which led me to debate whether I would come to the House was that the mail that I am receiving commending the Minister of Fisheries, I want to answer.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: And contrary to what the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) is saying, the mail that has come in from all across Canada commending the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) and commending the other ministers in this government is overwhelming. It is astounding to think that the hon. member for LaPoile is insular in his view, is so narrow in his perspective that he has not recognized that the perception that other Canadians have of Newfoundland is rising in leaps and bounds.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

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

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Premier would care to table this correspondence that he just referred to -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. S. NEARY: - and tell us whether the correspondence that he is getting refers to the minister as being a hothead, his outbursts have become predictable and that his next outburst will be the next full moon in June?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. S. NEARY: Would the hon. the Premier care to table the correspondence that he is just referred to?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, one of the things that we noticed in our dealings with other governments and with the federal government was the way, the embarrassing way they spoke about some of the individuals and some of the preparations or lack thereof that was done by the Liberal administration of Newfoundland over the years, that they were very embarrassed with some of their own colleagues and their own party. So

March 27, 1981

Tape No. 704

DW - 3

PREMIER PECKFORD: when one talks about how we are viewed outside the Province, I think one must put it in some kind of a historical perspective, because one of the things that we found is that people who do not even belong to the same political party as we do have indicated how pleased they are with the kind of preparation we do as it relates to our policies on fisheries, as

PREMIER PECKFORD:

it relates to our policies on just about all aspects of our economy. So we are very proud at the kind of response that the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) and the other people in this government are getting both in Newfoundland, across Canada, yea, across the world.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: A supplementary.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I believe - if I am not incorrect, Mr. Speaker, I believe in Nova Scotia there is a Tory Government, so the outburst -

MR. ROBERTS: What did the minister there call our Minister of Fisheries?

MR. NEARY: He called him a hothead -

MR. THOMS: A bombastic hothead.

MR. NEARY: - a bombastic hothead. Now that is from a Tory, not from a Liberal, Mr. Speaker, from a Tory Minister of Fisheries in Nova Scotia -

MR. ROBERTS: A fellow Tory.

MR. NEARY: - who says that the Newfoundland fishery is in complete disarray.

MR. THOMS: And they are brain to brain and toe to toe and bum to bum with that -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman did not answer the question when I asked him if he was going to table the correspondence.

MR. ROBERTS: No, because he has nothing to table.

MR. NEARY: Obviously his incoming mail basket must be empty.

MR. NEARY: Now let me ask the hon. gentleman a very serious question indeed. It has to do with the fishermen on the Southwest Coast of this Province, and other parts of Newfoundland, too, but mainly the Southwest Coast, who go over fishing in Nova Scotia, they work on the draggers and the trawlers in Nova Scotia, and they go across the Gulf, especially from my own district of LaPoile, the Southwest Coast fishermen go over there in the Summertime and in the Fall of the year fishing, Does the hon. Premier think that this kind of inflammatory statement made by the minister could damage the relations between the fishermen in Nova Scotia and the numerous fishermen from Newfoundland, especially the Southwest Coast, who earn their living either working on draggers or trawlers in Nova Scotia or fish off the Nova Scotian coast? Does the hon. gentleman think this will damage - they are very concerned about it. So I am asking the hon. gentleman if he intends to silence the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) as far as his outbursts are concerned, or is he going to allow this kind of confrontation to continue and risk the possibility of having the livelihoods of hundreds and thousands of Newfoundlanders who are earning their living either in Nova Scotia, go over there every year and fish from Nova Scotia, or go over in the longliners and draggers and fish off the coast of Nova Scotia?

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

PREMIER PECKFORD: Talking about people in the same party making comments about other people in the same party across Canada, if the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) could only hear the comments that I have heard from his colleagues about him, I will guarantee you right now the hon. member for LaPoile would not be so free with his comments about other people.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: I will tell you right now, if we had to assemble the comments that we have heard from other Liberals around this Province, as well as across Canada and federal Liberals, of what they say about the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary), I will tell you right now it would take some encyclopedia. It would take some encyclopedia to include it.

MR. MARSHALL: In his own caucus, in his own caucus.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Now, Mr. Speaker, if the Liberal Party of Newfoundland wants to let the Newfoundland fishermen

PREMIER PECKFORD: down, let them stand up and say that is what they are going to do. The Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) is going to stand up for the Newfoundland fishermen and he is not going to let them down.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: A supplementary.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I will trade insults that I have heard, insults made by the hon. gentleman's own caucus and his ministers about the hon. gentleman. I will put mine up against his anytime.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Now the Premier did not have to name any, but I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the Premier's believability -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: - the Premier's believability and his credibility are shot in his own caucus.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: But, Mr. Speaker - and obviously the hon. gentleman has no intention of tabling the correspondence because there is no correspondence. But I am asking the hon. gentleman again to -

MR. THOMS: Misleading the House again.

MR. NEARY: We now have a situation in Labrador South, the other day one of the ministers, I think it was the President of the Council (Mr. Marshall) came in with a newspaper clipping about somebody down in Labrador South asking for Mr. Rompkey's resignation, and now this morning I heard where they are also demanding the resignation of the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Brett). In all the communities public meetings were held, and only four people voted against not asking the Minister of

MR. NEARY: Transportation (Mr. Brett) for his resignation. Obviously, Mr. Speaker, the ministers are completely out of control, the Premier has no control over them, and I want to ask him if this confrontation policy is going to continue and, if so, how much damage is going to be done to Newfoundland in the process? Or does he have any intention at all of trying to get along with the other provinces, trying to get along with the oil companies, trying to get along with the federal government, trying to get along with business and industry who want to come into this Province, or is he going to continue his type, his style of confrontation politics?

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

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, the Liberal party of Newfoundland and the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) and everybody else can try to construe our positions as being confrontational if they like, they can try all they like, but the people of Newfoundland know what this party and what this government stands for. Unfortunately they do not know what the Liberal party of Newfoundland stands for.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: They are the wishy-washy, mealy-mouthed -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

PREMIER PECKFORD: - give-away Liberal party of the past, and they want to do the same thing on the offshore now as they did on the Upper Churchill fifteen or twenty years ago, give it away. And we are not going to stand here in this hon. House or anywhere in Newfoundland and allow the Liberal party to do in 1981 what they did in 1966.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The hon. member for Eagle River.

March 27, 1981

Tape No. 706

AH-3

MR. HISCOCK:

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Education (Ms Verge) and I would like to ask the Minister of Education

MR. HISCOCK:

(Ms. Verge) why is it that the Student Aid division, the appeals division of her department has been understaffed? One person left that department the 29th. of December, another one left the 14th. of January, and there were 150 appeals of student loans to that branch of the minister's department requesting that their student loans be overturned. And I gather still there are students - and now we are almost at the end of the academic term at the University, and many students have gone through great hardships because the minister has not kept her Student Aid division up to par.

Can the minister inform this House why was it that particularly with the start of a new term and a 150 backlog of applications, and the great hardship to the students involved, why is it that we still do not have this cleared up?

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

MS. VERGE: Mr. Speaker, the programme of student assistance in our Province is one of the best, most generous in the country.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MS. VERGE: It is certainly the most generous in Atlantic Canada.

AN HON. MEMBER: That has nothing to do with it.

MS. VERGE: The borrowing requirement before students become eligible for grants is lower in Newfoundland and Labrador than in the Maritime Provinces. That is number one.

Number two, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education has made great improvements in making

MS. VERGE: the service accessible to students. The office is located on the campus of Memorial University, which was requested by the vast majority of students receiving benefits from the student assistance programme. The staff have worked hard to service students, to be cordial and efficient to students, and in the ongoing efforts to continue the improvements, there have been meetings with student groups to listen to students particular requests. And I am confident that overall the Education Department is giving a good, sound, quality service to students, and that the content of the programme is among the most generous in the country.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. HISCOCK:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Mr. Simms):

A supplementary, the hon.

member for Eagle River.

MR. HISCOCK:

Mr. Speaker, there is no question of whether it is generous or not, but it is by no means generous compared to what the Liberal administration did years ago with regards to student aid. But with regard to the question, I still want to know why is it that division was not kept up to par? And 150 students, and there are still other students that are having to go through great hardships, why is it that these were not kept up to par? And now with the third term beginning, let us say, within another month or so, and then with Summer school in September, will the minister ensure this House that she will have a mechanism in place to make sure that the quota for appeals offices will be kept up to a full complement and that students in the future will not have to go through any hardship because of the lack of organization within the minister's department?

March 27, 1981

Tape 707

PK - 3

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

MS. VERGE: Mr. Speaker, the number of
staff positions, including appeals officers in the Student
Aid Division has been increased over the years to keep
pace with demand from students for assistance.

MS. VERGE: There has been no change recently in that quota. However, a couple of people who were associated with the division resigned to take jobs elsewhere in the Public Service and it takes time to fill those vacancies. That is now being looked after and I am confident that a good level of service will be continued.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, my question, I think, ought to be directed to the Minister of Public Works (Mr. H. Young) if I can take him away from the newspaper for a moment. The Grenfell College in Corner Brook is, I gather, about to lose its water supply, which is supplied by the city of Corner Brook, because the bills sent by the city for the supply of the water have not been paid. Now as I understand it, the building in which the college is located - or the buildings, if there is more than one - are owned by the Province and are made available to the university on some terms for use. Can the Minister of Public Works - and this is why I direct the question to him - because I assume he is the landlord - can he tell us arrangements are going to be made to ensure that the water supply is not cut off? Of course, if it is cut off, the college, as I understand it, must close immediately.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Public Works and Services.

MR. H. YOUNG: Mr. Speaker, the department has not had any communication whatsoever from the university or the city council of Corner Brook. We do not pay any maintenance whatsoever such as snowclearing and so forth, and we indicated to the city of Corner Brook and also Memorial University last year that they would be responsible for paying the water bill this year.

MR. ROBERTS: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Supplementary, the hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. ROBERTS: I will have to go up the scale then to the Minister of Education (Ms. Verge). I wonder if she could perhaps tell us - last year, as I recall it, her department did find the funds that were made available; we had the same crisis last year and the funds were made available, I believe, from her department and presumably through the Public Works Department the bill was paid. Could she tell us - I assume she is aware of the situation, unlike her colleague - could she tell us whether steps are going to be taken? I understand we only have four days left before Mayor Murphy pulls the plug.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Education.

MS. VERGE: Mr. Speaker, I am quite aware of the situation as are the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Young) and the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mrs. Newhook). Last year the city of Corner Brook threatened the university with cut-off of water for failure to pay water rates. At that time government reviewed its relationship with Memorial University regarding the Grenfell College in Corner Brook. It appeared from the documentation that at the time government, the Department of Public Works, turned over responsibility for operating that building to Memorial University, including normal maintenance of the building, there had not been a clear-cut assignment of responsibility for making payments of service fees or property taxes to the city of Corner Brook and the university had not included anything for water rates for the city of Corner Brook in its budget which it requested of government. Therefore, it was decided by government, because of this lack of clear-cut direction, because the university had not provided for any payment to the city

March 27, 1981

Tape No. 708

SD - 3

MS. VERGE: in its request for operating
grant-in-aid, that for last year only the Department of
Public Works

MS. VERGE:

would clear up the arrears and a negotiated amount was paid to the city of Corner Brook, to the city's satisfaction, taking care of the arrears to that point. At the time that decision was taken, it was also decided by government that from now on the university would be directed that it would have to assume liability for payment of service fees to the city of Corner Brook. That was communicated by me on behalf of government to the President of the university. There was no quarrel from the university with that transfer of liability, however, the university's quarrel is with the city of Corner Brook in interpreting the City of Corner Brook Act which exempts the university, or other such institutions, from payment of property taxes to the city of Corner Brook.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MS. VERGE:

The real argument between the university and the city of Corner Brook hinges upon whether the bill being sent to the university for the regional college amounts to a property tax or a service fee, and it is simply a legal matter to be ironed out now between the university and the city of Corner Brook. Regrettably it has reached again crisis proportions, but it is simply a matter between the university and the city of Corner Brook. There has been no request to me from the university for any intervention from government in assisting to resolve the problem and as far as the university is concerned, as far as government is concerned, it is a legal dispute to be resolved between the university and the city of Corner Brook.

MR. ROBERTS:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

A supplementary, the hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister and I understand that what she is saying is a) the university is responsible insofar as the government are concerned, but, b) there is a legal dispute as to whether the bill is legally due or not. And this is not the place to solve the legal thing. Both the minister and myself would be happy to do it in a different way and for a different consideration.

But, Mr. Speaker, my question would be this, then: We are four days away from - and the President of the Council (W. Marshall), of course, would be happy equally to do it for a consideration, I am sure, as we all would.

MR. THOMS: She is alright on the conflict of interest, she is alright.

MR. ROBERTS: We are four days away, as I understand it, Mr. Speaker, I should not have said from pulling the plug, from the plug being put in and the water being cut off, and I wonder if the minister could tell us what steps she proposes to take to ensure that the immovable force, which is represented by the city of Corner Brook, running up against the unbendable force, which is the Memorial University of Newfoundland, do not in their clash with each other on this legal principle, lead to a result where the water is cut off, the college thereby will have to close and 700 or 800 or 1,000 young men and women, however many are enrolled there at this time, will be denied the chance. Now, I know we have government by crisis in this Province today -

MR. ROBERTS: and that is the Premier's style, and the minister endorses the Premier and I accept that but we are only four days away, so I would say to the minister the crisis is about to come on us. The 1st. of April is next Wednesday, so can she tell us please what steps she proposes to take? Is she going to have the matter referred to court? Is she going to tell the university to pay the money to the court or pay it into a trust fund? What is she going to do to ensure that we do not wake up Wednesday morning and find that the work forces in the city of Corner Brook are up at the Grenfell College cutting off the water supply?

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

MS. VERGE: Mr. Speaker, this administration, which I am very honoured to be a part of -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MS. VERGE: - I think is less crisis oriented, has put before it more vision, long term planning than any administration in the history of this Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MS. VERGE: As far as the problem relating to the university and the City of Corner Brook, I and government as a whole remain open to representations from either of the agencies in assisting them to come together and negotiate a settlement or resolve their legal dispute. I am confident that the legal advisors for both parties will avert a crisis and -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MS. VERGE: - will see that the studies and operations of the college for the benefit of the students continue without interruption.

MR. ROBERTS: A final supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A final supplementary, the hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. ROBERTS: The minister is obviously adopting then a supine position with respect to this, I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, instead of the activist role and I would say to her that I think she is wrong and I would ask her if she would again reconsider, instead of sitting back and waiting for the crisis to happen, will she -

PREMIER PECKFORD: Question:

MR. ROBERTS: Yes, I thank the Premier for the question. If he would keep his mouth closed and his ears open for once in his life he will hear the question.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. ROBERTS: Ho! Ho! Ho! Ho! The question to the reclining, incumbent minister -

MR. THOMS: He should sew your mouth up

MR. ROBERTS: - who is simply waiting for the crisis to happen by her own admission as opposed to trying to solve it, is she prepared between now and Tuesday or Wednesday to do anything, or is she going to sit back and wait to be seduced instead of going out and doing some seducing on her own?

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

MS. VERGE: Mr. Speaker, I will choose to ignore the sexist remarks of the member opposite.

SOME HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

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

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please!

A point of order, the hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. ROBERTS: I would be the very first to apologize if the minister draws a sexist inference and to her I would simply quote the motto of the oldest order of chivalry, the Order of the Garter, 'Honi soit qui mal y pense,' 'Evil be to her who evil thinks'.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: With respect to the Point of Order, there is no point of order. It is a difference of opinion between two hon. members.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

MS. VERGE: Mr. Speaker, judging from the smirks of those sitting on both sides of the House, I do not think I was alone in drawing my inferences.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MS. VERGE: But coming back to the problem at hand between Memorial University and the city of Corner Brook, I did not wait until a few days ago or I am not planning to wait until next week to act on this. I and government acted on it over a year ago-

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MS. VERGE: - when we met with the senior officials and regents of the university, when I corresponded with President Morgan of the university, when I and the Minister of Municipal Affairs (H. Newhook) of the day met with the Corner Brook City Council. And as far as long-term planning goes, I think that is one illustration of the approach of this administration and when it comes to our dealings with the university in particular

MS. VERGE: I think our recent contacts have entailed more evidence of long-term planning and foresight than ever before.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. WARREN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Tourism. Could the minister advise if any new provincial parks will be under construction this year?

MR. WINDSOR: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Tourism (N. Windsor) is not responsible for parks. The Minister of Recreation, Culture and Youth (R. Dawe) is.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. WARREN: I will ask my question to the Minister of Recreation -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. WARREN: - if there are any new Provincial parks -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. WARREN: - under construction this year?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth.

MR. DAWE: Mr. Speaker -

AN HON. MEMBER: Tourism.

MR. DINN: You do not even know your departments.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh. oh!

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

MR. DINN: I thought people (inaudible) then

fisheries.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

If members would like to have conversations, I suggest they take them outside the House. A question

March 27, 1981

Tape NO. 711

EL - 3

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):
would like to respond.

has been asked. I presume the Minister

The hon. the Minister.

MR. DAWE:

Mr. Speaker, over the past number of years there have been a great many developments in Provincial parks around the Province. There has been an ongoing programme of expanding existing parks, of assisting private enterprise and getting into private parks and campgrounds, and this programme is ongoing. There are a number of sites that have been identified and suggested for new park construction, but it is always dependent upon Budget limitations from year to year. The plans are in for additional parks as well as additional expansions to parks and as soon as the Budget is

MR. DAWE:

presented to this House,hon. members on both sides will be aware of what new park construction development will be going ahead this year.

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

MR.WARREN: Mr. Speaker,I would like to ask the minister another question. Is it true that there is a large or a substantial amount of money allotted for a provincial park for Labrador?

MR.SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Culture Recreation and Youth.

MR.DAWE: Mr. Speaker,I think that question was answered when I answered previously in indicating that new park developments and expansions will be known to everyone once the Budget is brought down.

MR.SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. Mary's-The Capes.

MR.HANCOCK: Thank you,Mr. Speaker. I also have a question for the Minister of Culture,Recreation and Youth (Mr. Dawe) - I think that is as far as it goes-pertaining to this \$2.5 million,Mr. Speaker,that the city council is looking for to erect a memorial commemorating Sir Humphrey Gilbert's arrival - I do not know what the heck they are planning putting down there for \$2.5 million-but has the provincial government been requested by city council for funding for this memorial,Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister.

MR. DAWE: No,Mr. Speaker.

MR. HANCOCK: A supplementary.

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

MR. HANCOCK: This is not a hypothetical question, Mr. Speaker, because it is in the paper that they are coming to the provincial government. Could the minister indicate whether or not they are wanting to lend this city council or Mr. Paul Johnson money for this memorial if they are approached?

MR. THOMS: Would you entertain the idea?

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. minister.

MR. DAWE: Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that if council intends to make a request to government we will certainly sit down and consider it and make a decision at that time.

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Dawe) as well. So the minister may be aware, Newfoundland Hydro -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. FLIGHT: - over the past couple of years have done thirteen or fourteen environmental studies on the Upper Cat Arm and looking at a summary of those studies one would deduce that the development of the Cat Arm River is going to improve the environment of the area - let alone do any damage, it is going to improve it. Has the minister seen those studies and has the minister's department had any chance up till now to peruse the studies done by Hydro, the environmental studies on Cat Arm?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Environment.

MR. DAWE: Mr. Speaker, the Newfoundland Hydro submitted to my department an environmental impact study a number of weeks ago. That study was reviewed by an environmental assessment committee, chaired by my department, made up of a number of officials representing provincial departments and

March 27, 1981

Tape No. 712

AH-3

MR. DAWE: also federal environment services and so on. The interim report from the assessment committee was presented to me some time ago and the committee is having ongoing discussions with Newfoundland Hydro as it relates to that particular study on Cat Arm.

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

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

MR. FLIGHT: Would the minister tell the House whether or not he intends to have the Upper Cat Arm development subject to the new Environmental Assessment Act, the new act that we passed in this House here last year? Will the Cat Arm hydro development be subject to that act?

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

MR. DAWE: Mr. Speaker, Hydro, as it relates to the Upper Salmon development and also Cat Arm, has been very responsible in treating the spirit of the Environmental Assessment Act. They have continued on even though the initial projects started before the Assessment Act was brought in. They have gone ahead and done exactly as the Assessment Act reads and have met every requirement and are continuing to meet every requirement. It will be the decision of my department whether in fact it will be necessary to go past the statement which they are preparing - which they had prepared and which is being assessed now.

MR. FLIGHT: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: We have time for one final supplementary.

The hon. member for Windsor - Buchans.

MR. FLIGHT: Mr. Speaker, the minister did not answer my question. Now he indicated that his department is considering whether or not -

MR. BARRY: (Inaudible) question.

MR. FLIGHT: - the Upper Salmon project before it gets approval - the Cat Arm approval, before it environmental approval.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. FLIGHT: I want to know if that project, the development of the Cat Arm River, will have to get approval under the new Environmental Assessment Act? Now, Mr. Speaker, is that project going to be exempt from that Act or is it going to have to meet the regulations laid down under the Act?

MR. MOORES: Yes or no.

MR. FLIGHT: Yes or no.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The time for Oral Questions has

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): expired. If hon. members want to give leave to the minister to answer the question -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: By leave.

MR. SPEAKER: By leave.

MR. DAWE: (Inaudible)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. minister does not wish to answer.

The time for Oral Questions has expired.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The hon. Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINGS: Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Section 28 of the Financial Administration Act, I table the Lieutenant-Governor is warrents relating to the Department of Justice.

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

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I am in Your Honour's hands on this particular matter, I really do not know how to handle this -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: - but I believe the government - the ministers and the Premier - should be censured, Mr. Speaker, for not answering the questions on the Order Paper. Another week has gone by and -

MR. FLIGHT: Hear, hear.

MR. NEARY: - we still do not have any answers, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

Order, please!

There is no provision in the Standing Orders for censureship or anything of that like for ministers not answering questions. The provisions are there for everybody to see, it is not a point of order.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member for St. Barbe.

MR. BENNETT:

Mr. Speaker, I wish to present a petition from several hundred residents of my district, several hundred, "To the hon. the House of Assembly, the parliament assembled."

MR. T. BENNETT: "The petition of the undersigned, the residents of Daniel's Harbour, Bellburns and River of Ponds, do hereby support the actions of our councils and strongly protest any and all further extensions to the Bateau Barres and Portland Creek access roads into existing timberlands, that we insist that these areas be used for domestic cutting only, that they be completely closed to commercial sawmill operators and any and all other large scale cutting operators, that the residents want better management of forestry resources and be protected against devastation of the forests for local residents. And your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray."

Mr. Speaker, in support of that I would like to remind the hon. House of Assembly that the Northern Peninsula is but a very narrow strait of land geographically, and even more narrow is the timberstand that grows on that area of land. For many hundreds of years, Mr. Speaker, people of that area have used timber for domestic as well as commercial use. Today that timberland is being devastated primarily because of mismanagement of forestry in that area.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind this hon. House of Assembly that not only for the day should we live and should we struggle, just for today, but we should also remember those who come behind us, those who are young people today, in years to come will need forest land. And I am wondering where they might get it on the Northern Peninsula unless there is some management and local consideration given to the people in that area. People of that area, Mr. Speaker, settled in that area more than 100 years ago and derived their livelihood from the fishery and from the timber. Without timber, Mr. Speaker, they could not have been very successful in developing that area in the fishery or otherwise.

MR. T. BENNETT: I remember when we referred to a three mile limit, when timber and land were set aside for fishermen. That seems to be gone by the wayside today. No longer are fishermen's rights or, indeed, Mr. Speaker, the local residents' rights respected. There seems to be an onslaught to destroy. There is such emphasis placed on destruction by the spruce budworm: Mr. Speaker, believe me, the spruce budworm has got nothing to compare with the devastation of the forests in some parts of this Province and especially in that area. The soil is being torn, the trees are being slaughtered, they are not being utilized. The information comes to me from people who are very well-informed and people who reside in that area wish to preserve it, have it available to them for their domestic use today and preserve it for future generations.

We used to use what we called, Mr. Speaker, selective cutting but that seems to have died. You have to go in today with a big tractor and plow everything under, including a seed that would spring up and nourish and nurture future growth. All of this seems to be neglected and abused.

Mr. Speaker, it is not only the spruce budworm that has killed the timber; people who harvest in the area apparently are doing much more of a devastating job than any insect ever could. Mr. Speaker, I am hearing the Premier refer to giveaways Mr. Speaker, we may just as well give it away if we cannot

MR. BENNETT:

utilize it and manage it. And I question the wisdom of some of the management that I have experienced in this Province.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I wish-

MR. WARREN:

Including the minister.

MR. BENNETT:

-to place this petition on the table of this hon. House of Assembly and have it presented to the department to which it relates.

Thank you.

MR. FLIGHT:

You just said something about the minister, the minister is a good man.

MR. WARREN:

Yes.

MR. POWER:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Mr. Simms):

The hon. Minister of Forest Resources and Lands.

MR. POWER:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to support the petition. It is not every day, Mr. Speaker, that a minister of the government can get up and support a petition from an Opposition district, which in effect is supporting what the government is doing.

Mr. Speaker, we have made great gains in the last twelve months, and in the last couple of years, and particularly since 1974 and the Lands Management Taxation Act to bring under control of the government the management of our forest directly. As you know, Mr. Speaker, from the area of the Province in which you live, and the area of the Province in which the hon. member who just spoke lives, much of that land is controlled, consumed and mismanaged by one of the basic facts of life in Newfoundland, that there were 99 year leases given for large amounts of land. Only last year we got -

MR. BENNETT: What land?

MR. POWER: - only last year we got back about a million acres of land from the Bowater Corporation on the Great Northern Peninsula because of the Forest Management Taxation Act that we introduced in this House in 1974 to bring the forest under direct management of this government, Mr. Speaker.

Also, Mr. Speaker, the new initiatives that we have taken as a government under the silvicultural programmes as it relates to our forest protection programme, and particularly as it relates to our ten year negotiations with Abitibi-Price where we have 2.5 million acres of land taken back from 40, 50, 99 year lease type arrangements where there are no conditions involved.

MR. FLIGHT: Where? Where?

MR. POWER: All over Central Newfoundland.

I will be glad to get a map, as I did one day before -as a matter of fact, I tabled the map in the House. If the member would like to get from the clerk a copy of that map or my department can get another copy for him.

Mr. Speaker, we have got back from Abitibi-Price 2.5 million acres of land that are now conditional upon management for the next twenty years. We are presently negotiating with Bowaters for 4.5 million acres of leased land that they have under the same type of arrangements. And I just want to take this opportunity to support the petition because good forest management is a basic necessity for Newfoundland in relationship to the problems we have had with the budworm and the other problems that we have had and the mismanagement over the years. And I just thank the member for presenting the petition to the House and certainly to pledge our support for good forest management.

MR. SPEAKER (Mr. Simms): The hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, if I may say a few words in support of the petition which my friend for the district of St. Barbe (Mr. Bennett) just presented, and which was supported by the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. Power), the gentleman for Ferryland district.

The situation outlined by my friend for St. Barbe so very well in his remarks in support of the petition, of course, obtains in my own constituency, which is contiguous to his, and in Baie Verte-White Bay, which is contiguous on the South and the East side of his constituency, and in numbers of other areas throughout this Province.

And without getting into any debate, and this is not the place for debate, without in any way taking away from the very real achievements which the minister and his officials - and I must confess, I think, that he will be the first to agree that most of the credit ought to go to his officials, but he has had the wisdom to listen to them and to be guided by them, and to act upon their advice - without in any way taking away -

MR. POWER: It is an excellent department.

MR. ROBERTS: It is an excellent department.

MR. POWER: They are excellent officials.

MR. ROBERTS: They are excellent officials, I agree with the minister completely. If all of his colleagues were as well advised as he is, the government would be very much better than it is. But without in any way taking away from the very real achievements, and they have been real achievements; without getting into denigrating the past, because the minister is so wise today, I would say simply that men like Sir Robert Bond seventy or eighty

MR. ROBERTS: years ago when those leases were given to Grand Falls, and Sir Richard Squires, fifty years ago when they were given to Corner Brook, were equally wise. You know, it is easy to be wise in hindsight.

 Without taking away from that, the point I want to make, Sir, is the thrust to the policy which the minister is administering, I suggest, is a marco policy and it ought to be as well a micro policy. He is only dealing, or his officials are only dealing with the large questions. And the kind of problem that my friend for St. Barbe (Mr. Bennett) was pointing out, if I understand correctly, and it is certainly the type of problem - which my constituents must contend day by day, is in the very mundane, seemingly minor - minor on a Province-wide scale but not minor to the people concerned - the day to day administration of Crown lands. And we are running into very real problems. And I am not talking here about land titles or that side of it, there are problems there. The minister is being humane and being very sensible about those.

 But where we are running into it, if I understand what my friend for St. Barbe said, is wood for heating purposes essentially. And more and more people are turning to this for domestic consumption. They are being forced to by economic reasons. They are being encouraged to by policies of this administration and the administration at Ottawa.

MR. BENNETT: There are still a few stages left.

MR. ROBERTS: And my friend from St. Barbe (Mr. Bennett) quite rightly points out there are still a few stages left; domestic consumption, stages, firewood, fences, what have you, building homes even. There are still many men left in the Northern Peninsula who follow the old Newfoundland tradition of cutting their own logs, having them sawn on the halves, and then getting at least the framing and the cladding for their house from that and it means people get homes at far less cost in dollars. Just as much cost in effort, in real work, but far less cost in dollars than they would otherwise do if they were living, for example, in St. John's or in Grand Falls or in Corner Brook.

So I simply say to the minister in supporting the petition and in hearing his support of it, that the point of the petition is not the overall thrust of the province-wide forestry policy, where really there is very little difference of opinion these days. There may be some still among the professional foresters as to whether we should clear cut or selective cut. And I have heard that argued 100 times in the last 20 years and I have never heard a firm resolution of it yet, nor, I suggest, has the minister. But it is on the day to day administration, and the rules that are being implemented, the rules that are being laid down, the policies that are being laid down, Mr. Speaker, are not consistent, are not meeting the needs of a man living in Port au Choix or a man living in Eddies Cove, or a man living in Flowers Cove, or any one of the fifty or sixty communities there are along the coast between Bonne Bay and Cook's Harbour, and other areas of the Province as well. But I speak only of the St. Barbe area because that is where the petition now comes from.

So I simply say to the minister in the few moments I have left that I feel his support. I hope he will take the petition, discuss it with his officials,

MR. ROBERTS: not on the grounds of policy but on the grounds of implementation of the policy. The point of the petition is a real one. It is a real need and I believe it deserves the kind of response which I hope the minister will give and which I expect he will based on what I have seen of him in action the last year or so.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Further petitions?

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

MR. SPEAKER: It is moved and seconded that I do now leave the Chair for the House to resolve itself into Committee of Supply. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

MR. ROBERTS: Committee of Supply or Committee of the Whole?

MR. SPEAKER: Committee of Supply.

MR. ROBERTS: I just wanted to straighten that out.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion, those in favour "Aye", contrary "Nay", carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Butt): Order, please!

On Interim Supply, shall the resolution carry?

The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, we started yesterday to show the House why we feel that the minister should not have this Interim Supply and I think we made a number of valid points as to why we should have a budget instead of the Interim Supply Bill. The government should -

MR. THOMS: Or an election.

MR. NEARY: Or an election. Yesterday I suggested an election. Why we should have one or the other, Mr. Speaker, because the government obviously are hiding behind this supply bill, this Interim Supply Bill. They are trying to cover up for their inaction, their inactivity, and they are asking for

MR. NEARY: three months supply, which is too much in our opinion, Mr. Speaker. And what are they asking for this three months Interim Supply Bill for, Mr. Chairman? What are they asking for? We have no details. The minister just gets up and makes a blanket statement, "Oh, just for housekeeping." One-third of the budget for housekeeping purposes more or less he tells us. Well, Mr. Chairman, we have to have a little more information than that. I am sure my hon. colleague from Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock) would like to have some more information on what is going to happen in his district this year. Will that DREE agreement be signed or will it not be signed? And, Mr. Chairman, we can continue to play the mug's game by one side accusing the other of delaying the DREE agreement. The government argue that it is being held up in Ottawa. We checked with Ottawa and Ottawa says it is being held up by the Province. Ottawa tells us that they had to fight to persuade the Province to accept ninety per cent of the cost of the road to Red Bay, the Straits Road. Mr. Rompkey had to fight tooth and nail to try to get the Province to tell Ottawa

MR. NEARY:

where their priorities lie in regard to this agreement, and now Ottawa is ready to sign, ready to sign. As far as they are concerned, they could put the ink on the agreement tomorrow but they cannot get anybody in this Province to talk to. There is no dialogue, no liaison, no communications with the Government of Canada. Now what kind of nonsense is that? And as a result, Mr. Chairman, the people not only in the Straits of Labrador, down on the Labrador side of the Straits are suffering but the people all over this Province are suffering because this government will not sit down, man-fashion with common sense and negotiate with the Government of Canada. They will not negotiate on anything and as a result, Mr. Chairman, this Province is losing literally millions piled upon millions of dollars. Ottawa is having a problem to try to spend their money in Newfoundland, having a problem.

And then, Mr. Chairman, when you look at the silly programmes and the silly policies and the silly nonsense of the Provincial Government in the way they spend provincial money, it would make you wonder. The people of this Province are asking a lot of questions these days about the Premier of this Province, about his behaviour. They are very concerned. The Premier's behaviour is making Newfoundlanders and Labradorians very nervous. Even his own ministers and his own backbenchers are starting to talk out loud. Only recently I had a backbencher on the government side of the House tell me that he would not run again unless the Premier changed his attitude, unless the Premier started doing something, unless the Premier stopped living in the past, unless the Premier -

MR. CARTER:

Name him.

MR. NEARY:

Yes, I could name him.

MR. HISCOCK:

St. John's North (J.Carter).

MR. NEARY:

Unless the Premier did something before the next election is called, he said, 'I will not run.' And I could not use the language, Mr. Chairman, it is unparliamentary, the language that he used to describe the Premier. And this is becoming common. You get aboard the elevator, you hear minister muttering and grumbling about the Premier's behaviour. They even go as far as to question his sanity. I would not go that far, I would not go that far, Mr. Chairman, but I have heard ministers question and say the man has gone nuts, he is bonkers, gone off his head. He is a Lone Ranger, he will not consult with anybody, he will not listen to anybody, he will not allow his minister to talk to Ottawa, he will not allow his officials to talk to Ottawa. He wants to do everything himself and in the process no man can be an island unto himself, Mr. Chairman, he has to have a team around him. Obviously he does not trust his ministers, he does not trust his backbenchers.

So, Mr. Speaker, we question a lot of the politics. And, you know, would Your Honour wonder why we question some of the things that this government does? Take, for instance, this little thing I have in my hand. It is not very important, Mr. Chairman. It is not a very big issue, it is not a major issue but it cost money, it cost taxpayers' money.

Mount Scio House, we do not know how much it is costing the taxpayers. The only Province in Canada that gives its Premier a house, rent free. We have the colored photographs of the Premier. Now, we came across this, Mr. Chairman. Listen to this, and here you have the Newfoundland Coat of Arms on it -

MR. CARTER:

Are you going to table it?

MR. NEARY: Yes, I am going to table it.

The Premier's signature is at the bottom. As I say, it may not be a very big thing, but it would buy a couple of pairs of eyeglasses and a few pairs of crutches for crippled children in this Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: It would buy a wheelchair that the Minister of Social Services (T.Hickey) refuses to buy for crippled people in this Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, what is the hon. gentleman talking about?

AN HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!

MR. HICKEY: You do not like that, do you?

MR. NEARY: No, I do not like it. The hon. gentleman, I was going to say, was the biggest crook in the Moores' administration, but I will not say that. Tell us about your land down in Outer Cove.

MR. MARSHALL: A point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. NEARY: No, I withdraw it, Mr. Chairman.
I withdraw it.

Tell us about your land down in Outer Cove and your transactions with Mr. Moores?

MR. HICKEY: I would like to tell the hon. gentleman, Do you want to know about my land in Outer Cove that I bought, my family's land? Or does he want to tell me about his building lot on Portugal Cove Road?

AN HON. MEMBER: Two lots.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Butt): Order, please!

MR. HICKEY: Two building lots on Portugal Cove Road, Does he want to tell me about that?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. T. HICKEY: Does he want to tell me, Mr. Chairman, how he paid for it or does he want me to tell him how I paid for mine? By cheque. I have had enough of this gentleman.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN (Butt): Order, please!

MR. T. HICKEY: There is no halo, The hon. gentleman only thinks he wears a halo, He has no halo.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There has been no point of order raised. The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, let me go with the description of this thing that I had in my hand that resembles some kind of a certificate titled, 'Membership' and then the Newfoundland Coat of Arms and then, 'Screechers Club, Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. This is to certify _____ of _____ has consumed on this day the _____ of _____ in the year _____. Some of Newfoundland's Golden'- Golden what?

AN HON. MEMBER: Elixir.

MR. S. NEARY: 'Elixir. The bearer of the Certificate of Merit is hereby enrolled in the Fraternity of Screechers. (Signed) A. Brian Peckford, Premier'. I would be ashamed, it is a disgrace, I would be ashamed to put my name as Premier of this Province to a document like that, Mr. Speaker, as funny as it may seem to the hon. gentleman. It is costing the taxpayers of this Province money to get that printed, that rubbish, that garbage printed, and it could buy a few pair of eyeglasses or a wheelchair or a few pairs of crutches for crippled children in this Province. And they are going out in the thousands, Mr. Chairman. Another disgrace! Oh, is it any wonder that people are questioning the credibility of the Premier of this Province when he comes up with this sort of foolish nonsense? This is their policy, this is what they have been doing. They have been

MR. S. NEARY: designing flags and medals and certificates for the amount of Screech you can drink. How much screech - encouraging boozing in this Province! That is what they are spending their money on, Mr. Chairman. And the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall) now cannot wait to spring to his feet. No doubt he will go back into the Smallwood years and he will drag up a bit of dirt and he will be his usual nasty self, but he will not answer the charges or the accusations that are made.

Can you imagine, Mr. Chairman.

I do not blame Your Honour for looking at that rather askance, that document that I am holding in my hand that cost - how much did it cost? I want to find out from the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) how much that cost. The Newfoundland Coat of Arms on it - it should be taken off. And the Premier should be ashamed of himself for putting his name on that document. The Premier fiddles while Newfoundland burns. That is all they can think about, little, silly gimmicks. Anything, the Premier will put his name on anything, have his picture taken at any time. He must set aside a number of hours a day to have his picture taken. And I would not mind it so bad but would somebody please tell him to look at the delegations or to look at whoever he is having his picture taken with and not always look into the camera. Does he have no regard, no feeling at all for those who are standing with him? or is he just there, he can think of nobody only himself and he does not care about he is having his picture taken with, as long as he gets it taken.

I believe the CBC think that the government is a division of the CBC, the coverage they give him. I would like to monitor, Mr. Chairman, I would like for somebody to monitor the number of times that the Premier appears on the CBC and compare it with the number of times that Liberals appear on the CBC.

March 27, 1981

Tape No. 718

DW - 3

MR. CHAIRMAN (Butt):

Order, please!

The hon. member's time has expired.

MR. S. NEARY:

Well, I will be back again, Mr.

Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the President of the Council.

MR. W. MARSHALL:

We are in the process, Mr. Chairman, of considering Interim Supply and we are in the process of considering almost \$450 million of Interim Supply for a three month period of time. What Interim Supply is, Interim Supply, of course, is the authority for government to spend money at the beginning of the fiscal year which starts on April 1st. next. If April 1st. comes, Mr. Chairman, and this Interim Supply is not passed then at that particular period of time the government has not the power to spend money.

Mr. Chairman, we are also governed by rules in this House with respect to the debate on Interim Supply. There is a certain,

MR. W. MARSHALL: as in the order of all business, there is a certain period of time allotted for the consideration of supply itself, the main estimates. And in interim supply, the period of time we are now talking will be deducted from the total debate.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I just noted I am not going back into the Smallwood administration as the hon. member invited me to; people in Newfoundland have gone back into that and I think that speaks for itself. But, Mr. Speaker, look, I prefer to look to the future. We have here a bill that is before this Committee of the House to consider the expenditure of almost \$450 million. And I have heard the chief spokesman for the Opposition getting up this morning and talking and it is the same vein as yesterday. Now what did he talk about? Instead of talking about how the people's money is spent, he thought it was of interest to talk about alleged mutterings and grumblings of ministers and backbenchers. He talked about Mount Scio House, the same only cold plate that he puts out from time to time himself. He talked about coloured photographs of the Premier, he talked about private transactions about land apparently in the Logy Bay area. He talked about a tourist certificate which is given for the encouragement of tourists. It does not happen to meet his particular aesthetics and all the rest of it, he does not think it is a priority, but there again, this is what he talked about, it really does not cost all that much. Then he got into greater heights, Mr. Chairman, he -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. SPEAKER (Butt): Order, please!

MR. MARSHALL: - zoomed into greater heights; then he started, somehow or other, on the way in which the Premier looks into a camera when the Premier's picture is taken, has for some reasons or other some relevancy in the

MR. MARSHALL: deep recesses of his mind as to how the \$450 millions is going to be spent. Then he went on to talk about CBC coverage.

Mr. Chairman, when you want to talk about Nero's fiddling when Rome burns, I think we should look at the Opposition. Here we have, Mr. Chairman, \$450 million, it is the duty of the Opposition to examine into the expenditure. A government, particularly in its spending programme is effective anyway but can be made more effective by questions as to why monies are being spent and what the purpose is. And this is the type, Mr. Chairman, of quality =

MR. THOMS: We ask the questions but we do not get the answers.

MR. MARSHALL: - of the debate, Mr. Chairman, we get in this.

The hon. gentleman says, 'We ask questions, we do not get answers.'

MR. TULK: True.

MR. MARSHALL: Now traditionally what this is, this is interim supply as the hon. member now knows, he has been in the House two years. The Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) has indicated to the House that the Budget is going to be brought into this House by mid-April. This is certainly not the first time that interim supply has been brought it, it has been brought in every year.

I think that the Minister of Finance, as all Ministers of Finance of this government from the beginning of time, bears a record for the early period of time when a budget is brought in every year. Last year I think it was within a few days of the opening of the fiscal year, this year it is going to be within a matter of days of the opening of the fiscal year. That is the way this administration is going. The hon. gentlemen there opposite know that what they are voting on now, they are going to get full and complete.

MR. MARSHALL: details in accordance with usual parliamentary practice within a very short period of time. The estimates will be put into committees, some of them will be discussed in the House, and they can discuss them in minute detail then. So what are the hon. gentlemen there opposite doing? I suggest that they are not doing a service to the parliamentary system by carrying on with non sequiturs such as we have heard today, debates on various things such as that we have heard it over and over again in this House about the DREE agreements. The hon. gentleman, I heard him yesterday when he spoke, said there was no DREE agreement. So we said, as the Premier indicated, there is a proposal where the Province has put the proposal up in Ottawa, it has the monies available and it is waiting again. And unfortunately because of the punitive action which the federal government is choosing to take against this Province because it asserts its basic rights and because of the weakness of the representation on the government side in Ottawa from this Province and not signed.

The hon. gentleman full well knows what the intentions are, it is kindred, Mr. Chairman and I will flick back for a little while to his illustrious sojourn in the Smallwood administration - it is kindred to that contract at the time we all remember that was on the desk waiting to be signed. In that particular case it was signed by the government of the day, it was signed apparently by the hon. member but he should know better than anyone it takes two to make a contract and it takes two willing parties to make a contract.

MR. NEARY: You finally got it right after all these years.

MR. MARSHALL: So, Mr. Chairman, I am not going to belabour, Mr. Chairman, take the time of this Committee,

Marcy 27, 1981

Tape No. 719

SD - 4

MR. MARSHALL:

I am just going to urge the
Opposition to be a little bit more relevant not for the
member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) to get up on these, -
as far as I am concerned, nonsensical non sequiturs that
he gets up with from time to time in which he takes particular
delight in. He gets an occasional

MR. MARSHALL: delight in. He gets an occasional laugh and all the rest of it, but in the meantime there is \$450 million needed in this Province for the next three months. I suggest our time would be better served in this House if we debated and realized the enormity of the amounts of money that it takes to run this Province. Four hundred and fifty million dollars, Mr. Chairman, is an awful lot of money for a period of three months. And that \$450 million, when you come down and you realize there is \$450 million being spent in three months but at the same time there is seemingly an increase in the enunciation from people of their needs and the demands for needs. It is by no means meeting the needs of these people. We are spending more and it is even more difficult to meet the needs. So that, I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, is one of the items that we should turn our attention to in this House and we should turn our attention to in this Province in a very, very sobering way. And when the hon. gentlemen are turning their attention to that, they can realize that needs can be met with revenue and only with revenue. They could realize, Mr. Chairman, that the revenue can be derived and the revenue of this Province can be increased dramatically by the adoption of the policies of this government and the realization of the legitimate demands of the people of this Province in the areas of offshore jurisdiction and in the area of the transmission of hydro rights. There are just two. So Mr. Chairman if the hon. gentlemen really wanted to bend their minds to this bill, they would realize first of all that it probably would be advantageous not to talk about the details of it because obviously they are not given until such time as the Budget is brought in, but that will be brought in soon and then this debate can take place at that period of time. But if they want

March 27, 1981

Tape No. 720

AH-2

MR. MARSHALL: to focus in on anything, focus in on the large amount of money, focus in, Mr. Chairman, on the need for more money, focus in on the means of getting more money through realization of our legitimate rights, and focus in on their own positions and whether at last they are going to stand up as Newfoundlanders and not as supporters of a Liberal party up in Ottawa which is only serving, as they well know, as all federal parties do, the interests of the seventy-five seats in the province of Quebec and the eighty seats in the province of Ontario. But we cannot do much, we have not got much, Mr. Chairman, we only have seven seats and unfortunately there is continual - there is not just silence from the other side, there is acquiescence from the other side. They rejoice at the suggestion, for instance, in offshore rights that we can keep our monies until we become a have Province. In other words, we can be in the Canadian Confederation as long as we pay our own welfare, this is what they are saying, but we cannot look any higher. That is the heights and that is the depths, Mr. Chairman, of the hon. gentlemen there opposite and I would think they would serve the people of Newfoundland much better if they got a little bit more relevant in this debate rather than getting the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) up with his -

MR. CHAIRMAN (Butt): Order, please!

MR. MARSHALL: - usual asinine remarks of not any relevance whatsoever and got down to brass tacks as to what affects the people of this Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. THOMS: Mr. Chairman, it is at times like this that I wish the member for St. John's North (Mr. Carter) were in the House because the extent of the

March 27,1981

Tape No. 720

AH-3

MR. THOMS: vocabulary of the member for St. John's North (Mr. Carter) is limited to one word. He sits back in his seat and all you can hear from him is 'rubbish, rubbish'. Since my election in this House some two years ago that is all I have ever heard from the member from St. John's North (Mr.Carter), the word 'rubbish'. I think this House should somehow or other make it mandatory that when the President of the Council gets up on his feet that the member from St. John's North (Mr.Carter) be in the House and that would be his one word, 'rubbish', 'rubbish' because that is basically what we get from the President of the Council.

Now the President of the Council asked us to get up and to debate and have something to say on this particular resolution that we are debating at the present time.

MR. THOMS: And what do we have? It is something that I fail to fathom. We have the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) come in with an Interim Supply Bill, asking that we approve the expenditure of a half billion dollars, a half a billion dollars. \$500 million dollars. Now, that is a lot of money. You know something, I tell my friend from Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (H. Andrews), I really do not know how much that is. I really do not know and I doubt, Mr. Chairman, if the people of Newfoundland realize how much \$500 million dollars is, a half billion dollars.

The Minister of Transportation (C. Brett) has difficulty conceiving how much \$1,887.66. He cannot remember that from one day to the next. And the Minister of Finance comes in and asks us to debate. What the minister of Finance would like to see, of course, is the Interim Supply Bill come into the House, introduced to the House, the resolution go through and that is it. But the President of the Council (W. Marshall) is trying to talk about the relevancy of the member for LaPoile (S. Neary). I think just about everything the member for LaPoile had to say was relevant.

MR. NEARY: The taxpayers' money.

MR. THOMS: We are being asked to approve this resolution, a half billion dollars. But we find that it is very difficult, it is very difficult to approve a half billion dollars, \$500 million dollars to an administration that we believe, that we consider, that we know is incompetent. Imagine giving \$500 million dollars, a half billion dollars to incompetents to spend. That is a lot of money. The President of the Council talks about relevancy. I think it is very relevant. I think this piece of rubbish, to quote the member for St. John's North (J. Carter), this piece of garbage that the member for LaPoile had tabled in

MR. THOMS: the House this morning which was paid for out of the taxpayers money in this Province, I think that is very relevant. I have been asking the Minister of Finance this in this House time and time again. We see the report of the Newfoundland Liquor Commission for 1980, They netted \$42 million dollars, netted \$42 million dollars. How they net that \$42 million? They netted it by selling Screech and other kinds of liquor. \$42 million dollars, Mr. Chairman, that is after everything else is paid. That is after the big salaries and the increases in all these big salaries. There is nobody working in Newfoundland Liquor Commission making what the ones that are on strike at the Trades School are making.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: They got more than their 8 per cent.

MR. THOMS: So they net \$42 million dollars after all this. Now, the Minister of Finance will get on his feet and he will again talk about, oh, this \$42 million dollars goes into the general revenue of the Province, goes into the coffers of the Province. And then we have educational programmes spread throughout different departments and so on. Maybe the hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir (H. Andrews), maybe he does not care about the alcohol problems in this Province.

Maybe he does not care.

MR. ANDREWS:

Were you down there?

MR. THOMS:

Yes, I was there, very successfully

in 1975, and I will be there very successfully when the Premier of this Province has the intestinal fortitude to call an election. I will be there then. You are gone, you are finished, you have had it, this is your last chance.

MR. NEARY:

Right on.

March 27, 1981

Tape No. 721

EL - 3

MR. THOMS: You are gone.

MR. ANDREWS: (Inaudible) last time.

MR. THOMS: Now, the hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir (H.Andrews) may not be interested in the alcoholic problem in this Province. You may not be interested -

MR. ANDREWS: (Inaudible) established in Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir.

MR. THOMS: How many?

MR. ANDREWS: : He does not know.

MR. THOMS: How many drinking - no, I do not know.

MR. ANDREWS: There are seven.

MR. THOMS: No, I do not know.

MR. ANDREWS: You do not know.

MR. THOMS: No, I do not know how many drinking establishments there are. I am not like the hon. member, you know. I am not an expert on drinking establishments.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. THOMS: I am not an expert on that.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Butt): Order, please!

MR. THOMS: But Mr. Chairman, what I am talking about here and what I find

MR. THOMS: disgraceful is that a member can sit on the other side of the House and question something like this. Here we have the Newfoundland Liquor Corporation extracting, netting \$42 million a year, and not one single solitary cent is earmarked for education, not one cent.

Now maybe the hon. member does not believe that there should be any money spent on alcohol education in this Province.

If he does not believe that, let him have the audacity and the intestinal fortitude - I would like to say guts, but it is unparliamentary - to get up on the floor of this House, to get up and say that he does not believe it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. ANDREWS: How many drinking establishments are down there?

MR. THOMS: You will have your chance. You get ten minutes, and ten minutes, and ten minutes just like everybody else.

MR. NEARY: How does he know (inaudible) every time he goes there. How does he know?

MR. THOMS: I do not see the relevance in how many -

MR. NEARY: Do you visit them every time you go down there?

MR. ANDREWS: (Inaudible) concerned about the problem.

MR. NEARY: Do you visit them every time you go down there or what?

MR. THOMS: Mr. Speaker, I am concerned because there seems to be a lack of concern.

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible) the Ku Klux Klan.

MR. THOMS:

Well, there is no doubt about it, the fishermen in the district of Grand Bank cannot say, 'Here comes the Minister of Fisheries' (Mr. Morgan). They cannot say that.

MR. MORGAN:

I was down and you did not know about it.

MR. THOMS:

When was the last time you were in the district of Grand Bank?

MR. MORGAN:

Do not think I am taking you along with me in your district.

MR. THOMS:

And do you want to know something?

MR. MORGAN:

Heave it out of you, my bov.

MR. THOMS:

There is not way I would go with you.

MR. MORGAN:

(Inaudible) will not have you.

MR. THOMS:

Now, Mr. Chairman, if I can get back to what I was talking about, and this is a serious concern. And that is -

MR. MORGAN:

I am going to Stephenville tomorrow.

MR. THOMS:

Look, your two minutes are not up to come up to blow. Your two minutes are not here yet.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. THOMS:

Mr. Chairman, there is money - the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) will get up and he will say -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Order, please!

MR. THOMS:

Mr. Chairman, do no worry about them, leave them alone. Leave them alone.

MR. THOMS: But he will get up and he will say that this money goes in the general coffers, there is an educational programme that is filtered out through the other - I do not accept that. I do not accept that. There is not enough money being spent on alcohol education in this Province. I want to see, I would prefer to see a certain percentage, whether it is \$2 million or \$3 million or \$5 million or \$10 million, if, Mr. Chairman, it will cut down on the number of drunk drivers in this Province, on the number of deaths on the highway, and we have to take that whole \$42 million and bring that about, then that is what should happen to that \$42 million.

MR. HISCOCK: Child abuse, battered wives.

MR. THOMS: That is what should happen to it, it should not be taken and run through into the general revenue, if it means that a certain proportion of it is not going to be taken and spent on educating the people of this Province, particularly the teenagers, the problems associated with drinking, and particularly the problems that are associated with drinking and driving.

MR. NEARY: Right on.

MR. THOMS: Mr. Chairman, you know, it is disgraceful. It really is disgraceful. And what is even more despicable, Mr. Chairman, is the fact that it is condoned by people like the member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Andrews).

MR. ANDREWS: (Inaudible).

MR. THOMS: No, the lack of an educational programme -

MR. ANDREWS: I am for (inaudible).

MR. THOMS: - the lack of an educational programme is condoned by those on the other side. And that is despicable. And still you come in here with a little piece of paper with a half billion dollars, \$500 million -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. THOMS: - \$500 million and ask us to give you a blanket approval without having anything to say about it. Well, Mr. Chairman, there are still a few hours left in this debate, and there are a good many of us on this side of the House who have a lot to say. And it will be relevant. It will be relevant just like everything that my friend for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) said was relevant. But still the President of the Council (Mr. Marshall) gets up and tries to wash it all over by talking about the irrelevancy of what my friend for LaPoile said. That is a lot of rubbish. He talked about incompetence, and that is relevant. Would you give \$500 million to somebody who is incompetent? Would you give a half billion dollars to somebody who is incompetent? Of course you would not. And the people of Newfoundland do not want us to give \$500 million to an incompetent administration.

AN HON. MEMBER: Your time is up.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butt): Order, please! The hon. member's time has expired.

MR. THOMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have something further to say.

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

MR. HISCOCK: Mr. Chairman, I am rather concerned that we are asking for \$.5 billion, not only asking for \$.5 billion but the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Marshall) ended up saying that when we get on with it it is rhetoric, and we do not ask questions, we do not go into detail. Well, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins), seeing he is asking for \$450 million for possibly three months, if he will table upon the table of this House what each department is going to be spending with this money? How much is the fiscal salary? How much it is for new programmes with the Department of Rural Development? What is going to be going on in my district for the next two months? The Department of Transportation, what is going to be going on in my district? With the Department of Social Service, what is going to be going on down in not only my district, the other one?

MR. THOMS: We cannot get through.

MR. HISCOCK: It is not good enough for the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins), to ask for \$450 million in interim supply and not to give us any details, and then when we ask the question, do we get any answers? No, we get the President of the Privy Council getting up and going back to the Smallwood era.

Surely they are not going to forget that there was another administration in between. And surely they are not going to forget that the majority of the members of the Cabinet were also the members of the Cabinet of the former administration. Surely they are not, Mr. Chairman,

But, Mr. Chairman, one point that I am really concerned with, I am concerned about hydro rates here in this Province, the hydro rates, specifically those who have to pay hydro rates with diesel electricity, I talk about Ramea, I talk about other places on the South Coast - Petites, I believe, Grey River; I talk about Eagle River, the district of

MR. HISCOCK: Eagle River, all of it. I talk about the district of Torngat Mountains, all of it. I talk about Mud Lake - and Mud Lake as far as I am concerned is a crime. Eight miles away from a power line and they still have diesel electricity! Eight miles in Labrador with the hydro power coming from the Upper Churchill and here we still have a place like Mud Lake getting diesel electricity. It is ridiculous.

But my concern, Mr. Speaker, is that the hydro rates here in this Province, the more energy you consume if you are hooked up to hydro power by way of water, if it is generated that way, the more you consume the less you have to pay, which is fair. But if you consume electricity that is generated by diesel, the more electricity you consume, the more you have to pay. So we have places that are in rural and remote areas, on the Coast of Labrador, where you have to burn more electricity because the seasons are longer and colder. And here we have a provincial government, and again with regard to the hydro potential of Labrador, here we have the highest rate not in Newfoundland and Labrador, not in the Atlantic Provinces, but all of Canada, some of the highest rates of electricity. And the Minister of Finance is asking for Interim Supply. I would ask the Minister of Finance and this government, Newfoundland Hydro is now going to go before the Public Utilities Board and ask for another rate increase. I do not believe the public really realizes that. The Public Utilities Board is a creation of the government. All the appointees are political appointees. I am not saying that they are not qualified people in their own rights. Hydro is a creation of government and here you have one group, Hydro, going to another government

MR. HISCOCK: agency and asking for a rate increase. Are they going to be scrutinized? Are they going to be asked to prove it, Mr. Chairman? Surely not. They are going to get it because of the bond rates. And Mr. Chairman, we have pointed out that if we get the Lower Churchill, and the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) will confirm this, if we get the Lower Churchill on the go, what is going to happen if we need to have financing backed by Ottawa?

So it does not matter if Hydro gets its rate increase this year, or next year, particularly when they say they do not need it until next year. That is what I think is a crime that is being perpetrated on the citizens of this Province. They do not need it this year, they will not need it until next year. But they are going to ask for it this year so that next year - they will not need it until '83, but then they will ask for another one in '82 .

MR. HISCOCK: So, Mr. Chairman, with regard to our hydro rates and electricity, I would ask the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) when he gets up, does this department and does this government have any plans to change the rates that are charged for diesel electricity? Do they have any programme that is going to come into effect that not only if you are consuming hydro electricity by way of water - and I am glad the Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. Barry) is here. And as I was saying about Mud Lake, eight miles away from the hydro line in Labrador, why is it that we do not have Mud Lake connected? I can understand the Labrador coast, which I will not really accept in the future.

MR. BARRY: (Inaudible).

MR. E. HISCOCK: Then all I say, Mr. Chairman, it has been long and coming and I congratulate him. But the other point I am asking is that with regard to diesel electricity, why is it that on the coast of Labrador - and I would ask the Minister of Mines and Energy to have an inquiry into it with regard to the price, number one - that the more energy you consume down there the price goes up? One person in my district in Charlottetown, had to pay \$900 and something for one month. One month, \$900 and something! One month the rate is one lot, the next month it is another lot, and there is no consistency. People in the coastal communities are asking the questions: how come a house, a three bedroom house and three families with x number of other appliances have to pay \$30 a month consistently and another family the same size and the same utensils et cetera, et cetera, is paying up to \$90? There are a lot of questions that have to be addressed with regard to hydro down in Labrador, and not only down in Labrador but in Ramea. And this 500 kilowatts is the basic level. And where they have the rates increased, anything over sixty, anything over and

MR. E. HISCOCK: above that was a certain rate, but now since the last increase of Newfoundland Hydro or the power distribution, you do not get the sixty over 500 anymore, it goes up automatically another 500. So the rates, if you consume electricity by way of diesel, the more it goes up the more you have to pay, whereas if you are getting it from the oil generator here on the Island, if you getting it from Hydro, the more energy you consume the cheaper it goes.

So, Mr. Chairman, I am concerned that if the minister and if the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Marshall) are concerned about indepth studies and indepth questions of the Opposition asking about this \$450 million, I will ask the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) to table in this House what they are actually going to be doing in the next two months with this \$450 million. What are they going to be doing with it?

AN HON. MEMBER: Paving the roads in Bellevue.

MR. E. HISCOCK: I would say, Mr. Chairman, it is not good enough to turn around and the government to ask for a blank cheque and then not turn around and explain what they are going to be doing with it. I think the onus is upon the government to prove to these people, the government of the people of this Province to say, 'This is what we are going to do with \$450 million'. Because we only have a certain amount of time to ask the questions. But with regard to the way the government is being treated, I would ask how much money are we actually paying for these pictures of Rostotski? How much are we going to paying for the medals? How much are we also paying for these things? They are very, very small items. They are very small items, they are not significant in many ways. But, Mr. Chairman, I would say it is \$100,000.

March 27, 1981

Tape No. 724

DW - 3

MR. CHAIRMAN (Butt):

Order, please!

The hon. member's time has expired.

MR. E. HISCOCK:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I hope the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) will table those answers.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. Minister of Mines and Energy.

MR. L. BARRY:

Mr. Chairman, I am just going to take a few minutes to deal with the items raised concerning hydro power by the hon. member opposite. We announced last year a continuing programme of interties, inter-connections to tie in the isolated diesel areas with the hydro grid, the existing hydro grid. And, Mr. Chairman, there has been every year,

MR. BARRY: last year and we anticipate again this year, there will be continuing amounts, considerable amounts provided to see that where it is feasible to do so, where they pay for themselves, that these lines are installed as quickly as possible. But it is set out over a five year programme. Now, Mud Lake is going to be closer to this end of the five year programme than to the other end but I am not, Mr. Chairman, I am not going to tie ourselves down with respect to specific items until we have the Budget, the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) has brought in his Budget and we have the full amounts and then we have the programmes established, the total amount we can spend for the year and the priorities identified. But I can say that Mud Lake is high up on the list of priorities. And the minister from Labrador has already said, it is going to be done. Now, if he says it is going to be done, I do not have any choice. I just do not have any choice because he will make my life miserable until it is done.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. BARRY: He will be on my back continuously day after day, night after night until it is done. So, I may as well do it as soon as possible and get him off my back.

And, Mr. Chairman, if we had a few more members from Labrador like this member here and like the member for Labrador West (P. Walsh), the problems of Labrador would be a lot closer to solution than they are right now, unfortunately, and we have only half a team in harness up there. That is the problem in Labrador, there is only half a team in harness, Mr. Chairman, and we need another election as quickly as possible to get a full team in the traces in Labrador. We need another election so we can get a full team in harness in Labrador, and we will have four Tory members or four and a half,

MR. BARRY: is it?

MR. ROBERTS: (Inaudible) when a new member for Naskaupi is elected. Hear, hear!

MR. BARRY: We will get four and a half members up there next time around, Mr. Chairman.

Now, let us understand what the problem is with the diesel areas. We have the picture being painted that the people in the diesel areas are being discriminated against. On the contrary, Mr. Chairman, the consumers in the diesel areas are given a preference over power consumers everywhere else in the Province in that there will be in excess of \$20 million dollars out of the general taxpayers' revenue going into the diesel areas of this Province. So if there is any discrimination it is a geographical discrimination. It is unfortunate that the good Lord put the coast of Labrador in the isolated area relative to the sources of hydro power that it is, Mr. Chairman. But given the fact that we want to see, insofar as it is financially possible, equality of opportunity throughout the Province, recognition of the value of our rural heritage throughout the Province we, this government, will this year be giving in the area of \$20 million subsidy.

Consumers in the rest of the Province pay the cost of service. They pay what it costs to serve them. The consumer in the rural diesel area does not pay the cost of service. Now, Mr. Chairman, that is not to say that we do not recognize that there may still be hardships in various communities. But it is a very enlightened policy, Mr. Chairman, that sees the same rate, the same rate payable on the diesel systems as on the hydro grid. For up to 500 kilowatt hours per month,

March 27, 1981

Tape no. 725

EL - 3

MR. BARRY: the same rate is payable, the same amount. If consumers in the diesel areas and consumers here in St. John's or Corner Brook or Botwood or wherever use

MR. BARRY: 500 kallowatt hours, they are paying the same amount. So up to that level, Mr. Chairman, the systems are equalized. Beyond that, Mr. Chairman, there is a - exactly as the member has said, the more that is used the more that they pay. And that is for a very clear, exact reason. It is not by accident. It is not by mistake. It is not by error, it is to discourage consumption through electric space heating, Mr. Chairman, it is to discourage the use of electric heat because that will see us having to install more and more diesel generators, that will see more and more diesel fuel being burnt, very expensive diesel fuel.

MR. HISCOCK: Do the same here in St. John's.

MR. BARRY: Well, Mr. Chairman, there are some very strong arguments being put up and I invite the member to go down to the Public Utilities Board hearings and raise that very point because there was a very interesting debate underway -

MR. NEARY: All a waste of time.

MR. BARRY: - and the member for St. John's North (Mr. Carter) and other members have, from time to time, made that presentation to the Public Utilities Board that they should impose the same system -

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible) Tory hacks.

MR. BARRY: - for the rest of the Province -

AN HON. MEMBER: Right on.

MR. BARRY: - to have a built-in energy conservation factor when it goes beyond a certain point. But, Mr. Chairman, hon. members opposite, unfortunately, are keeping their heads in the sand. They tried it in the last general election and the people of this Province saw their party and their members bent over like this with their heads in the sand, and they saw our members on this side of the House striving forward into the future -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. BARRY: - proudly, boldly, energetically,
intelligently.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. BARRY: And, Mr. Chairman, they did not
show on their campaign poster their heads in the sand, but
every time they opened their mouths during the last general
election and heard the muffled groans and complaints and the
muffled negatives that came out, the people of this Province
could see that their heads were in the sand.

Now, it is the same way - they
are making exactly the same mistake. It is pathetic, you know,
it is pathetic. We have a by-election underway in Bellevue
and exactly the same mistake is being made. The Leader of
the Opposition (Mr. Stirling) -

MR. NEARY: Will not make the mistake -

MR. BARRY: - the Leader of the Opposition,
he does it in living colour on television-

MR. FLIGHT: Oh, you will see, you will see.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. BARRY: Listen, I had to let him retape it three times.
times because he cried so much on the first two tapings I had
to let him do it a third time.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Butt): Order, please!

MR. BARRY: Mr. Chairman -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. BARRY: Mr. Chairman -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. BARRY: Members opposite, they are
raising an uproar, it is a calamity of the greatest magnitude.
It is all over, the Province is coming to an end because there
is an eight per cent increase in hydro rates being projected.

MR. FLIGHT: Twenty-three.

MR. BARRY: Mr. Chairman, nobody likes to see rates go up. Nobody likes to see the price of anything go up. But compare, Mr. Chairman, compare the record of Newfoundland Hydro where it came in predicting it would need a nineteen per cent increase and by proper management, by good direction from the minister it was able to keep the increase down to nine per cent, Mr. Chairman.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. BARRY: That is over close to a two year period when the cost of living, the price of everything was going up over twenty per cent in the same period, over twenty per cent and we kept our price of electricity down to nine per cent. Mr Chairman, I would say that is performance.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. BARRY: That is performance.

Now, Mr. Chairman, we intend to see the same thing - one minute, half a minute - we intend to see the same thing being done as far as electrical rates are concerned in the future, to keep the price down as low as

MR. L. BARRY: possible, get as many inter-connections done, get as many people off the diesel systems and then, hopefully, when there are only a few places left on we can have the funds to bring those in as well. There are some that will never be inter-connected -

MR. CHAIRMAN (Butt): Order, please!

MR. BARRY: - but when there are only a few -

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. minister's time has expired.

MR. BARRY: - we will be able to bear the cost of serving them (inaudible) Hydro.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Carbonear.

MR. MOORES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Now, we have just heard it again, Mr. Chairman, the same old drudgery that we hear every time the Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. Barry) takes his place in debate, about all the progress and development that we have made in this Province relative to cost of energy and keeping the cost of electrical consumption down etc., etc. And the fact still remains, even though the rates in Nova Scotia are as high as they are, relative to -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible) with ours.

MR. MOORES: - real income, Newfoundlanders pay more for electricity than any other Canadians.

MR. BARRY: There is no increase at all (inaudible).

MR. MOORES: And that, Mr. Chairman, is the important -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Butt): Order, please!

MR. BARRY: By the way I will investigate any complaints of discrepancy.

MR. MOORES: That is alright, I will take time to gather my thoughts, Sir.

March 27, 1981

Tape No. 727

SD - 2

MR. BARRY:

Sorry, Mr. Member.

MR. MOORES:

That is alright, Mr. Minister. I am accustomed to it now.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Very cordial.

MR. MOORES:

Former Premier Smallwood, when I sat with him as a member of the Reform Party, always used to tell me, when you get interruptions use it to collect your thoughts. I always took that good advice.

I would like to make -

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible)

MR. MOORES:

- not really.

What deep, dark trepasses, Mr.

Chairman, of ignorance would the people of this Province be in if the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) was muzzled to the point that the member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall) would like him to be.

MR. NEARY:

He would have a field day, would he not?

MR. MOORES:

He would have a field day. The drudgery of debate in this House is so boring at times that it would frighten even the most enthusiastic listener. Except for the member for LaPoile and his enlightenment of the people of this Province, I do not think that this House would be worth half that it is today. All of these abuses of public spending, misuse of public funds ill-informed and ill-conceived government policy - more has come to light in debate in this House through the auspices of the research and energy of the member for LaPoile than any other five members combined.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear.

MR. MOORES:

And when the day comes that this House is absent of my colleague for LaPoile, and it will not be through defeat in an election, it will probably be through -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh.

MR. R. MOORES: - attrition, it will not be through political defeat.

MR. HANCOCK: I can tell you the Minister of Public Works (inaudible).

MR. MOORES: When that day comes, when that happens, Mr. Chairman, the people of this Province will be the worse off because of it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. HANCOCK: Give it to her 'Rod'. (Inaudible) of office, that is a fact.

MR. BARRY: We will consider your application.

MR. MOORES: If I could just continue in that vien for a moment, Mr. Chairman -

MR. CHAIRMAN (Butt): Order, please!

The hon. member for Carbonear has the floor.

MR. MOORES: - the member for LaPoile, my well-voiced colleague from LaPoile (Mr. Neary) is the exact opposite of the government in one very important respect, he discloses as much information as they conceal.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. HOLLETT: Well said 'Rod', well said.

MR. MOORES: And, Mr. Chairman, the member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall) when he spoke on this resolution, pointed out that various members on the Opposition

MR. MOORES:

side were speaking to matters not very germane to the concept of interim supply and that we should stick more to government spending and government expenditures, things more relevant to what interim supply means to debate in the House. And the basic question that we have to put forth, contrary to the comments of the member for Harbour Grace (H.Young) that are filibustering - Well, that just shows you how his minute understanding of the science of politics works. We are as far from filibustering on this now as you could possibly be but, nevertheless, it is the responsibility of this Opposition to bring forth, however major or however minor, abuses of public spending in this Province.

And the crux of the matter is that as an Opposition we should not permit, without extensive debate, the passage of this resolution and allow the government to have public funds to spend when they have, in fact, abused public spending in this Province. This Province has never been more bankrupt in all its days of Confederation. This economy, Provincial economy, has never been more stifled and more stymied. Public spending in this Province on services such as social services, highways, health facilities, educational facilities have never been more short coming.

The people in this Province are intellectually, socially, economically and culturally destitute and they have become so by the misinformation, the propaganda of this government, a lack of planning, a lack of policy formulation for the common ordinary Newfoundlander. Those are germane to the points of interim supply. Those are the points we want to make in this House; why the government should not be given a carte blanche expenditure of \$448 million. They cannot even spend \$4 million right, let alone \$448 million. And my

March 27, 1981

Tape No. 728

EL - 3

MR. MOORES: (L.Verge) talking about student aid in this Province and how it is one of the best programmes in Canada. I owe more student aid than she knows anything about.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HANCOCK: That is why you are so much better than (inaudible).

MR. MOORES: And I tell you, Mr. Chairman, the deceit and the propaganda and the misleading statements that have come out of this government are just unbelievable. The Minister of Education (Ms. Verge) to get up in this House this morning and try to tell me, a student of Memorial University who held every position in student politics, to tell me about the social assistance programme in this Province, and I will tell you it has been a dismal failure, that there are more Newfoundland students owing money to the Canadian Government than any other province in Canada.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MOORES: And she talks about her knowledge of student aid. Dear lord, what an insult. Thank God, Mr. Chairman, that I have thirty seconds to paraphrase my introduction to these ten minutes of remarks. I only hope that no sickness of any sort overcomes my colleague for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) because if it does I am going to have to retire from the House.

MR. NEARY: No way.

MR. MOORES: I do not think I will ever sit here again if he is not here to enlighten the people of Newfoundland, to enlighten the government, and to put the Opposition on a clear course to becoming the next government of this Province. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Butt): Order, please!
The hon. Minister of Labour and Manpower.

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member who just spoke fell into the trap again, walked right into the trap again. He said, what would happen if the member

MR. DINN: for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) were muzzled in this House? Well, Mr. Chairman, what would happen?

AN HON. MEMBER: You would have a field day.

MR. DINN: There would be a lot of things happen. Number one, we would not have the foolishness of the hon. member for LaPoile getting up and talking about the highest unemployment rate ever in this country. We would not have the hon. member criticizing Statistics Canada again about unemployment. We would not have the hon. member talk about his four colleagues in Ottawa with their new youth employment strategy for this Summer. You would not have him getting up criticizing the poor old federal government which gets enough criticism from all other sectors, Mr. Chairman. The hon. member should try to collect his thoughts. There is no money in education. Well, Mr. Chairman, if he had looked at interim supply alone, \$114,630,000 for education. No money for education, Mr. Chairman.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. DINN: Well, Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for LaPoile says, the bottom is gone out of the economy. Well, let us see what other people are saying. Let us not just take my word for it. The Economic Council of Canada does not believe that. They say that the economic growth rate in this Province this year will be 3 to 3.5 per cent, and it could go to 5.5 per cent. The economic outlook for Canada is zero growth.

Now, Mr. Chairman, let us have a look at that. What does that mean? Let us have a look at what the people think.

MR. WARREN: (Inaudible)

MR. DINN: Let us have a look at what the people in this country think. Let us have a look at what the people in Newfoundland themselves think. Out-

MR. DINN: ward and inward migration is an indicator.

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible).

MR. DINN: Outward and inward migration is an indicator, if 12,018 go out and 11,000 come in, the net outward migration is 1,018. So, Mr. Chairman -

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible) Tory Party.

MR. DINN: Now in 1969, and I will quote the exact figures because hon. members opposite, I know they do not believe Statistics Canada when they are favourable to this government, but the net outward migration in 1969 was somewhere around 8,000. The exact figure I have here somewhere, it was 8,625. The net outward migration in 1969 was 8,625. The net outward migration last year was 1,018. It has been going down for the past three years dramatically, going down dramatically.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. DINN: In 1981, or between now and 1985, in the next five years, the net outward inward migration will turn itself around. There will be more coming back than going out. That is a prediction, Mr. Chairman.

AN HON. MEMBER: Coming back?

MR. DINN: It is founded on good, basic statistical information. All you have to do is get the empirical data we have had over the past four or five or six years, project that, based on what the Economic Council of Canada says with respect to our economic growth of 3 to 3.5 per cent, based on the figures for the employment

MR. DINN:

rate last year — the employment rate forty-six per cent, not great, but it is the greatest since as far as statistics go back. They go back to 1966, or that is as far back as I have been able to go. And the employment statistics indicate that the employment growth rate in this Province is greater now than it has ever been since they starting collecting statistics.

Mr. Chairman, that refutes anything that the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) says with respect to the bottom dropping out of the economy.

MR. NEARY:

A point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Butt):

Order, please! A point of order raised by the hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY:

Could Your Honour take a poke at the member for St. John's North (Mr. Carter) to see if he is asleep or if he is sick?

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Order, please!

MR. NEARY:

Is he ill or is he asleep, Mr. Chairman?

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Order, please! That is not a point of order.

The hon. Minister of Labour and Manpower.

MR. DINN:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is about all the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) has to say to disrupt the House, to -

MR. NEARY:

(Inaudible).

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Order, please!

MR. DINN:

- to try to muzzle this side of the House. They do not want to hear the good information. It does not matter that it is just coming from this side of the House, but the Economic Council of Canada is saying it, Statistics Canada is saying it.

MR. THOMS:

(Inaudible) colleague (inaudible) do so.

MR. DINN: And the hon. members opposite do not want to hear it, do not want to listen, do not want to hear this good positive stuff happening in this Province. Mr. Chairman, this is going to continue. I am going to now just predict, as I did for the Rotary Club of St. John's yesterday, I am going to predict a few of the things that will happen in the next three or four or five years, based on this foundation, this strategy that the government has with basically no increase in the basic taxation structure - the Retail Sales Tax, I believe, is what the Premier said during the election - and Newfoundland provincial income tax, personal income tax, Mr. Chairman, a few of the promises that were made. Well, Mr. Chairman, the hon. the Premier has always kept these kinds of promises. 'No increase in retail sales', he said, 'no increase in provincial personal income tax'. Mr. Chairman, I predict that for 1981 that will be true unless there is an election. If hon. members keep going the way they are going there may be - there may very well be an election.

MR. ROBERTS: Hear, hear! Let us have an election.

MR. DINN: The Premier may be provoked - and, Mr. Chairman, we will have to appoint an opposition.

MR. ROBERTS: That is right. All the Liberals will be over there (inaudible).

MR. DINN: So, Mr. Chairman, the net outward migration, as I said, which is an indicator, peaked in 1969 at 8,625, and is now down to 1,018 for 1980. That is an indicator. The economic growth is an indicator; what is going to be the growth rate economically in this Province this year, and it is about 3.5 per cent predicted by very reputable people, people who look at the economy.

Mr. Chairman, the employment rate which, as I said, is the best - the employment rate in this Province is the best census as far as statistics go back. 1966

MR. DINN: is when Stats Canada really started collecting these statistics. They are up now to forty-six per cent and the employment rate is the number of people employed verses the population in the age group fifteen and above. And, Mr. Chairman, that, at forty-six for 1980, should go to now, they are predicting, should go to about 50 per cent in the next four to five years.

Mr. Chairman, we talked during the election about improvement in resource management. Well can anybody refute that? Is there anybody on the Opposition side who can refute the fact that resource management, forest management and protection is not in good hands with the hon. -

MR. ROBERTS: The federal minister (inaudible).

MR. DINN: - the hon. Minister of Forestry?

Can anybody refute that? Can anybody stand up in the Opposition and talk about the resource management regime that has been put in place by the hon. the Minister of Mines and Energy? Mr. Chairman, can anybody refute that?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. DINN: The hon. members should be up - take a bow before you go. Very good. The hon. member should take a bow. The management regime that is in place in Mines and Energy, Mr. Chairman, and I could go through all the resource areas, I could go through all the resource areas.

MR. ROBERTS: The hon. gentleman (inaudible).

MR. DINN: Fishing? The hon. Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) had his little conference last week and they stood up, Mr. Chairman -

MR. ROBERTS: A quorum call, one, two, three, four, five, six.

A quorum call, the hon. gentleman (inaudible).

March 27, 1981

Tape No. 730

NM - 4

MR. DINN:
hear the truth, Mr. Chairman.

Very good. They do not want to

MR. ROBERTS:
colleague then.

We want to hear it from your

MR. NEARY:

Call in the members.

March 27,1981

Tape No. 731

AH-1

MR. CHAIRMAN (Butt):

We have a quorum.

The hon. Minister of Labour and Manpower has two minutes.

MR. DINN:

Mr. Chairman, I will just make one other point before I sit down and that is with respect to jobs offshore. I have to make that point again because I heard the hon. the member for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock) complain to the press that I had some officials up in the Labrador area trying to get people registered for employment offshore and he was complaining that they were not out on the coast. Well, I indicated last year, number one, the first thing we have to remember is that nobody on the other side is for local preference, They are totally against local preference, so why should they have a complaint about it?

SOME HON.MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. DINN:

Mr. Chairman, I also informed the hon. members last year that I would make available to them registration forms, lists of companies available to them, and in their twelve trips that the people in Newfoundland pay for , their twelve trips back to their districts, surely, Mr. Chairman, they can bring back a few registration forms for the people down in Labrador who want to work in the offshore. No, Mr. Chairman, they cannot do it. So Mr. Chairman, I had to send officials down to Labrador. This afternoon, today, the minister for Labrador, probably the greatest minister Labrador has ever seen.—

SOME HON.MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. DINN:

—the Minister for Labrador will be going down today. He is going to arrange, in his Department of Rural Agricultural and Northern Development, registration forms and all the information that the people anywhere in Labrador will need so that they can register for jobs in the offshore. Now , Mr. Chairman, last year

MR. DINN: 100 people registered and when it came to the point where they were hiring for the offshore, we sent out 100 letters to all the people who were registered and we got six replies back, and when we got the six replies back we got six jobs. Now, Mr. Chairman, I do not know what more we can do, but I do know that the hon. the Minister for Labrador will be up there today with the registration forms and making sure that Labradorians are looked after.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!
The hon. minister's time has expired.

The hon. member for Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN: Mr. Chairman -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! The hon. member for Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN: -I am surprised that the Minister of Manpower and Labour (Mr. Dinn) did finish his speech by talking about jobs on the offshore oil and, in particular, pertaining to Labrador. I would like to advise the minister not only is he sending officials of his department down to Labrador about jobs, but I also understand that some constituents of members in the St. John's area are going down there and applying for jobs. Now, Mr. Chairman, I understood yesterday one of the applicants is a constituent of the Minister of Forest, Resources and Lands (Mr. Power) from the Southern Shore. Now, Mr. Chairman, this is a government that is concerned about jobs for Labradorians. This is the kind of a government that is concerned about jobs for Labradorians when they are saying, 'Look, regardless of where the oil rigs are, regardless of where the contractors are we are going to hire the people from St. John's first.'

Now, Mr. Chairman, the Minister of

March 27, 1981

Tape No. 731

AH-3

MR. WARREN:

Labour and Manpower (Mr. Dinn)

never once mentioned the crucial strike at the College of Trades and Technology. We have a strike on and the minister never even mentioned it, never mentioned the petition, never mentioned about how he signed the petition. A member of this government signed a petition and he never did once mention it. Now, Mr. Chairman, I would like to go back and ask the Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr Barry)-when he was talking about diesel rates, I am surprised that the minister never mentioned a telegram that has gone to him - maybe he has not received it yet - about a petition of about two or three hundred names that is in the mail to him concerning diesel rates in a community in Northern Labrador, Nain.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I will tell the minister some factual information that he will not be able to blow his horn too loud about today. The people are upset, the people are asking for a full investigation, a full investigation into the operation and the services of Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro in coastal Labrador communities. Now, to give you an example; for the past several months the people in the community of Nain had to go for hours and hours without any electricity whatsoever because of power failure.

MR. MOORES:

Right.

MR. WARREN:

Now, on top of those power failures, when the motors were cutting in and cutting out people were losing the blow motors in their furnaces, they were losing their record players by being blown up. Now, Mr. Chairman, who has to pay for those damages to those appliances?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Chairman, if the minister wants to blow his own horn about how good Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro is doing, let him go down along the Labrador coast and

March 27, 1981

Tape No. 731

AH-4

MR. WARREN: see what a poor service is being
supplied.

MR. MOORES: Right.

MR. WARREN: And furthermore I will tell the
minister that -

March 27, 1981

Tape No. 732

DW - 1

MR. BARRY: You say you sent me a telegram in the mail?

MR. G. WARREN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to advise the minister that he has been bombarded, he has been bombarded with complaints about Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro. So, Mr. Chairman, I suggest to the minister when he gets up and starts talking about Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro doing their proper work, he should look at what is happening along the Labrador Coast. I will give you another example; Mr. Chairman, a small house, the only electricity they have in that house is the ordinary lights and a television and just an electric stove, now that is all they have in that house, last month \$150 for one month's supply of electricity.

Now, Mr. Chairman, it is fine and dandy to talk about our electricity in and around St. John's, \$30 and \$35 per month. We must realize that those people along the Labrador coast, because of the lack of jobs supplied by this government, have to rely upon unemployment insurance and social assistance. That is what is left for those people to rely on. And now they have to pay \$80 and \$90 and \$100 and sometimes \$150 for electricity.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. Barry) also spoke about the half team in Labrador. Yes, Mr. Chairman, my hon. friend for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock) and myself, I think we are supplying this government with a good half team. And I believe that, with all respect to the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development (Mr. Goudie), he is trying to do his half too. However, Mr. Chairman, I do find it astonishing that about two weeks the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development made a statement in a paper in Labrador saying that if there was any aluminum smelting plant for this Province it was going to be stationed in Labrador. Now, that was quoted in the Labrador

MR. G. WARREN: paper, The Labradorian. If there was going to be any aluminum smelting plant for the Province, it is going to be located in Happy Valley, Labrador or in Labrador. Now, yesterday the Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor) said, and I will quote what the Minister of Development said - apparently both ministers do not have their wires connected, I do not think. Let us just see what the minister: said 'Mr. Windsor says talks are ongoing with aluminum companies that have shown a readiness to invest in smelter capacity in the Province'. He said, 'Potential sites, both in Labrador and on the Island, are actively being considered and various advantages and disadvantages of each are being weighed in relation to the provincial strategy for development'. Now, one minister says it is going to be in Labrador and the other minister says he does not know. Now, Mr. Chairman, it is only time for both the ministers -

MR. L. BARRY: Did you ever consider there might be two?

MR. G. WARREN: There could be two, sure, why not? So if there are two -

MR. S. NEARY: Not two but three, not three, four, not four (inaudible)

MR. G. WARREN: So, Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that both ministers, if they are going to make statements and if there is going to be an aluminum smelting plant in Labrador, at least, both ministers should agree and say, 'Yes, Labrador first'.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Labour and Manpower (Mr. Dinn) mentioned about \$114 million in this bill for education. We must realize we have teachers - this bill is for three months and we have thousands of teachers throughout this Province who have to be paid. Now, this is where this money is going to be used, to pay the salaries. It is not going to be used for any extra new schools or any extra-curriculum for the schools, it is going to be used, basically, for the

MR. G. WARREN: teachers salaries, Mr. Chairman. So do not try to blindfold the media by saying, 'Look, we have \$114 million there and it is going to be used for new investments in the teaching -

MR. BARRETT: Are you not responsible for (inaudible)?

MR. G. WARREN: Mr. Chairman, Mr. DAC himself speaks once in a while. I am sure he is more concerned - the member for St. John's West (Mr. Barrett) is more concerned about DAC than he is about the people in St. John's West.

And furthermore, Mr. Chairman, I understand that someone spoke about the by-election in Bellevue. Yes, Mr. Chairman, I understand there is a by-election in Bellevue and it is going along very smoothly. It is going along very smoothly. In fact, I understand that the Progressive Conservative Party is planning to open up a campaign office between now and the tenth.

MR. S. NEARY: The last week.

MR. G. WARREN: I see. The last week, is it?

MR. S. NEARY: (Inaudible) the gentleman in Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Andrews), the last week they will (inaudible).

MR. WARREN: The last week.

MR. S. NEARY: Like they did down in Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir, the last week they will run (inaudible) 'Brian' (inaudible)

MR. WARREN:

And

they will use helicopters, and they will make promises. Mr.

Chairman, there are forty-six miles of unpaved road and so the Premier is going to go in the helicopter and fly over those roads and he is going to say, 'We are going to pave it'. But let me tell you, my friends, that the people in Bellevue are not going to be fooled. They will not be fooled like the people in Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir. They were fooled once but they will not be fooled again.

And, Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind you that we are going to show -

MR. CHAIRMAN (Butt): Order, please!

MR. WARREN: - the people in Bellevue are going to show this government that they cannot run this Province.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear.

MR. WARREN: And, Mr. Chairman, the people in Bellevue are going to make a decision and show this government that they have to wake up and do what is good for the people in Newfoundland and Labrador.

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

MR. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, just very briefly, just to - I just happen to be reading, by coincidence while all this debate is going on about energy in Labrador, I am reading a report, a little memo put together by officials who just got back - I will not quote from it or else I will have to table it, Mr. Chairman - officials who just got back from doing a tour of Labrador, providing information on energy conservation and, Mr. Chairman, there is a lot in interest in Labrador in energy conservation. But please, do not let it be said that this government is not interested in the energy problems of the people of

MR. BARRY: Labrador, we very much are. And, Mr. Chairman, we have sent out people from the energy department up to Labrador, we have supplied seminars dealing with new techniques in home heating, home insulation, ways in which furnaces might be improved, burners on furnaces, to get greater efficiency. We know, Mr. Chairman, I am hoping myself to get up the coast this Spring and see at first hand, see at first hand the problems that exist with respect to energy supplies on the coast, and to meet again the many friends that I have in the coastal communities of Labrador, including the community of Nain.

And, Mr. Chairman, I have very quickly, upon receiving complaints, whether they be on the Island or in Labrador, immediately instigated investigations and, Mr. Chairman, there is absolutely no question but that I will see that an investigation is carried out. Now, whether it is a full-fledged witch hunt of the type that the member for Torngat Mountains (G. Warren) is contemplating, is something else. But I will, Mr. Chairman, see that the specifics of any complaint are examined and that a specific reply is delivered back to residents. For example, on the Northern Peninsula, this was the most recent one, on the Great Northern Peninsula, I received complaints from one homeowner who said that he has exactly the same house, exactly the same facilities, exactly the same washer/dryer set up and so forth, but that his bill was different from his neighbour. Lo and behold, when we had it investigated, and investigated meticulously to the most scrupulous detail, we find that there are not the same factors at play and that, in fact, in one case there was a new baby in the family which meant that the old washer/dryer was going about five times as long as in the neighbour's house next door, and there were five or six things like this that

March 27, 1981

Tape NO. 733

EL - 3

MR. BARRY: were identified, and I just give
this as one home, one example of where often families are not
aware of just what is happening internally. They are not think-
ing in terms of energy conservation. They are not thinking in

MR. BARRY: terms of their patterns of energy consumption. But I welcome, Mr. Chairman, requests from consumers who feel concerned, that their charges may not be correct, may not be proper, and as far as manpower allows, I will see that these are investigated. Periodically people have concerns that their meters are out of whack. This is a common feeling, that the electrical meter that is used to monitor their amount of consumption is out of whack. There are procedures, Mr. Chairman, for having these investigated and checked out.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible) they have to pay for it.

MR. BARRY: Yes, there is a nominal charge.

MR. WARREN: They have to pay if they are proven wrong.

MR. BARRY: It is a nominal charge if they are

proven wrong but you have to have some controls, Mr. Chairman. Why should the taxpayer pay for, you know, unreasonable requests in that area or any other area.

MR. WARREN: They sometimes have Department of Hydro (inaudible).

MR. BARRY: Oh, you just admitted, Sir, that it is not where it is the Department of Hydro's fault, it is where the person has been proven wrong and it is where there is nothing wrong with his meter that the payment comes in.

MR. AYLWARD: Right on! Yes.

MR. BARRY: Mr. Chairman, we will see - and I must say the member is showing great restraint in giving me an opportunity to investigate this matter before coming down like thunder. He has given me much opportunity to have the facts at my finger tips, these concerns of the people of Nain, so that I can fully explain them in the House when he demands an explanation before I have even received the telegram which is in the mail.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is probably in your in basket in your office.

MR. BARRY: Now, Mr. Chairman - and it is not in my basket on my desk because I do not have anything in my basket, it is as clean, Mr. Chairman, as a whistle. I have my mail up to date. So if there is a telegram in the mail, it has gotten lost in the mail.

MR. WARREN: A petition too.

MR. BARRY: A petition as well? Okay. I have not received the petition either but I will be looking very closely at it and I hope to discuss their problems with the people concerned, personally, when I get to visit Nain, which I hope will be sometime this Spring or early Summer.

Now, Mr. Chairman, when we do our -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. BARRY: - yes, we will definitely be going up in August just as well but I might even go up before that.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is what happens.

MR. BARRY: At least in August.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible) in August.

MR. BARRY: There is not only salmon, there is Arctic char, Mr. Chairman, there are a few geese that go to wing, you might even see the occasional grouse, although it is a bit early at that time, Mr. Chairman. But if you happen to run into any rabbit snares - there are not a lot of rabbit snares out that time of the year either, you have to watch the - I hope our Minister of Environment is not listening to all this.

But, Mr. Chairman, I am very much aware - just to give the members of the House a few statistics, there is the problem -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. BARRY: - that has been identified of the additional consumption that is made necessary because of the Northern climate. Now, Mr. Chairman, it was not this government that imposed the Northern climate on Labrador, again, it was

MR. BARRY: the good Lord in his wisdom that decreed what the weather was going to be like. But the end result is that the consumption in gallons for heating oil in Labrador, our figures indicate, is about 45 per cent higher than on the Island. Now, those are average figures. I suspect that if you get up on the great Northern Peninsula, you will have areas there where their climatic conditions will run quite comparable to parts of Labrador when you consider wind, exposure to the salt sea air and so forth. But the degree days in Fahrenheit are 14,000 for Labrador as compared to 9,000 for St. John's and 11,000 for Regina, Saskatchewan, just to give you a couple of other statistics. And in the Spring of 1980, the actual cost of heating was 62.4 per cent higher in Labrador than on the Island. And these are figures obtained from the report on the annual cost of fuel and utilities in Newfoundland that the Executive Council puts out. So we can see and we can sympathize for the additional consumption made

MR. BARRY:

necessary by the colder Northern climate. We have to, therefore ensure as much as possible that these working conditions, living conditions are reflected in wage rates. for example. And government has, in the past, recognized this with the Northern allowance. The companies in Labrador recognize it in the wage packages that are negotiated, although the people in Labrador City and Wabush and told me on my last visit that the gap, the differential is considerably narrowing in recent years. But, again, this is part of the collective bargaining process and if they expect to keep good workers in the iron ore facilities, then they are going to have to pay them. Our real task on the coast of Labrador is to ensure that we provide jobs and good paying jobs for these people.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN (Butt): Now, Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Dinn) has as much sympathy as we all do. We all feel for the need for jobs for people on the coast of Labrador so that they can meet these additional costs that are imposed by Northern climatic conditions.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. LUSH: Mr. Chairman, in speaking to this interim supply measure, a person has to consider it from two points of view. One, of course, the overall benefits to the Province with these expenditures, accruing from these expenditures and, secondly, the overall benefits accruing to an individual member's constituency. Now, Mr. Chairman, when one looks at the enormous amount of money which our Budget entails, one cannot help but wonder what benefits are really accruing to the Province as a whole. Even though we are talking about a large sum of money, one has to search to find out what benefits are accruing to the people generally. I see very little evidence

MR. LUSH: Mr. Chairman, that the expenditures are really doing anything substantial towards improving the standard of living of our people, towards job creation. It is really baffling. And, Mr. Chairman, when I as a member of this House look at the monies that are going to my district, I have been thinking - I do not know what kind of a mathematician I would have to be to be able to calculate the percentage of not the total Budget but of the amount that we are talking about today, the \$500 million, approximately \$500 million, the proportion of that that is going to the district of Terra Nova. And on that basis, Mr. Chairman, I would be forced to vote against this particular measure because of the small amount of money and the - I do not know what adjective to find for it, Mr. Chairman, the small amount of money that is going to the district of Terra Nova. I believe in gratitude, Mr. Chairman, and I would like to be grateful to the government, naturally, for the little amount that I get. Mr. Chairman, it is not subscribing to the announced policy of this government, on a national basis certainly, when they believe in equality and there is no equality seen in the distribution of funds by this particular government.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I have, or my district has received some monies for water and sewer installation, particularly in the incorporated areas of the Terra Nova district but, again, when one looks at the share of that, the proportion that comes from the federal government, find it is indeed a very small amount that comes from the Treasury of this Province. When one looks at the amount that is spent on roads for upgrading, apart from the maintenance, of course, by the department itself, by the Department of Transportation, when one looks at

MR. LUSH: what was spent in upgrading and reconstruction of roads, Mr. Chairman, that is not hard to calculate, that is not hard to calculate, it is zero. It is zilch. It is not one red copper. So, Mr. Chairman, how in all common decency could members of the opposite side expect me to support this particular measure when my district is getting very little of an amount that you would want to be I do not know what kind of a mathematician, to calculate the percentage that is going there. As a matter of fact, if there were some sort of a graph design what would be written under the Terra Nova one would say, "not measurable", as is so frequently done with fish catches and this sort of thing, that, you know, you get certain species and they say it is not measurable, and that is what would happen with the amount of money that has been spent in the Terra Nova district.

So, Mr. Chairman, being the representative for the district of Terra Nova, I certainly have to stand up for my people and try to impress upon the government the kind of treatment that these people are receiving, which goes against, as I say, the mouthing off, that the government is so expert at doing, mouthing off equality. Well, Mr. Chairman, if we expect equality on a national level, we certainly should get our own house in order and practice that policy on a regional level in this Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. LUSH: And that certainly is not in practice by this government, equal treatment of all the people in this Province, all of the regions, and all of the areas are not getting equal treatment and, Mr. Chairman, that is the thing that I am concerned about. When the government practices that policy at home, they will find this hon. member willing to support any money bill that they bring into this House. And, Mr. Chairman, that is what I want to see - that is a policy that I want not only enunciated by the government but a policy that is practiced by the government.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Chairman, I think of the tremendous squeeze and the tremendous bind that residents living in unincorporated areas in this Province are placed in. I would like to talk about the new - What is my time getting up already? My goodness!

MR. CHAIRMAN (Baird): Three minutes. Go ahead.

MR. LUSH: Well, Mr. Chairman, I want to talk about the bind and the squeeze that unincorporated areas of this Province are placed in with respect to the new Municipalities Act that we passed in this House some time ago. Now, Mr. Chairman, that has, for all intents and purposes, ruled out the possibility of these people ever receiving any money from the government in the next few years if there are not some changes made to that act. Now, Mr. Chairman, in that act we are encouraging people - not only encouraging them, enforcing them to adopt some form of municipal government. But the regulations prevent that. And the regulation that I refer to is one that calls for a public meeting in which we must have fifty per cent of the homeowners at that meeting, for an area to adopt some form of municipal government. And I think the exact terminology is a local service district.

Now, Mr. Chairman, there is no way, there is no way that any community in this Province is ever going to become a local service district under the present regulations. There is no way that any community in my district will become a local service district because of that regulation which requires fifty per cent of the homeowners to attend a public meeting.

Now, Mr. Chairman, why first of all is that necessary? Now, let me point out some of the - hon. members know the difficulty of getting people out to a public meeting, be it a political meeting or any other kind of a meeting. And to get fifty per cent of the homeowners is practically impossible.

MR. LUSH:

Secondly, in these areas -

I do not know of one building in my own district, one public building that could accommodate that number of people, if they were to turn out.

So, Mr. Chairman, it is a stupid regulation. It is a stupid regulation. It must be changed. I can assure hon. members that it must be causing untold headaches with the people who have to administer this programme in Municipal Affairs. It must be causing all sorts of problems and, Mr. Chairman, not only that, there is a further complication where we are trying to bring in several communities, to bring in several communities under this programme. And, again, the same regulation is in effect, there must be fifty per cent of the homeowners.

Now, Mr. Chairman, take four or five communities which we are going to bring in under this regulation. Again, look at the stupidity of trying to cram fifty per cent of the homeowners from four or five communities into a single building. There are all sorts of problems with them, Mr. Chairman. And I do not want to go into them, I just want to raise it. I believe that if the government were really, if the government were really intent on allowing these areas to become, or to adopt some form of municipal government, that they would make the regulations more flexible, in tune with the needs of the area and the various temperaments of people in these

MR. LUSH:

areas. But right now that regulation - I do not know whether it is done intentionally - is designed against their becoming a local service district or adopting some form of municipal government. And as long as they are outside the regulations, as long as they do not have some form of municipal government, they do not qualify for any funds from the government related to public services; firefighting, Mr. Chairman, water and sewer, and garbage collection, all of these vital services, these people have no way of setting up these kinds of services in their area and getting funds from the provincial government. It is ridiculous, it is discriminatory, and if the government were concerned about it they would immediately move to change this regulation, to make it more flexible, to make it easier for people to become a local service district or to adopt some form of municipal government. And the regulation now, as I have said before, certainly discourages that kind of activity among our people and it is not workable.

I would like for the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mrs. Newhook) to be here so I could address the question to her, to ask her how many complaints she has received about this particular regulation. Mr. Chairman, it is a terrible regulation and it should be changed immediately to allow these people from the smaller communities in Newfoundland, the unincorporated areas, to adopt some form of municipal government so that they can rightfully qualify for some of the public services of this Province, to qualify for some of the dollars. I do not know if the President of Treasury Board (Dr. Collins) or the hon. Minister of Finance is familiar with this, but it is a most important issue to

MR. LUSH: the people of rural Newfoundland.

And if I just might be permitted to make a suggestion, Mr. Chairman, I cannot see why they will not allow these people to incorporate themselves through a petition, taking up a petition in the community.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. LUSH: Now, I can understand the purpose of a public meeting, I can understand that certainly, to disseminate information and let the people know what incorporation or municipal government is all about, and to make them aware of the responsibilities and obligations that fall on their shoulders as a result of becoming incorporated. I can understand all of that. But, Mr. Chairman, you can still have a public meeting. You can still call a public meeting so that that information can be disseminated to the people, but after that is done, sometime after that, when we have given the information a chance to disperse itself throughout the community, now let us allow the people to take up a petition, rather than this silly, stupid, inane regulation that requires the presence of 50 per cent of homeowners from an area to attend a public meeting. It is ridiculous, Mr. Chairman, it is unworkable, and something should be done about it immediately.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

DR. COLLINS: Can I have just a few words, just to cover a couple of points.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Baird): If the minister speaks he will close the debate.

DR. COLLINS: No. No. No, not in Committee.

AN HON. MEMBER: Not in Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I understand that in Committee we can get up multiple times, and I believe we have fifteen minutes each time or whatever.

Mr. Chairman, a number of points have been mentioned by hon. members, and I am going to lose track of them if I just do not say a few words about them now. Just on the last point, the hon. member for Terra Nova (Mr. Lush) was talking about the difficulty of accommodating people in his district in a single hall so as to get an expression of opinion about what they want to do with their future useable structure. I have a small suggestion for him, I do not know if it will help very much. Why does he not call just a meeting of his own Liberal supporters, and I would think that he would need just a very small hall to accommodate the numbers who would come. He could clearly have all the communities send representations to the meeting and he would still have -

MR. LUSH: I was more broadminded than that.

DR. COLLINS: But I would say the hon. member has a good point, a very good point. I am sure that the hon. Minister for Municipal Affairs (Mrs. Newhook) will take his complaint under consideration and like all ministers in this government, will do the very best that she can to do something about it within the rather limited financial

DR. COLLINS:

means at our disposal. One point that was brought up by a number of speakers is to the competence of this government spend the money we are requesting. Now, I do not know how you very easily measure that. I think one of the best ways of measuring it is seeing who do the people elect. I think that is a fair measure. If two groups of people are contending to do something and it is put to a public vote, and unless you disbelieve the public, if the public vote in a particular group, I think it is a fair assumption to say, well, those are, in the public perception, the most competent people. And I would suggest that this administration is based on a party that has been more acceptable to the general public than the other party in the Province contending for the position. There is a third party but they have not been in the running at all.

So, I think that is one measure of the competence of this administration. Another measure is what is happening in our economy, and what is happening to employment in the Province. My hon. colleague, the Minister of Labour and Manpower (J.Dinn) has covered both those points and statistics show that unemployment rates are going down and our gross provincial product is going up. So I think that is another measure of the competence of this administration.

I did mention earlier there is another measure and that is, how acceptable is our credit in the world financial markets? The hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle (E. Roberts) wanted some further information on that, and I have got it. Now, the hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle quite rightly pointed out that when bond issues are floated, there is not just one aspect of things you can take to compare the acceptability of that bond to another bond, there is the

DR. COLLINS: the rate of interest on the bond, there is the price at which the bond is to be sold, there is the term of the bond, there are added features such as warrants and so on and, of course, as I mentioned, there is how much confidence the lenders have in the borrower. Now, you can put all those into one measure and the one measure that really measures it all is, what is the yield on the bond? And I mentioned that the yield on our bonds in the Euro-dollar market was compared very favourably with the bonds floated by other borrowers and I mentioned a number of them. One of them, for instance, was our sister province, Quebec. In February, some time in February, I do not know the exact dates, the yield on our bonds was lower than the yield on the Quebec bonds which means that our bonds were more acceptable, they were taken up more avidly by the borrowers.

Now, I have some up-to-date information which may also bring out the point of how the world financial market is now viewing the credit of this Province and I suggest that the credit of this Province is a reflection of the confidence they have in the management of this Province.

One per cent difference in bond yield is usually referred to as a hundred basis points so that one point is .00 of a per cent. I think it is useful just to bear that point in mind. Now, at the present time, or at least the most recent date we have it, the yield on our bonds in Europe is 14.25 per cent. The yield on the Republic of Ireland bonds, which were floated at the same time we floated ours, is 14.41 per cent so that we are nearly twenty basis points better at .2 per cent, we are nearly twenty basis points better than the Republic of Ireland. The yield on Hydro Quebec is 14.21 per cent so there is only a four basis point spread between ourselves and Quebec and I think that is a remarkable point. That

March 27, 1981

Tape No. 738

EL - 3

DR. COLLINS: shows that the borrowers on the European market have tremendous confidence in this government in terms of how acceptable its bonds are concerned.

MR. NEARY: You were only going to be a minute.

DR. COLLINS: Alright, I will go on if that point has convinced hon. members opposite how competent this government is.

MR. MARSHALL: You do not mean they asked a question that was worthy to respond to?

DR. J. COLLINS: Well, just a few questions. Now, another point that came up was how much difficulty this Province is having in its dealings with the central authority and they say, 'Well, we cannot conclude DREE agreements and we are confronting the federal authority all the time and so on'. Well, as I mentioned and as other people have mentioned, if you cannot conclude an agreement-it is not a one-sided thing, you need both sides to conclude an agreement. Now, I do not want to go into that any further but I would like to point this out, that we have been concluding very satisfactory agreements with the central authority in many respects. And I would bring to the attention of the hon. members that we have entered into agreements in the past six to nine months with the Canadian Development Corporation. They wanted to come to this Province and invest considerable amounts of money in our fisheries. And they knew we had interest in this and they had interest in this, so they came down and we negotiated and we concluded very, very satisfactory arrangements with the Canadian Development Corporation.

Now, we also had a refinery on our hands and we wished that this refinery would be re-activated. And another federal agency, Petro-Canada, came and met with us and we negotiated with them and we reached very satisfactory arrangements in terms of the refinery. We also had a very much needed facility in the St. John's Harbour, that the federal government itself was dragging its feet over. But there was a federal government agency which was involved in it, i.e. CN, CN Holdings to be specific, and we reached a very satisfactory state of negotiations with them.

DR. J. COLLINS: So I would just like to make this point, Mr. Chairman, this Province, where there is good will on the other side, has no difficulty whatsoever in reaching satisfactory arrangements with agencies of central authority. And I think it is significant that where CDC was concerned, where the Canadian Development Association was concerned, where Petro-Canada was concerned, where CN Holdings was concerned, our federal representative, our representative in the federal government had no part to play in those whatever, it did not go through his particular hands, and these arrangements were very, very satisfactorily negotiated. On the other hand, when we get into the DREE situation and other situations, unfortunately it seems that our representative in the federal Cabinet figures very largely in these and we have all sorts of difficulty. And I think that that is a point that is worth noting, that we can negotiate and we have negotiated with the central authority when there is a willingness shown on that side to negotiate, and we have had difficulty in concluding arrangements with the central authority where there is obstruction, where there is deliberate obstruction.

Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Grand Bank (Mr. Thoms) was very concerned about our tackling of the abuse of alcohol, and I share his concern. I think that he has done a good service by bringing this point up a number of times, and I am sure his concern is shared by all members in this House.

If I may have leave just for a moment to conclude a few remarks?

MR. CHAIRMAN (Butt): Is it agreed that the hon. minister will have leave to conclude his remarks?

MR. HISCOCK: He can make all the points after.

DR. COLLINS: All right.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Butt): The hon. member for Eagle River.

MR. E. HISCOCK: Mr. Chairman, one would say that it is rather childish but it seems to me, here in this House now, that when we ask for something we cannot get leave to speak, we cannot let our own people speak, so I feel that if we are going to have the government say that then we as a group, or I will continue to maintain that.

But, Mr. Chairman, I am rather concerned about this interim supply of almost half a billion dollars. It is amazing! I am almost sure that when the former Premier Moores defeated Mr. Smallwood, it was on the assumption that we were going bankrupt. We were going bankrupt! And now we are asking for \$450 million only for interim supply. The budget has quadrupled, our debt is unbelievable,

MR. HISCOCK: Mr. Chairman, \$800 million when Mr. Smallwood left office and now it is \$3 billion and what have we got to show for it?

MR. MARSHALL: Interest on interest.

MR. HISCOCK: What do we have to show for it?

MR. HANCOCK: You will only be making your interest payments and that for another couple of years, that is all you will be doing.

MR. HISCOCK: Mr. Chairman, it is unbelievable that the government can turn around and ask for interim supply for that amount of money and not lay upon the table this House how they are going to be spending it. And as a member I am rather concerned that the government does it in such a way that if we do not get interim supply then the people do not get paid and, therefore, if they do not get paid it is the responsibility of the Opposition for not letting it go through. Well, I believe that we should not let it go through until we get certain answers, until we get certain answers from this government on how they plan to spend this money in the first place.

MR. MARSHALL: Stop salaries.

MR. HISCOCK: Stop salaries, yes -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. HISCOCK: - because, Mr. Chairman, this government here will ask for half a billion dollars and will not even say - it is not going to take a half a billion dollars to pay the salaries of the public civil servants in this Province for the next two months, it is not going to take that. If you want the money to pay the salaries we will let that go right through now, if that is your concern but, Mr. Chairman, with regard to the other money, I think the taxpayers of this Province have a right to know how the remainder of this money is going to be spent. And this government is still failing to do that. And, as I said, the

MR. HISCOCK: President of the Privy Council (Mr. Marshall) said we are not being detailed enough. Well, we asked the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) what is he going to be doing in the next two months - the budget is not down. We ask another minister what he is going to do - the budget is not brought down. It is confidential, we are in the plans of negotiating.

MR. MARSHALL: I did not say you were not detailed enough, I said you are not (inaudible)

MR. HISCOCK: So, Mr. Chairman, I am rather concerned with this government which asks for it and will not even show why they need it. But with regard to housing in this Province, the federal government has designated the upper part of my district from Lodge Bay to Paradise River as a Rural Remote Assistance Programme, since last Fall and do you know what? - that is not on stream yet because of negotiations between Canada Mortgage and the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation. And do you know that there was money again last year sent back because of RRAP, and in 1978? And I would like to know from the Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor) what is happening with regard to the proposal that the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation is doing to get the RRAP programme on the go, it is back in their court now. Are we going to have it all through the districts? Are we only going to have it in one place? Surely, if we have a Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation they should have competent people and hire extra staff. I have even given the names of several people in my district who would be qualified for this position if they did the interviewing and training. So the people are there, the money is there, it is just a matter of getting the programme off the ground.

MR. DINN: What programme is that you are talking about?

MR. HISCOCK: RRAP which is ridiculous because, Mr. Chairman, some of the housing problems in my district are some of the worst in Canada and it is not a question of not looking after them, but they have to maintain two houses - the fishing has been rather bad in the past several years, it is only now it is coming on stream again - they have had to maintain their boats, they have had to maintain their skidoos and they have had to maintain families. And I think it is a crying shame that we do not have that programme into effect for the Spring of this year. And if it does not come into effect, as far as I am concerned, it lies on the shoulders of the Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor) who is responsible for Newfoundland and Labrador Housing.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. HISCOCK: So, Mr. Chairman, I say to the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) -

DR. WINDSOR: What are you talking about over there?

MR. HISCOCK: I am talking about the RRAP programme. I am talking about its being in effect, approved in the district since last year. I am talking about negotiations between Canada and Central Mortgage and I am talking about the fact of getting this on the go, not for one community in the district but for all of them. And I will end up giving the names of various people in the community who are qualified to do it. I do not want facts with regards to what is happening with the RRAP programme in other parts of Canada and in other parts of this Province, I want facts on how the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation is going to do it and implement it in this part of my district, Mr. Chairman. And if I am correct, what have we got the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation for if it is not to turn around and implement housing programmes throughout this Province? And surely, Mr. Chairman, if we do not have the qualified people, then go find them. And, as I have said, I will end up giving the names of several people who could be interviewed and we could bring them in, train them - or on the job training if it comes to that.

Mr. Chairman, I want an office in Port Hope Simpson. I want an office in Mary's Harbour and I want an office in Cartwright so they can service those other communities. But to get back, Mr. Chairman, to the interim supply; to ask for \$450 million dollars and not say what you are asking for and why you are asking for it, and to use the public servants, the hospitals, the teachers, the deaf, the blind, the policemen, the firemen and say that they will not get their pay Wednesday or next week until we get Interim Supply, as I said, it is just using, again, the public servants as a scapegoat to cover up the mistakes of this administration.

MR. HISCOCK: So, Mr. Chairman, if I had anything to do with it, when it came to it I would hang her down on X interim supply until we get from each department a detailed -

DR. COLLINS: Just ask the questions. It is all here. Just ask the questions.

MR. HISCOCK: I am asking each department what do they plan to do? If we had to turn around and ask the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Brett) - unfortunately he is not here - is the road from Lodge Bay to Mary's Harbour going to be done, is the road in Williams Harbour going to be done, can the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) seeing he is not here, can he get officials to come and tell us those things? Can we find out if we are going to have any pavement, or any money allotted in St. Mary's district, with regard to that money. for transportation? With regard to the Minister of Forestry (Mr. Power), can it be said that we will get our forestry officer in Port Hope Simpson out of this \$450 million?

So, Mr. Chairman, asking the questions, the detailed questions - we can be here till doomsday asking all the questions, but answering the questions - we can ask so many questions and take up all our time until probably some time the latter part of next week, and then it will take some time the week after that for the government to answer and give those replies. So I would say it is much easier for this administration to table, each department, the estimates that they are doing.

I am amazed that the Minister of Finance actually said publicly that we are not having the budget until the middle of April because one of the reasons why was each department does not have its budget together, the estimate of what they want for the full year. A full year is past and the ministers still

MR. HISCOCK:

do not have their budgets ready. To me that points out a lack of organization and a lack of administration, that each of those departments after a full year, they do not have that.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Butt):

Order, please!

The hon. member's time has expired,

The hon. the President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL:

It is obvious that the hon. gentleman does not understand. He just - Mr. Chairman, it is obvious that the hon. gentleman there opposite belongs to that happy group of people on the other side who just do not understand. The fact of the matter is, Mr. Chairman, he says he does not know where it is going to be spent. - If he wanted to read the resolution, he could also see there is a schedule attached to it and we have detailed in that schedule where the monies are to be spent in each department. So that is the first thing the hon. gentleman said that was wrong.

The second thing the hon. gentleman said that was wrong is that we do not get any details. We have been debating interim supply now, Mr. Chairman, for upwards of four hours, or three and a half hours. The Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) - there is almost - true, there is almost a half a billion dollars there to be spent and the Minister of Finance could effectively dispense with the relevant questions that have been asked in a period of about three minutes.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that is the nature and the extent and the depth of the inquiries of the Opposition into the expenditure of one half a billion dollars over the next three months. Now, the hon. gentleman obviously

MR. MARSHALL:

does not understand. I will repeat it for him again quite quickly. This is interim supply. It is a supply measure for the next three months. The government is certainly not trying to hide anything. This is a normal procedure to be taken. The Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) has indicated that within a matter of days now, by the middle of April, the Minister of Finance will be bringing in a budget, complete details will then be put before the Committee of this House, and the Committee of the Whole at the time, and perhaps the matter can be debated more effectively then, but Mr. Chairman, I doubt it. I doubt whether the hon. gentlemen there opposite are capable of the understanding to debate intelligently the expenditure of money on the public purse after having seen the hon. gentlemen operate the way they do.

MR. THOMS:

Now he is getting rough.

MR. MARSHALL:

The hon. gentlemen - we have been treated here - their major spokesman, unfortunately, is not here. The senior backbencher in the Opposition got up here and entertained us today, and let it go down on the record when he was talking about \$.5 billion, about such indepth questions as the way in which the Premier has his picture taken when he has it taken with people. That was mentioned. You know, it is really beyond belief. What were some of the other things? How the CBC cover the Premier and members of Cabinet when they go on television. He waved a great - you know, the great digger - he waved a certificate before us today which was supposed to be an awful waste of money which is a great tourism attraction, has been received by people who have come in. He has talked about private transactions between private people, as he loves to delve into their private affairs on some deals, where land transpired between two private individuals down in Logy Bay. Now, Mr. Chairman, that is the extent and the depth of the

MR. MARSHALL: Opposition. The Opposition from time to time go to great depths, and in other areas they go to great depths, would that they would go to great depths when they are considering \$.5 billion of the people's money, would that they would consider, Mr. Chairman, the fact that we have to spend all of this money, we are answering the needs, and address themselves as to where we are going to get the revenue and stand up as Newfoundlanders, and stand up in this House as Newfoundlanders to get our rights from Ottawa on the offshore.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL: Now, Mr. Chairman, with these words - you can only cast pearls, Mr. Chairman, that is all you can do and I hope the hon. gentlemen will go off then to their respective places, wherever they are going to go on the weekend, and perhaps consider it and perhaps we can have a more constructive addressing of the people's business on Monday when we return. And with those words, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee rise and report progress.

Mr. Chairman, I do not think you have much progress to report as a result of the Opposition, but you can report it to the Speaker anyway.

On motion that the Committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again, Mr. Speaker returned to the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. member for Conception Bay South.

MR. BUTT: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has considered the matters to them referred, has made some progress and ask leave to sit again.

On motion, report received and adopted, Committee ordered to sit again on tomorrow.

The hon. President of the Council.

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

On motion, the House at its rising adjourned until tomorrow, Monday, March 30, 1981, at 3:00 p.m.