

PRELIMINARY

UNEDITED

TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

FOR THE PERIOD:

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1981

The House met at 10:00 A.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please!

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MR. MOORES: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: On a point of privilege?

MR. MOORES: On a point of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Carbonear

on a point of privilege.

MR. CARTER: Oh, what rubbish!

MR. MOORES: Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning on a question of privilege very sincerely, very genuinely and very seriously about a matter that transpired as a result of a speech that I made in this House yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, I quote from yesterday's Hansard, November 26th., 1981, and I extrapolate an excerpt for the benefit of clarification and simplification of the House. "Now, on the other hand, about fifteen or twenty years ago when I used to drink, I remember the only time in my life that I ever got drunk. I was on the floor of the Halfway House Motel in Harbour Grace, looking up like a fool, wondering why everybody was laughing at me. And that night I was involved in no less than three or four fisticuffs, I walked out of the Halfway House Hotel with a half a dozen scrapes on my face and half the shirt tore off my back. And I made a decision that night that never again would I participate in the consumption of alcohol. And my colleagues here, as well as my colleagues on the other side of the House, will confirm to you that I am a teetotaler."

Mr. Speaker, the next step in the format of a delivery of the question of privileges in this House under the rules of procedure is that I place before this House a copy of the transcript of a news report

MR. MOORES: on the CBC Here and Now programme last night, the author of whom was a lady by the name of Elizabeth Haynes, who was in the press gallery yesterday afternoon. And in my opinion, who wilfully, maliciously, and deliberately misrepresented the extrapolation, the except that I just read to you, so that it would indicate that I was an alcoholic, that I was an abuser of alcohol, that I ended up in a halfway house and was reformed as an alcoholic.

Let me say to you, Mr. Speaker, now for clarification to the public

MR. MOORES: that I have never been an alcoholic. I have never consumed alcohol to any great extent in the vernacular interpretation of the phrase. I have never been in a halfway house and, God forbid, I never will be and how a responsible journalist could come to that conclusion to malign, maliciously malign my character as a member of this House, I do not understand.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the CBC refused to give me a transcript of that interview and they tried every method in the world to avoid giving it to me, which just goes to further indicate that they really do not want to co-operate with an MHA in the carrying out the responsibilities of his office and a member of this House.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is also contingent upon me to present before this House what support I can from the rules of parliamentary procedure to emphasize the severity of this matter that affects not only me but all members of this House. I am not the only member in this House that the press has a preconditioned image of, a preconditioned image of the worst. It does not matter what I say or how I go about saying it, it always comes out sounding the worst. And my speech in this House yesterday, Mr. Speaker, was intended to convey my genuine concern about the drug and alcohol problems in this Province, and I thought to most members of the House I was successful in that attempt in conveying that concern. And that point, I might add, was completely missed by this particular individual in the press gallery.

Mr. Speaker, I draw to your attention page 98, Beauchesne, fourth edition, 1958, section 108, subsection 3. "Libels on members have been constantly punished; but to constitute a breach of privilege they must concern the character or conduct of members in that capacity, and the

MR. MOORES: libel must be based on matter arising in the actual transaction of the business of the House". And the business of the House and a transaction thereof, Mr. Speaker, is a speech made by any hon. member.

MR. MOORES: I also refer Your Honour to pages 99 and 100, section 110 of Beauchesne, which in part reads: "On the 26 of February 1701, the House of Commons of the United Kingdom resolved that to print or publish any libels reflecting upon any member of the House for or relating to his service therein was a high violation of the rights and privileges of the House. But to constitute a breach of privilege, a libel upon a member must concern his character or conduct in his capacity as a member and the conduct or language on which the libel is based must be actions performed or words uttered in the actual transaction of the business of the House. Bad faith must be imputed and the charge cannot be indefinite."

Mr. Speaker, I refer you to the same edition of Beauchesne, section 111, subsection (1): "Wilful misrepresentation of the proceedings of members is an offence of the same character as a libel."

I refer, Mr. Speaker, to the same edition of Beauchesne, section 113, page 102, which reads in part: "Libels upon members and aspersions upon them in relation to Parliament and interference of any kind with their official duties, are breaches of the privileges of the members. An attack in a newspaper article is not a breach of privilege, unless it comes within the definition of privileges above given," which I have already presented to Your Honour, "and then a member is bound to lay on the Table the newspaper in which the article complained of appears." In relation to that quotation, Mr. Speaker, but not to tarry on it too long, I believe this could be interpreted as CBC this morning refusing to give the transcript as in itself a breach of privilege of this House. But we will not deal with that now. I am only concerned,

MR. MOORES: Mr. Speaker, that one member of the media - not all of them, there are some good and decent people up there in the press gallery as there are in this House of Assembly. But when one of them runs astray and takes it upon himself or herself to become an assassinator of the character and reputation of a member of this House by wilfully misrepresenting the facts, then, Mr. Speaker, it is contingent upon this House to take the necessary action.

If, Mr. Speaker, you find that my privileges as a member of this House have been breached, then I do not want this House to take action against this lady to lose her job or anything of that nature, but I believe, Mr. Speaker, that a penalty -

AN HON. MEMBER: Rubbish!

MR. MOORES: And I might add, Mr. Speaker, that because some members of this House have a favourable association with the press, they are not going to do it any longer at my expense. It is no news to members of this House that I have been pot-shotted for the last six years, and if the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) wants to protect his favourable association at my expense -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible) privilege now.

MR. MOORES: Ignoramus.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Simms) Order, please! Order, please!

The hon. member now would probably wish to conclude his case

The hon. member for Carbonear.

MR. MOORES: Mr. Speaker, I only ask, and I am prepared to move the appropriate motion, that if you find that my privileges have been breached, I will move the motion that this person be suspended for a three day period, the same as an MHA, be suspended from the press gallery for a three day period.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Well, with respect to the point of privilege raised by the hon. member for Carbonear (Mr. Moores), hon. members will be aware that the Speaker's function in ruling on a claim of breach of privilege is limited really to deciding the formal question, whether the case conforms to the conditions necessary to entitle the matter to take precedence over the rest of the House's business. It does not extend, of course, to deciding the question of substance, whether or not a breach of privilege has in fact been committed. That question can only be decided by the House itself. In other words, I have to determine whether or not there is a prima facie case in this particular matter and I would like to reserve a ruling and give a ruling at a later time.

#### STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, hon. members are aware that a federal/provincial meeting of ministers of finance and provincial treasurers was held in Halifax on November 23rd and 24th where federal proposals for cut-backs on fiscal transfers to provinces were discussed. All ten provinces were present at the meeting and were unanimous in their disapproval of the federal proposals in their present form.

For some time it had been apparent that figures presented by the federal government in the November 12th budget had been incorrect, and overstated the size of the transfers to the provinces proposed for 1982-83 and later years. On November 22nd, in a press release over the name of the federal Minister of Finance, some corrections to those figures



DR. COLLINS: were made. However, during the meeting itself, it became clear that the provinces were still not sure that a credible picture of federal intentions had yet emerged, with the result that a further meeting in mid-December has now been planned in order to ascertain more definitely the true value of proposed federal cutbacks.

Mr. Speaker, the finance ministers from all ten provinces have requested the federal Minister of Finance to extend the existing Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act for up to one year in order to allow time for adequate assessment of the proposals outlined in the recent federal budget as well as for examination of alternative proposals for equalization and Established Programmes Financing.

Unfortunately, it appears that this request has been dismissed by the federal Finance Minister, who instead has imposed a 60-day time limit for conclusion of negotiation.

It should be recalled that at the time of the last re-negotiation of fiscal arrangements in 1977,



DR. COLLINS: resorting to unduly burdensome levels of taxation.

The federal budget refers to equalization as a corner-stone of Confederation, and of course, the concept of equalization is to be entrenched in the Canadian Constitution. It is distinctly at odds with that approach, therefore, for equalization payments to be made subject and secondary to variations in the Ontario economy and to variations in the national economy, whichever is the greater. A corner-stone of Confederation should mean that the full maintenance of equalization payments to disadvantaged provinces are a priority above all other considerations. It is the view of this government that a corner-stone that is not secure without any reservation whatsoever is no corner-stone at all. Accordingly, the Province rejects the federal proposals for a new equalization formula which would diminish the equalization payments depending on the fluctuations in the Ontario economy or the national economy, which ever happens to be the worse in a particular year.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, the Province does not support one further proposal of the federal government with regard to Established Program Financing. The federal minister proposes that the level of federal contributions for post-secondary education and for health care in the provinces should first be agreed upon, following which new standards for program delivery should be negotiated by provincial Ministers of Education and Health with their federal counterparts. Presumably, new standards would seek to achieve higher standards of quality and wider accessibility, and hence higher costs. With federal contribution already fixed, additional costs could only come from provincial treasuries. In our view, therefore, the federal proposal puts the cart before the horse. The Province holds to the view that any imposition of newly defined national standards of post-secondary education and health care should be established at the same time as federal-provincial funding arrangements are worked out rather than otherwise. Any other approach would particularly penalize provinces such as Newfoundland and Labrador which are least able to carry additional financial burdens.

Mr. Speaker, there was a remarkable measure of unanimity amongst the provinces in urging the Federal Minister of Finance not to impose arbitrary time limits and one-sided preconditions on the negotiation process designed to restructure Federal Provincial Fiscal arrangements for the 1980s. We can only hope that the very weight of concern expressed to him in Halifax by all provinces will have the desired effect. We will have to await the further meeting planned for December 14th. in Toronto to learn the result.

Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. the Leader of the Opposition has approximately three minutes.

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

Mr. Speaker, I think we are beginning to see - and I am very serious about this - the development of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador specifically, but the Government of Canada generally, being taken out of the hands of both levels of government, both the House of Assembly and the House of Commons. We see a new creature developing in the form of federal/provincial conferences.

And I am very concerned about it, Mr. Speaker, because what we have here is we have a situation in which the process that was developed in the constitution now seems to have developed into a pattern, and that is one in which you have all the provinces ganging up on Ottawa and a confrontation started right from square one.

MR. STIRLING:

You have government by press conference, government by public relations and there will a tendency for both sides in that setup, Mr. Speaker, both sides, both the provincial government and the federal government, to resort to presenting only their side of the story and you will get hasty, last-minute conclusions like the situation we saw in this House of Assembly dealing with women's rights and native rights. You have the Premier, as an example of the federal/provincial agreement dealing here, in which he convinced this House of Assembly and the people of Newfoundland and Labrador that it was not in Newfoundland's best interests to recognize native rights one day. Twenty minutes later, because of telephone calls -

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please!

I believe the hon. Leader of the Opposition really is -

MR. STIRLING: Well, I am dealing, Mr. Speaker, with the principle of this statement which has to do -

AN HON. MEMBER: You are questioning the ruling of the Speaker, you know.

MR. STIRLING: - with federal provincial meetings.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

I think the question that is raised in the statement relates to financial matters as dealt with at a meeting recently held in Halifax, as I understand the statement. So I have asked the hon. Leader of the Opposition to try to keep his remarks pertinent to the statement.

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

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order, the hon. the President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, Your Honour is entitled to the protection of this House. When Your Honour makes a ruling to a member, the member is not entitled, Mr. Speaker, to debate that ruling with Your Honour, to make observations with respect to it. He is to accept your ruling.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): That is certainly a relevant point of order, but I am sure the hon. Leader of the Opposition had no intention of doing that. And I draw it to his attention and ask him to try to keep his statements pertinent to this statement.

MR. NEARY: His Honour is capable of looking after himself. He does not need the help of the President of the Council. (Mr. Marshall)

MR. STIRLING: I recognize that the Speaker was not done the courtesy of giving him an advance copy of this statement. The statement primarily deals with equalization and the concept of federal/provincial matters and it was delivered by the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) and does not talk about finance, Mr. Speaker. It talks about equalization.

I wanted to mention the principle first of all, and it is a very dangerous principle we are getting involved in because, Mr. Speaker, there are distortions in this statement. And he talks about proposed federal cutbacks. On page 2, Mr. Speaker, he uses a statement which says revenue grants were cut back, were "rationalized by the federal government as not affecting post-secondary education and health care." He does not say, Mr. Speaker, that that was the position of the provinces. The provinces took that position, the premiers in their conference, supported by the Finance Minister, took that position that this was not part of post-secondary education. That is in his statement.

MR. STIRLING: Mr. Speaker, he talks about the concept of equalization. What he does not mention in here is the responsibility of this government to deliver to this House of Assembly what revisions he is proposing. We do not know what he has proposed in the federal/provincial agreements. All that this is is a public relations attempt in what I believe is going to be a very dangerous precedent and that is taking out of the hands of this House of Assembly and the House of Commons the government of this country and this Province.

AN HON. MEMBER: Right on!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WINDSOR: Mr. Speaker.

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



MR. WINDSOR: Mr. Speaker, members of the hon. House will be aware of the severe problems being encountered by homeowners due to high interest rates and the anticipation by our citizens that the federal budget would provide a measure of relief for new homeowners as well as for those people renewing mortgages.

MR. POWER: It is a shame it did not.

MR. WINDSOR: I can only state that having examined the budgetary proposals of the Federal Minister of Finance, this government is bitterly disappointed that these proposals seem merely to represent an effort by the Government of Canada to give the appearance of doing something to combat current housing problems created by their high interest rate policies. In reality, not only do these federal initiatives offer very little to ease the present housing crisis but Newfoundlanders should be extremely careful to fully understand their implications, particularly relating to homeowners faced with the prospect of mortgage renewal at high interest rates.

I consider it therefore necessary, as the Minister responsible for housing in this Province, to comment in some detail on these budgetary proposals related to housing.

For any homeowner paying more than 30 per cent of household income on their mortgage, the federal budget provides for two kinds of assistance. In the first instance, where the homeowner owns more than 5 per cent of the present market value of the home, he will be eligible to have a portion of the interest component of his mortgage payment deferred for a period of up to one year, to a

MR. WINDSOR: maximum of \$3,000. From the point of view of the homeowner, this is simply a second mortgage on the property in that the total amount of the interest deferred plus interest on the deferral will accumulate for the period of one year and then be included in the principal amount owing on the mortgage. I wish to make it clearly understood that this technique involves a fully repayable loan. The proposal merely guarantees that the lending institutions will not incur losses on interest deferral plans which many of them had in place prior to the introduction of the budget. At the termination of this interest deferral programme, one year, in the event the homeowner is unable to meet the higher mortgage payments resulting from the consolidation of the deferred loan and his mortgage at the market interest rate, he can only anticipate the possibility of the bank or lending institution foreclosing and disposing of his property.

MR. MORGAN: Terrible. Terrible stuff. Absolutely terrible. Terrible. Shocking.

MR. WINDSOR: In other words, Mr. Speaker, the federal policy encourages the lending institutions to foreclose on homeowners.

MR. MORGAN: Shocking stuff.

AN HON. MEMBER: A Liberal Policy.

MR. WINDSOR: If the lending institution, in disposing of the foreclosed property, suffers a loss on the transaction, it is presumably at this point in time that the federal government will honour its interest guarantee to the bank, not to the homeowner. I am concerned that unless interest rates decline dramatically, and there is significant growth in family incomes over the one year period of this interest deferral, many homeowners will find themselves in a position that total mortgage payments will increase with no assurance that there will be any federal programme of

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MR. WINDSOR: assistance to enable the family to  
retain their home.

In the situation where a home-  
owner has less than 5 per cent equity in the home

MR. WINDSOR: and again based on a household expenditure on mortgage exceeding 30 per cent, the federal government will agree to write off up to 100 per cent of the maximum guaranteed interest deferral of \$3,000. Depending on the amount of equity in the home, quite simply, given a normal 10 per cent downpayment requirement in order to qualify for a mortgage and assuming some escalation in house values since the original mortgage was arranged, I fail to see the relevance or merit of introducing a technique which will have virtually no application or eligible recipients. Even in some rural communities in the Province where market values may be less than the original cost of the unit, the lending institutions ensure their security through higher downpayments or lower lending ratios.

While these are some of my reservations on the home ownership side, I have equally serious concerns relating to the rental sector. The net effect of the federal government proposals respecting the rental sector will likely result in serious shortfalls in the availability of rental units. The cancellation of tax incentives with effect from January 1982, coupled with high interest rates can only result in a deteriorating rental situation. While the Budget Speech indicates that the federal government is making available an interest free loan of up to \$7,500 per unit for some 15,000 rental units to be allocated across the country, I do not as yet have sufficient detail on this proposal to determine whether or not this measure will have any significant effect in this Province. However, I would note that there is no indication that even this measure is a long term one.

Mr. Speaker, other provinces share similar concerns regarding the federal budget and its impact, not only on homeowners and renters, but also on the

MR. WINDSOR: real estate industry and residential construction industry. With this in mind, it is my intention to meet with the federal Housing Minister next week to pursue further my concerns in this regard and I will report back to the House accordingly.

Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. Leader of the Opposition has about two and a half minutes.

MR. STIRLING: Mr. Speaker, this was a statement not by Mr. Joe Clark, the Opposition Leader in Ottawa, although it sounds very much like it. This was a statement, a very positive statement, by the Minister responsible for Housing. And, Mr. Speaker, our Premier fought so hard under the Constitution to keep all our rights and responsibilities, well, one of our responsibilities, Mr. Speaker, is the responsibility for housing, a provincial responsibility, and I was looking forward to this minister coming in this morning -

MR. LJUSH: This crowd is responsible for nothing.

MR. STIRLING: Now, Mr. Speaker, on this side of the House, we made three positive suggestions that this government could have implemented, it ties in completely --

MR. WINDSOR: Garbage.

MR. STIRLING: Garbage? Is that right? Let us hear what the alternatives were. The Minister of Housing (Mr. Windsor), Mr. Speaker, has not given one single positive alternative. Where are the alternatives? Mr. Speaker, where is the subsidy that the other provinces have used? What about the other housing ministers in other provinces who have come to the rescue of homeowners, as we have suggested?

MR. L. STIRLING: Mr. Speaker, one of the positive suggestions that I mentioned to this minister which he rejected as garbage is that Newfoundland and Labrador Housing would prevent foreclosure. They have the responsibility, they have the legislative responsibility, they have the financial means. But, Mr. Speaker, they will not sell off an asset like Elizabeth Towers that could finance all of these foreclosures that he is so concerned about.

Mr. Speaker, this statement is a cop-out, a complete cop-out, Mr. Speaker!

MR. PATTERSON: Do you have a buyer for the Elizabeth Towers?

MR. L. STIRLING: Yes, I do.

MR. PATTERSON: Who?

MR. L. STIRLING: Well, is it for sale? Is it for sale?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

MR. L. STIRLING: Mr. Speaker, these two statements indicate a government completely washed up. They have no sense of direction, they have no sense of responsibility, they are not answering to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, They are trying to transfer blame and they will not succeed, Mr. Speaker. They will not succeed! The people of Newfoundland and Labrador know that this government has the responsibility and they have not come up with a single proposal although it has been promised now for a year or two. And I would not doubt that just like their magical \$1,500 per person just before the last election, that before the next election you will suddenly see these people rush back into bringing out something to live up to their responsibilities instead of this complete cop-out, this complete dereliction of duty, Mr. Speaker, not acceptable to me nor to anybody else in this Province.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please!  
Any further statements?  
The hon. Minister of Forest Resources  
and Lands.

MR. C. POWER: Mr. Speaker, I have today extremely  
good news concerning the spruce budworm situation in this  
Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. C. POWER: This concerns this significant decline  
in the level of budworm infestation predicted for 1982. This  
"budworm" news is by far the best, Mr. Speaker, that we have  
had in the last ten years. News that should bring joy to the  
hearts of many Newfoundlanders, especially those 20,000 hard-  
working persons who make their living either directly or in-  
directly from the forest resource. Before elabora-  
ting, Mr. Speaker, on this exciting news, I would like to  
review, for all members, the 1981 budworm situation briefly.

In view of the prolonged budworm  
epidemic spread over the last decade, which poses a serious  
threat to the forests and the forest industry, this hon.  
House debated the issue of the spruce budworm spray earlier  
this year and passed legislation to facilitate the implementa-  
tion of a forest protection programme. Legislation, I might  
add, Mr. Speaker, that was uniformly opposed by members op-  
posite for numerous flimsy reasons! The decision was based  
on the recommendations of the Newfoundland and Labrador Royal  
Commission on Forest Protection and Management. A spray pro-  
gram was conducted this Summer. Briefly stating 595,000 acres  
received treatment with the chemical insecticide Matacil and  
4,800 acres were treated with the biological insecticide Bt.  
The cost of the spray program which covered both company  
and Crown forest lands was shared between the companies and  
the Crown on a 2/3rd. to 1/3rd. basis - a significant improve-  
ment over the 50 - 50 cost-sharing arrangement of 1978, thus  
saving the people of Newfoundland over \$700,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. C. POWER:

In spite of some difficulties caused by adverse weather, the spray program was successful in reducing the budworm populations in the forest areas designated for protection. As a consequence of the spray program, wood losses were minimized in the sprayed areas. However, because of the previous high levels of mortality in the Newfoundland forest, it is extremely important that additional losses to mature forest be kept to a minimum.



MR. POWER: Although weather conditions were not that favourable for the spray programme, they seemed to be equally unfavourable for budworm development. The spray programme covering 595,000 acres was effective in treating most of the high hazard areas. Besides the 1981 spray programme, the frost and heavy rainfall in June this year and the associated lack of active feeding may have contributed to the decline in actual infestation during 1981. Of course, there are always parasites and predators, but according to scientific information these were not the cause of budworm decline because they accounted for only a small percentage of natural mortality.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to review the damage assessment, the actual damage received in 1981. The damage assessment survey of 1981 conducted by the Canadian Forestry Service in co-operation with our department indicates that the areas containing tree mortality decreased by approximately 20 per cent in 1981.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. POWER: This decrease came about as a result of harvesting of dead and dying timber on a priority basis on Crown and company limits, loss of infested stands to forest fires, and refinements in survey techniques.

In spite of this reduction in the total area of infestation in 1981, the volume of dead merchantable trees increased by approximately 1.3 million cubic meters. This is indicative of the ever increasing percentage of dead trees in infested stands.

Of even greater concern, Mr. Speaker, is the continued increase in the area of young stands which have been infested by budworm. Surveys indicate that there was an increase of 35,000 acres in damaged young stands and this year bringing the total to 192,500 acres of young stands infested. The future of these areas continues to

MR. POWER: be a major concern to this department and to the forest industry. To place in perspective, Mr. Speaker, the seriousness of this 192,000 acre lot, a mature forest area of 35,000 acres would be more than adequate to meet the wood requirement of the existing industry for one full year.

The above represents a brief sketch of the highlights in the 1981 damage assessment. The Canadian Forestry Service is now doing the final refinement on the details of the 1981 survey and will be reporting in the near future.

Mr. Speaker, the forecast for 1982; province-wide surveys have been conducted to provide a forecast of population levels and extent of defoliation for 1982. Survey data indicate moderate and high populations are present in only six distinct areas covering an estimated 50,000 acres. These areas are in the Codroy Valley, near Crabbes River, near Gallants, near Hunts Pond, South of Gander Lake, near Triton Brook, and near Twillick Brook, Bay d'Espoir. The location of these areas is shown on the attached map.

Mr. Speaker, the forecast of infestation of 50,000 acres of moderate to severe is in comparison to 2 million acres forecasted for 1981.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. POWER: In addition there is a projected 335,000 acres of light infestation for 1982. In effect, Mr. Speaker, a reduction of over 95 per cent. This outlook represents by far the lowest forecast since the infestation began a decade ago. The budworm problem is under control and manageable for the first time in 11 years.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. POWER: It has done significant damage. However, with good forest management the forest resource will have a very bright future in Newfoundland and Labrador.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. POWER: Next year's forest protection programme has not been determined as of yet. Information from the damage assessment and forest service will be used along with other information on tree condition resulting from previous infestations to determine the size of next year's programme. And, Mr. Speaker, while I cannot project the size of next year's programme it will certainly be much, much smaller than the programme of 1981. Hopefully also, Mr. Speaker, the opposition of the members opposite to good forest management will also be greatly reduced and thus their opposition to the 20,000 Newfoundlanders who depend upon the trees of this Province for a secure future.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. POWER: Mr. Speaker, while accepting recommendations of the Royal Commission regarding the spray programme, government announced its commitment to an integrated approach to forest protection, management and utilization. Phase II of the Poole Royal Commission report will be released in a week or two and then I will be informing our citizens on their recommendations; however, I would like to briefly review the stature of this government's initiatives on forest land tenure, intensive forest management and increased utilization.

MR. POWER: As the members of this House know, Mr. Speaker, the two pulp and paper companies were granted 99 year leases and licences during 1905 - 1909 period and 1939. Some of these leases were automatically renewable, while licences have no provision for renewal. The tenure arrangement has been a major cause of lack of intensive forest management in the past. Leases and licences did not require companies to manage the forest resource according to the principles of scientific forestry. Mr. Speaker, a major initiative was undertaken in 1974 through the Forest Land (Management and Taxation) Act.

Companies now submit their management plans to the department, which are vigorously scrutinized and followed. The department has been able to direct the companies to harvest more and more dead and dying timber! Bowater Newfoundland has already returned more than 1.5 million acres to its rightful owners, the people of Newfoundland and Labrador because of this act!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. POWER: Mr. Speaker, there is no understanding on this side of this hon. House of Assembly as to why it took twenty-five years after Confederation to take this initiative.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. POWER: One can only guess that it had something to do with the 'resource give-away' philosophy of a government that was in place for twenty-three of those twenty-five years.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. POWER: In spite of this progress, the remaining 99 year licences and leases have not been conducive to full attainment of this government's objectives of good forest management. I approached the pulp and paper

MR. POWER:                   companies with a proposal to convert the existing 99 year leases and licences to 20 year Forest Management agreements renewable after five years subject to satisfactory performance of the companies in managing the resource. At present we are in the final stages of negotiating such an agreement with Abitibi Price - Mr. Speaker, another resource returned to the people.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:           Hear, hear!

MR. POWER:                   Mr. Speaker, it is the intention of the Peckford administration to rectify this 75 year old problem. We must do so in order to pave the way for a healthy and viable forest industry.

After much discussion, the Province was finally successful in January of this year to get the federal government to sign the much delayed and badly needed Forestry Subsidiary agreement. The \$52 million provided in the agreement will enable us to get more involved in reforestation, forest improvement, access road construction and improved forest utilization. The Peckford administration also felt very strongly that the two pulp and paper companies must begin to play a major role, a more active part in forest management. The two companies were approached with the concept of increasing their expenditures in intensive forest management. Hence, after much deliberation, the companies agreed to contribute \$25 million over five years, another first for this Province, Mr. Speaker!

The above commitment to the resource is in addition to the multi-million dollar mill modernization programme launched by the two companies. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador was successful in negotiating a mill modernization agreement with the federal government to provide incentives for some aspects

MR. POWER: of this large modernization programme.

At the same time as long-term tenure discussions are being pursued, we are negotiating with the two companies a co-operative approach to immediate intensive forest management requirements. Government on its part has pursued the silviculture programme with unmatched vigour. For example, we achieved a target of planting two million trees this year as compared to 400,000 in 1979 and 800,000 in 1980. Mr. Speaker, never before in the history of Newfoundland has this level of reforestation been achieved. The Wooddale Nursery has been developed to produce sixteen million seedlings at full capacity which should be available for planting annually by 1984.

Mr. Speaker, besides mill modernization, reforestation and a spray programme, this government issued new forest harvesting regulations that will greatly reduce wastage and thus lead to greater utilization of the resource.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, this government has achieved major successes in reducing forest losses from insects and fires -

MR. MORGAN: Hear, hear!

MR. POWER: - and has launched an aggressive reforestation programme. This government intends to safeguard in every way possible the economic and social well-being of the many citizens of Newfoundland and Labrador who depend upon our trees.

MR. MORGAN: Hear, hear!

MR. POWER: Mr. Speaker, trees are being planted, the mills are being modernized, the budworm is dramatically reduced. The future is now much brighter.

MR. POWER: Much remains to be done, however. We have an excellent staff in our Department of Forestry, who deserve a great deal of credit.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. POWER: We receive superb co-operation from the Canadian Forestry Service of the federal government. The companies' attitudes have changed drastically and they are now enthusiastically co-operating with this government.

Mr. Speaker, let all who are cynical and skeptical as to whether or not the people of our Province have the ability to manage a resource, whether it be oil and gas, fishery or forestry, learn from our forestry programmes.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. POWER: The forest resource is owned by the people of Newfoundland and Labrador and is managed by Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. Thus it is easy to understand the significant improvements.

Imagine what a bright future the people of this Province would have, Mr. Speaker, if we had similar control over all of our resources.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. member for Fogo has approximately five and one half minutes.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, the lengthy statement just given by the minister has just been passed to me, it was just received when the House opened, and it will take some time to go through it. But I might say -

MR. MORGAN: (Inaudible).

MR. TULK: Now I wish old shark bait would keep quiet.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. FLIGHT: Shark bait!

MR. TULK: I must say, Mr. Speaker, that the -

MR. MORGAN: (Inaudible) Fogo Islander.

MR. FLIGHT: Shark bait. Shark bait.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. TULK: - that the news by the minister that there has been a significant decline -

MR. MORGAN: (Inaudible) in our Province.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. TULK: - in the level of budworm infestation projected for 1982 is indeed welcome news. There is nobody in this Province, Mr. Speaker, who would wish to hear any better news than that there has been a decline in the budworm infestation in the Province.

But, Mr. Speaker, the minister goes on to point out that this side of the House has been opposed to a spray programme. Now I would wish to take issue with the minister on that statement because, Mr. Speaker, what we were opposed to last Spring was not opposed to a spray



MR. TULK: programme, but we were opposed to legislation which takes away the rights of people to seek injunctions against this government.

Now, Mr. Speaker, he talks about saving \$700,000, I would ask him to explain to this House at some future date if that is part of his cutback, if indeed he is going to reinfest that, reinvest that -

MR. MORGAN: (Inaudible).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. TULK: - reinvest that into the Newfoundland economy.

Mr. Speaker, he says that the budworm population in the forest industry has been lowered; indeed it has. And he then goes on to point out -

MR. MORGAN: The fishermen of Fogo Island must love this.

MR. TULK: - that weather conditions were not favourable for the spray programme but they seem to be equally unfavourable for budworm development.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that gives the impression that the spray programme itself is somehow responsible for the lowering of the egg count in this Province. Mr. Speaker, that is false. The minister is not only playing a God but now he is pretending to be in that he controls the weather.

MR. MORGAN: There is no question, boy. You should have been a politician.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, he goes on to point out, he says in spite of this reduction -

MR. FLIGHT: He would do a lot better than you would there.

MR. TULK: - in the total area of infestation in 1981 -

MR. PATTERSON: You will not be around next time anyway.

MR. TULK: - the volume of dead trees increased by approximately 539,000 cords. This is indicative of the ever increasing percentage of dead trees and infested stands.

Mr. Speaker, this statement may be the truest one that is in the whole statement that the minister makes, because it may indeed indicate that the budworm in this Province is dying for a lack of food. In other words, there may be no more fir forests to feed on.

Mr. Speaker, he also mentions the young stands in this Province and I want to point out to the minister, as I am sure he knows, that the infestation of young stands in this Province is a phenomenon that is peculiar to Newfoundland alone as opposed to the rest of North America, and indeed that may be his biggest problem.

Mr. Speaker, he points out that the budworm problem is under control and manageable for the first time in eleven years, as if that had something to do with the policies of this government. What nonsense! What nonsense! And then he goes on to point out that the spray programme may be reduced next year. It may be. And, Mr. Speaker, I suspect that that is very similar to 1978 when this government, this administration, refused to spray because there was an election coming up. Is that going to be the same thing in 1981?

He goes on to point out the leases, getting back leases. He refused to point out that we have about five years remaining on those leases anyway.

Mr. Speaker, my time has run out. I could go on. But I would -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

By leave. By leave.

MR. TULK:

By leave?

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

Order, please! Order, please!

The hon. member still has a minute or so remaining.

MR. TULK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

He mentions the spending of \$52 million in reforestation and so on, Mr. Speaker, and he happens to mention the federal government. He happens to mention them! Well, Mr. Speaker,

MR. TULK:

I want to say to this minister that he must be the happiest in this House, and he should thank God for the federal government because without them he would be like the rest of his counterparts on that side. He would be telling us about industries that are going down the drain.

Mr. Speaker, he points out that this year in Wooddale there were 2 million -

MR. FLIGHT: You have (inaudible)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please!

MR. TULK: There were two million trees produced in Wooddale this year, Mr. Speaker, in his own Five Year Plan he predicts that in order to do anything with the forest industry he needs ten million trees this year. And he made a statement on November 20th, last year in Grand Falls that if we were to keep Grand Falls open, Mr. Speaker, that we would need to start planting right immediately 20 million trees a year. In other words, Mr. Speaker, he has a twenty per cent success rate. And that is very indicative of this government.

SCME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. TULK: About a twenty per cent success rate.

MR. FLIGHT: A PR job.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, if I could conclude.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I must tell the hon. member now that his time has expired.

SCME HON. MEMBERS: By leave.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The hon. member should take his seat as well. Is there leave for the hon. member?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

No.

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

There is no leave.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member for Windsor -  
Buchans.

MR. FLIGHT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My ques-  
tion is for the acting Minister of Mines and I wonder  
if the minister would indicate to the House what time he got  
the last update on the Buchans operation, at what point in time?  
And when did the minister, as Minister of Mines, receive the last  
update on the intentions or the future plans of the  
Buchans mining operation from American Smelting and Refining Company?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Mines.

MR. WINDSOR:

Is the hon. gentleman talking about  
the long-term?

MR. FLIGHT:

Short-term, long-term.

MR. WINDSOR:

Short-term, or is he talking about  
the -

MR. FLIGHT:

300 people working in there.

MR. WINDSOR:

-layoffs that are imminent over the  
Winter months? Or is he talking -

MR. FLIGHT:

I am asking the minister when he  
got the last update.

MR. WINDSOR:

Mr. Speaker, probably about four  
or five days ago I was talking with my people out in Buchans  
and was advised at that time there will be some layoffs for the  
Winter. I think the hon. gentleman is well aware of that.

MR. FLIGHT:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. member  
for Windsor-Buchans.

MR. FLIGHT:

Mr. Speaker, on the nineteenth of November the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) in an economic statement, said to this House, "The Buchans base metals operation will continue at least until 1984. This welcome announcement came in August after it was determined that a new deposit extending the life of the mine could be profitably produced'.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister of Mines (Mr. Windsor) how he reconciles that statement on November 19th with the fact that the American Smelting and Refining Company have notified their employees that they are shutting down the mill for three to four months. The employees have been given layoff notices and the mill operation in Buchans will be shut down for three or four months. How does the minister jibe the statement of the minister in his economic report with the facts as they are happening in Buchans today?

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

MR. WINDSOR: Mr. Speaker, there is no inconsistency at all. The mine will still operate, the mill will be closing down for a three month period and that is all.

MR. FLIGHT: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary question, the hon. member for Windsor - Buchans.

MR. FLIGHT: Would the minister indicate to the House whether the American Smelting and Refining Company have indicated to him that they are prepared to stockpile over the four months that the mill will be closed down, stockpile the ore that they are going to mine?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Mines.

MR. WINDSOR: Mr. Speaker, it seems rather logical to me if they are going to continue the mine over a four month period and they are not going to mill it, that they are going to have to stockpile it, unless they have awfully big pockets.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. FLIGHT: Final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary, the hon. member for Windsor - Buchans.

MR. FLIGHT: There is the attitude of the Minister of Mines, Mr. Speaker, responsible for the economy and responsible for the mines and energy of this Province. Now, Mr. Speaker, the minister should be able to tell the House one thing or the other. Does the company intend to stockpile or are they going to shut the operation down, are they going to lay off all their production miners? Now I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, before I go back to Buchans this weekend whether or not ASARCO is looking at a shutdown of the production end of their mines, and whether or not there will only be a few miners left in the exploration aspect of the mines. What is Buchans facing, Mr. Speaker? Are we facing a close down, are we facing stockpiling, what are we facing?

MR. MORGAN: They are facing an incompetent member.

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

MR. WINDSOR: Mr. Speaker, I do not know how many ways I can to the hon. gentleman that the mine will continue to operate, they will continue to work that mine. Obviously they will have to stockpile, the mill will be closed down so nothing will be going through the mill. That is all.

MR. FLIGHT: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary, the hon. member for Windsor - Buchans.

MR. FLIGHT: Would the minister indicate whether or not the company indicated to him how many employees will be on the job after the 1st of January? How many employees can look forward to being employed with the American Smelting and Refining Company as of the 1st of January, 1982?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Mines.

MR. WINDSOR: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure how many will be. I do not know if the hon. gentleman can tell me how many are employed there, but I am told that there would be about seventy being laid off. The hon. gentleman should be able to subtract that from the total number employed.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

MR. FLIGHT: Final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Lapoile.

MR. NEARY: I yield, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: He yields.

Final supplementary, the hon. member for Windsor - Buchans.

MR. FLIGHT: I will ask the minister once more, Mr. Speaker, to confirm to this House, as Minister of Mines, whether or not there will be any more than seventy people laid off in Buchans over the next two or three months, whether or not - he should know, Mr. Speaker, there is a commitment -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. FLIGHT: - by this mine to have an update on the Buchans situation monthly. Now will the minister confirm



MR. FLIGHT: to this House that no more than seventy people will be laid off in the Buchans operation in the next two or three months?

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

MR. WINDSOR: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is not well today, I just finished telling him that there will be seventy people laid off.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The hon. member for LaPoile has the floor now.

MR. NEARY: Would the minister indicate to the House if the government have been approached by the Car Dealers Association and the car salesmen in this Province to request that the provincial government drop the sales tax on motor vehicles that are used for personal use for a year to try to stimulate car sales - drop the retail sales tax, the provincial retail sales tax in order to try to motivate sales in this Province so the salesmen can earn a living and the car dealers can stay in business? Have the government been approached on that?

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

DR. J. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, there was a communication from the association dealing with this matter to my department and this was passed on to those in that particular division, in the taxation division and there have been discussions carried on since. I do not think that the association has followed it up in any vigorous way. My understanding is that this issue is not now of marked concern to them.

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

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

MR. S. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would assume in that correspondence that the car dealers and the salesmen - I think it was the salesmen who approached the government in addition to the Car Dealers' Association - pointing out that sales are terrible in this Province, that the salesmen are not earning a decent living and a lot of the car dealers are likely to go bankrupt if the provincial government does not grant a moratorium on the retail sales tax, provincial tax for a year or so to give the economy a chance to come back. Would the hon. gentleman indicate to the House now if the provincial government is considering doing this for a year? I am talking about automobiles used by families for essential purposes, for transportation, and vehicles that are essential to small business. Would the hon. gentleman indicate whether the government is seriously considering granting this moratorium on the provincial retail sales tax for a period of one year?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Finance.

DR. J. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member may be seeking information on this score because, of course, one other province has taken this approach, that is Ontario. I had the opportunity of discussing this with some of my counterparts in other provinces recently and as far as I am aware no other province is taking that route. Of course, Ontario is a special case because they are not the only province - I think there is automobile construction or, at least, assembly in Quebec also - but certainly Ontario is the largest car manufacturer in Canada, that particular province. So that a measure such as the hon. member is suggesting would have more meaning in that Province than it would have in this Province or any other Province. And, as I say, no other Province is taking that approach.

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

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

MR. S. NEARY: No, Mr. Speaker, I did not raise this matter because of what was happening in Ontario, although the precedent has been established here. I raised this matter because of the serious nose-dives that the economy of Newfoundland has taken in the last two years since this administration took over. And I am asking the hon. gentleman if in view of the fact that these salesmen, especially the salesmen, may end up on welfare or unemployment - I doubt if they would qualify for unemployment insurance - if the government would consider eliminating the sales tax on essential automobiles for a one year period and after a year to review the situation and take a look at the economy then to see if it is necessary to continue this policy. Is it not better to do this than to force these salesmen onto the unemployment rolls and possibly face welfare, which is a very bleak outlook for the future?

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

DR. J. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is getting into budgetary matters essentially and, of course, the Province has already started the budgetary process for the 1982/83 period. Not only will departments be reviewing their expenditure programs during that process but also, of course, various fiscal matters, various fiscal policies, various taxation matters will be reviewed. And our retail sales tax comes up in every budget

DR. COLLINS: in various aspects of our retail sales tax, so I have no doubt that that would be one of the things that will be considered in the budgetary process.

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

MR. STIRLING: A supplementary question to the Minister of Finance. Does the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) accept the fact that we now have an economic depression in this Province?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, there is a technical definition of what is a recession, and I believe that technical definition is now being satisfied in the United States. The Canadian economy, of course, is very much related to the American economy and we in this Province are very much related to the Canadian economy. So we are a part of what is going on in North America. I do not think though that technically Canada, as opposed to the United States, is called by economists to be in recession at the present time.

MR. STIRLING: Mr. Speaker -

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

MR. STIRLING: Mr. Speaker, the question is very specific. Does the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) agree that we are now in an economic depression in this Province - not the rest of the world, not Canada - in this Province?

MR. MORGAN: Ignore the rest of Canada.

MR. STIRLING: Mr. Speaker, the question is specific, The minister who is responsible for this question -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. STIRLING: - the answer is, yes or no, in this Province, in his opinion.

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

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, as I am trying to say depression -I presume the hon. member is talking in economic terms -depression has a very distinct, technical aspect to it.

MR. MORGAN: The Liberal Party has been in a depression for the last three years.

DR. COLLINS: There is a technical definition of what depression is. And as far as I am aware Canada, and of course this Province is a part of Canada -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

DR. COLLINS: - Canada has not been defined as being technically in a depression.

MR. STIRLING: A supplementary.

MR. NEARY: Call an election.

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

MR. NEARY: Call an election.

MR. STIRLING: Would the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) be surprised if I told him that no lesser an authority than the Premier of this Province, that he does not talk to very much, would he be surprised if I told him that the Premier of this Province says that we are in "an economic depression in this Province"?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Finance.

MR. LUSH: The Premier would know.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, I have given up being surprised by anything that the Leader of the Opposition has to say.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Simms):

The hon. member for LaPoile.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, I have -

MR. MORGAN:

Your real leader stands up.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) in connection with offshore. I would like to follow up on some of the things that I was asking yesterday about the offshore oil development that now is put in a different perspective yesterday by the minister. Would the minister - or perhaps the President of the Council (Mr. Marshall) who is responsible for these matters, could answer the question. Could the hon. gentleman tell us now what the price of a barrel of oil would be that is produced on the Grand Banks? We were told a couple of years ago that the price of producing a barrel of oil on the Grand Banks would be \$40.

MR. NEARY: Now with inflation and so forth, Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the hon. gentleman should know by now, or the Premier should know, what will be the cost of producing a barrel of Hibernia oil now as of today? What would be the cost of producing a barrel of oil?

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I suppose you might just as well ask how many angels can stand on the head of a pin.

AN HON. MEMBER: Sure, I know the answer to that one.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL: That will all depend, Mr. Speaker, on various factors. It will depend upon whether it is pipelined; it will depend upon whether there is not a pipeline; it will depend upon so many factors that that particular question is not one now that readily admits to an answer. I do not have the clairvoyancy of the hon. member.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, two years ago when we attended the conference sponsored by the former Minister of Mines and Energy, who had the answers, he told us at that time that the government was expecting world prices to be paid for oil produced at Hibernia, and it was around that time at \$40 a barrel; that would be the cost of producing a barrel of oil on the Grand Banks. I am sure that figure now must be updated. Is it still \$40, could the hon. gentleman tell us? That is according to the government's own figures. Or has that increased,



MR. NEARY: and to what extent has it increased?

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

MR. MARSHALL: I am quite happy to answer questions, but the fact of the matter is, any figures given like that by the former minister would be based on a whole bunch of assumptions, presumptions and what have you and, you know, in order to make any figures like that, first of all, any figures like that would be a guesstimate and, secondly, in order to make any figures like that meaningful you would have to know what your assumptions are, and I do not really see that, you know - surely the hon. gentlemen can ask questions much more pertinent to the immediate affairs of the Province than that.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: I consider this to be very pertinent to the affairs of the Province, Mr. Speaker, because, as members know, the oil producing countries have just negotiated a new price per barrel for oil, which is around \$34 a barrel, and they tell me that under the table deals can be made for per barrel for less than \$34. Now, if we are talking about \$40 on the Grand Banks - let us say that figure still remains intact, which I doubt; it is probably closer to \$50 - now, now that the price of oil is dropping and there is an oil glut in the world, does the hon. gentleman foresee any problems or any delays in developing Hibernia or the offshore oil resources because of a drop in the price of oil which is now \$34 a barrel in the world markets? Will there be any delays or will there be any problems encountered as a result of, number one, a glut of oil in the world and, number two, a

MR. NEARY: drop in price in world markets  
to \$34?

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, obviously, here  
again, an answer to a question like that would have to  
take into effect a whole lot of permutations and  
combinations both provincially, nationally, internationally  
and what have you. So just let me say that I see no problem  
in developing that resource at Hibernia insofar as the  
present economic status of the country is and the inter-  
national thing. That is the information which we have  
gotten. I see no problem at all. The only problem I see  
in the way of it is in order to assure that it will be  
developed, we are determined that the people of Newfoundland  
are going to get their fair share from the resource, and  
once we get that I am quite sure that we will be able to  
develop it.

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. WARREN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, My question is for the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey). I would like to ask the minister is his department having any problems in recruiting staff to work in Northern Labrador?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Social Services.

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, I cannot say that we are having any unusual problems. It is not a place that there is any great lineup of people wanting to go there. But for the past number of years, the past five or six years we have had a pretty stable administration in the North. And we have increased the staff in Labrador over the past three years by something in the order of fifty per cent. So on balance I would have to say that to the largest extent no, but in certain situations, yes.

MR. WARREN: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary, the hon. member for Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I understand there is a position in Nain for a social worker. However there has not been a social worker there on a permanent basis since August.

MR. MORGAN: Why do you not apply for the job? You will lose the next election anyway.

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, I am just wondering -

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible) native rights, aboriginal rights.

MR. WARREN: - if the minister is concerned.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. WARREN: - about the town of Nain which has a population of 1,000 people and the only social worker they see is a social worker that goes in there once every two or three weeks for two or three days at a time.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please!

MR. WARREN: And this has been ongoing since August and I understand the Minister's department have been trying to recruit somebody since August. What is the problem that we cannot get anybody to go into Nain?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Social Services.

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, I am very much aware of the situation in Nain and I can say that it is the exception rather than the rule and that is why I gave the hon. gentleman the answer that I gave. I do not have current detail as to what the situation is, but I hope in the very near future that that matter will be resolved. The situation is that-certainly I agree with the hon. gentleman-that there has to be a permanent worker in Nain. It is not our intention to service the community on a week to week or month to month basis and every effort is being made to fill that position. Nain is, probably, Mr. Speaker, a community where we had a pretty fair stability in terms of administration over the last number of years. And it probably a classic example of my initial comment with regards to difficulties experienced in recruiting. But in any event, I will take the matter under advisement and I will give the hon. gentleman an up to date on it just as soon as I can get some details.

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

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): A final supplementary, the  
hon. member for Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN: I just wanted to ask the  
minister - he probably is aware of the news report this  
morning on CBC radio from Goose Bay, saying that since  
August, with the absence of a social worker in Nain,  
that juvenile delinquency has increased, and other social  
aspects in the Department of Social Services, have increased  
in Nain - is the minister aware that juvenile delinquency  
in Nain has increased in the past two or three months?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Social  
Services.

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of  
some increases. As a matter of fact it was only about  
two or three weeks ago that I assessed this very issue. I  
am not aware that there is any increase which in any way  
is a reflection on the fact that there has not been a social  
worker there. You know, I would not connect the two. But  
certainly I can conceive the point that there is that problem  
there and we are aware of it and we are trying to address  
it certainly.

MR. STIRLING: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. STIRLING: Mr. Speaker, in view of the  
comments that the Premier made here in this House when he  
got carried away in debate a couple of days ago in which he  
did say that there was an economic depression in the Province,  
could he tell us the eight or ten proposals, could he just  
list off eight or ten proposals that he has for curing that  
economic depression in the Province?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, over the last two years the Government of Newfoundland has been busily engaged in putting forward eleven separate proposals now for economic and industrial development of this Province. These eleven proposals involve industrial parks around the Province, they involve the revitalization and continued enhancement of the fishery. As a matter of fact, we had provided \$1.5 million for the Coastal Labrador DREE agreement, which was turned down by the federal government, to go ahead with fisheries related activities on the Coast of Labrador. We are engaged in going after additional agreements in all the resource sectors of the economy. There are eleven proposals now put forward. There is a proposal for ongoing training because we need a new Fisheries College. That proposal is forward now to the DREE Department. As I say, industrial parks, On rural development, the Coastal Labrador agreement, which was signed, in which we had provided \$1.5 million that was turned down. There are agreements on transportation, a start on the Trans-Labrador Highway; for example, completion of the Burgeo Road, ongoing secondary roads around the Province, the road across the Great Northern Peninsula from Plum Point to Roddickton. The Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe) in dealings with the federal Minister of Transportation has indicated that we are not prepared to accept the money from one area to go in another area but we want to sign immediately a TCH agreement. We want to get on with the airstrip programme on the Labrador Coast.

So we have put forward a range of proposals for dealing with economic stimulation in our Province. Additionally right now we are dealing with the fishery problem. We have assisted in having Ramea reopened, a very viable fish plant for the people of that Island. We

PREMIER PECKFORD: are now dealing with the Burgeo problem. We are in negotiations today and yesterday and the day before, and tomorrow, with federal authorities, dealing with the Lake Group problems, with the bank on an emergency kind of basis.

The Minister of Development, by the way, Mr. Speaker, I want to throw a bouquet at the Minister of Development. The Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor) over the last

PREMIER PECKFORD: month or two has worked harder than anybody else to try to get this economy going.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: His untiring efforts on behalf of the Baie Verte Peninsula and his visits- I think he has to go to Switzerland next week to have meetings with proposals that are on the table for the revitalization of the mining industry in Baie Verte, for example. There is arranged the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development's (Mr. Goudie) programme for the sawmillers of this Province whereby we provide money now that they will pay back later to help the sawmill industry.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: We are extremely proud, Mr. Speaker, that in the areas where we have some control -

AN HON. MEMBER: The first industry.

PREMIER PECKFORD: - the forestry industry is booming. There will be, in the very near future, some announcements concerning the forestry industry which is going to be positive for the economy of the Province. We are very, very proud of the way we are trying to handle the situation that we face in this Province. We are moving on every front, Mr. Speaker, and where we can get additional funds, we have eleven proposals now on the table.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. STIRLING: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. STIRLING: Mr. Speaker, that is a very good list of what he would like to see the federal government do. Now what I would like to know is, given the present situation and knowing the hate that the ministers have for the federal government and the attack on the federal government, assuming that they are half as bad as he says they are and that he does not get any more out of his economic conference or the federal



MR. STIRLING: budget than he has got; dealing with the resources of Newfoundland and Labrador and the refusal to bring in a mini-budget, can he tell us whether or not, if he does not have any success in those areas, what plans does he have to spend money, for example, in the housing area which is under his responsibility, in the fishing area under his responsibility, in road construction under his responsibility? What specific plans does the Premier have of things that he can do, this government can do, dealing with what he calls the economic depression?

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

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stirling) indicated that my answer only dealt with things that were on the table with the federal government. We, as a provincial government, assisted in Ramea without the federal government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

PREMIER PECKFORD: We assisted in the sawmill industry without the federal government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

PREMIER PECKFORD: The Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) assisted in a whole range of fishery projects, Just the other day he made the announcement without the federal government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, we are building the Upper Salmon project without the federal government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, we started the Cat Arm project, \$150 million, without the federal government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, we are going to -

MR. MORGAN: The synchrolift in St. John's.

PREMIER PECKFORD: - the synchrolift in St. John's, Mr. Speaker, without the federal government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

PREMIER PECKFORD: We this year provided over \$20 million for roads in this Province without the federal government!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, we provided over \$30 million in water and sewer without the federal government!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: And, Mr. Speaker, we will continue to provide funds in all areas to assist the economic development of this Province, as we have done in the past, as we did this year. We have ongoing the Upper Salmon plus Cat Arm. Just those two projects alone, Mr. Speaker, \$150 million plus \$80 million. And if you can do your mathematics that is a fair chunk of change in developing the hydro resources of this Province so we are not dependent on imported oil, so that we can give to the consumers of this Province the cheapest possible electricity.

And I could go on, Mr. Speaker, The range of achievements is incredible! It is incredible! And we will continue to do so. Over the next week and two weeks, Mr. Speaker, we will be indicating to this hon. House and to the people of Newfoundland other incentives that we will be taking to help industrial enterprises in this Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): We have about fifty seconds remaining.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. L. STIRLING: Mr. Speaker, when the Premier says that he does not intend to help any of these private industries that are nuisances around our necks, could he tell us how many other companies on his list does he intend to let go bankrupt before he intends to do anything about it? Could he list these nuisances around his neck that he would like to let go?

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, this government will not be deterred by the doom and gloom and the negative attitude that the people in the Opposition have about our future. We are optimistic about our future. We are confident that we can manage our resources, create wealth and help our people from Cape Chidley to Cape St. Mary's. That is what we are committed to! That is what we are going to do! But we are not going to necessarily just bail out an industry for the sake of bailing it out and then it will not be viable. Look at our performance, Mr. Speaker, look at our performance in Stephenville! Look at what a fantastic achievement that that has been! A Liberal blunder turned into a Tory success, Mr. Speaker!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: How about St. Lawrence? What did we do in St. Lawrence when the mine in St. Lawrence closed down, Mr. Speaker? The initiative came from the provincial government to initiate a new fish processing plant in that particular area and now we have a very vibrant community based upon a renewable resource. That is the way, that is performance, Mr. Speaker!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: That is performance!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): Order, please!

The time for Oral Questions has expired.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MR. SPEAKER (Simms): The hon. -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: By leave! By leave!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

I have recognized the hon.

Minister of Finance who is tabling a report.

The hon. Minister of Finance.

DR. J. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the relevant sections of the Financial Administration Act I wish to table copies of three special warrants.

MR. SPEAKER: Any other reports?

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. W. MARSHALL: Order 2.

On motion, A bill, "An Act To Ratify, Confirm And Adopt An Agreement Between The Government And The Government Of Canada Respecting Reciprocal Taxation Of These Governments And Their Agencies". (Bill No. 106). read a third time, ordered passed and its title be as on the Order Paper.

On motion, a bill, "An Act To Amend The Government Reorganization (General And Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1973", read a third time, ordered passed and its title be as on the Order Paper. (Bill No. 66)

On motion, a bill "An Act To Amend The Constabulary Act", read a third time, ordered passed and its title be as on the Order Paper. (Bill No. 46)

On motion, a bill "An Act To Convey Certain Trusts And Properties In The Province To The Montreal Trust Company Of Canada", read a third time, ordered passed and its title be as on the Order Paper. (Bill No. 52)

On motion, a bill "An Act To Amend The St. Clare's Mercy Hospital (Incorporation) Act, 1960", read a third time, ordered passed and its title be as on the Order Paper. (Bill No. 61)

On motion, a bill "An Act To Amend The Summary Proceedings Act", read a third time, ordered passed and its title be as on the Order Paper. (Bill No. 64)

On motion, a bill "An Act To Establish The Alcohol And Drug Dependency Commission Of Newfoundland And Labrador", read a third time, ordered passed and its title be as on the Order Paper. (Bill No. 109)

On motion, a bill "An Act To Amend The Workers' Compensation Act (No. 2)", read a third time, ordered passed and its title be as on the Order Paper. (Bill No. 104)

On motion, a bill "An Act To Remove Anomalies And Errors In The Statute Law", read a third time, ordered passed and its title be as on the Order Paper (Bill No. 89)

On motion, a bill "An Act To Amend The Education (Teacher Training) Act", read a third time, ordered passed and its title be as on the Order Paper (Bill No. 50)

On motion, a bill "An Act To Enable Price (Nfld.) Pulp & Paper Limited To Become A Federal Corporation", read a third time, ordered passed and its title be as on the Order Paper (Bill No. 115)

Motion, second reading of a bill, "An Act To Amend And Revise The Law Providing For Accessibility To Buildings For Physically Disabled Persons", (Bill No. 118).

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker, I am particularly pleased today to move second reading, in the Year of the Handicapped, of a bill entitled, "An Act To Amend And Revise The Law Providing For Accessibility To Buildings For Physically Disabled Persons".

Mr. Speaker, when the responsibility for the building accessibility act was passed to the Department of Labour and Manpower earlier this year, it was the intention of government, the wish of government at that time that the present act be revised and that people be put in place so that the enforcement provision under the act could be put in place almost immediately so that the disable people in Newfoundland would have access to all public buildings. And, Mr. Speaker, it not only does this with respect to new construction,

MR. DINN:

but provision is made in the bill for existing buildings as laid out in the act.

The purpose of the act, Mr. Speaker, of this bill, is laid out in clause 3, and for the purpose of putting this into the record I would like to read clause 3 to hon. members so that we understand basically what we are doing with this amendment.

MR. DINN:

"The purpose of the bill is to require a) in the case of buildings, the entrances and facilities available to and accessible by members of the public for lawful purposes, to be available to and accessible by physically disabled persons, and b) in the case of apartment-type buildings, the entrances and facilities, not including those in relation to individual residential units, available to and accessible by residents in the apartment-type buildings for lawful purposes, to be available to and accessible by residents who are physically disabled persons."

Mr. Speaker, as I said in my opening remarks, when the responsibility for building accessibility was put to the Department of Labour and Manpower, many people in the Province concerned with accessibility in the Year of the Disabled, wrote me with respect to how quickly the department could react and make sure that this bill be brought in, and these amendments be made, in the Fall sitting of the House. And, Mr. Speaker, I have to take time during these introductory remarks, to compliment the Minister of Public Works and his officials for the work that they have done in the past couple of years with respect to building accessibility, and with respect to the recommendations his department made to mine when the responsibility for the act was transferred to my department.

Mr. Speaker, two years past, the minister met with all the groups throughout this Province - he met with the building trades people, the construction people, the Consumer Organization for the Disabled in Newfoundland and Labrador, the Community Services Council, and, Mr. Speaker, it made my task



MR. DINN: extremely easy to, in six months, be able to put this bill together and the regulations - which have not been 100 per cent completed as of yet - but the regulations in place, so that disabled people in the Year of the Disabled, have access to our public buildings.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I also want to take time out in my opening remarks to compliment the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey) who has always had interest for disabled people, helping them in whatever ways he could. His recommendations to me and to my department, and to the Minister of Public Works and Services (Mr. Young) over the past couple of years, have been invaluable, Mr. Speaker, his personal recommendations and the recommendations of his officials, so that, Mr. Speaker, we have before us today a piece of legislation that I believe, over the next few years, will assist our disabled people in the Province to have access to all those places that the public generally have access to. It should have been done a long time ago.

When the original bill was passed, Mr. Speaker, many things that were not foreseen at that time came into play and the previous act did not provide for the capability of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, for example, to make appropriate regulations when changes came about due to changes in the national Housing Act, due to changes with respect to descriptions of buildings that would be accessible to our disabled people. And, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Social Services, the Minister of Public Works, and their works, the works that they performed, and the documentation

MR. DINN: that they have provided to the Department of Labour and Manpower, provided me with the capability, which I would not have had, the capability of being able to bring this great piece of legislation forward in this Fall sitting.

Mr. Speaker, what we have now is a bill that will provide accessibility to our disabled people to public buildings, and to apartment units. I believe the description in the bill is "units of apartment buildings of five and above. And Mr. Speaker, it will take some time to bring this act, this bill, to make this bill effective, but we now have the mechanism in place whereby we can enforce this law in the Province, if we get agreement in this House and this bill passes this Fall.

Because we have, Mr. Speaker, in place a director, we have in place inspectors in the Department of Labour and Manpower, Mr. Speaker, who can go about - we have our electrical inspectors, our elevator inspectors, our boiler and pressure vessel inspectors in the Engineering and Technical Services section of the Department of Labour and Manpower, plus the fact, Mr. Speaker, that we will be hiring a person who will be knowledgeable, or will become very knowledgeable very quickly about the requirements of this amendment so that accessibility will be provided to our disabled people.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think I would also like to bring up to the House clause number (5) just to point out to hon. members, and to the people of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, clause number (5) which is a very, very important clause in this bill. The purpose is laid out in clause (3) but I think reading clause (3) and not reading clause (5), a very important clause, that I received assistance

MR. DINN: from the Ministers of Social Services and of Public Works to see to it that clause (5) was put in and clause (5) (1) reads, and I will read it for the House so that it goes into the record, "The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may prescribe such period or periods of time after which the provisions of this Act apply to buildings existing at the commencement of this Act, and such periods may be different for different classes of buildings."

Now, Mr. Speaker, basically what that says, is that not only is the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador making sure that buildings constructed after this act comes into play, new buildings, will be made accessible to our disabled people, but buildings that exist. And Mr. Speaker, because of the difficulty that we have had, that has been outlined by the various sectors in Newfoundland and Labrador, we had to put that provision in the act so that certain buildings, for example, can be done in a very short period of time but other buildings that would have great difficulty in being modified to be accessible to our disabled people, may take a longer period of time. So we had to put a clause in there that would be variable.

But let no one in the Province, Mr. Speaker, think that this government is not serious about making sure that our disabled people have access to all buildings.

Mr. Speaker, today in introducing this bill I have complimented and thanked government officials for the assistance I received from them, but I also want to mention the construction associations of this Province for getting together and providing us with the information that we required, the Community Services Council,

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker, who provided a great deal of information and a great deal of assistance to my department and to the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Young), so that he could make the recommendations that he did, the consumers, the Consumer Organization of Disabled Persons of Newfoundland, led by a lady from, I believe Glovertown, Mrs. Irene McGinn, Her

MR. DINN: organization provided us with a great deal of information so I feel right now that this piece of legislation is a leader in Canada, Mr. Speaker; so that we could, in this Year Of The Disabled, provide a piece of legislation of the quality that we have before us today.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank and point out and recognize the assistance given to us by the Newfoundland Association of Architects and by the Newfoundland Home Builders Association, and Newfoundland and Labrador Construction Association, along with the many private individuals who submitted their information to us, the background of which was used in bringing forward this piece of legislation at this time, and also in assisting us, Mr. Speaker, in bringing forth, in preparing the required regulations that will be brought into effect when this bill is passed by the House of Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I will be listening to what hon. members of the House have to say with respect to the legislation, and, Mr. Speaker, in my closing remarks, hopefully will be able to answer any questions that the hon. members have. Certainly I will provide all the information necessary so that hon. members are aware, as are the people of Newfoundland, of what this piece of legislation does.

I think it is a great step forward in this Province. I think that it could not have been done without the assistance that I received from different organizations and ministers and officials. I am proud that it is here. I am proud that the bill has the teeth that it needs. And, Mr. Speaker, I will be interested in the comments made by hon. members and hope for speedy passage of this piece of legislation so that the disabled people in this Province can be assisted in the future, Mr. Speaker, and so that they can have access to all public buildings that we, say normal individuals, have access to.

MR. DINN: So with that, Mr. Speaker, I move second reading.

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

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, we certainly, on this side of the House, want to support this bill and to commend the government and to commend the minister in this Year Of The Disabled for bringing in this bill, a bill, Mr. Speaker, which will open up a new world of opportunity to the physically handicapped, the physically disabled. One thing is accessibility, but what this accessibility will do, of course, is to allow these people to participate in and to compete for jobs in many parts of the Public Service, in particular, and in the private sector as well, we would hope.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is not merely accessibility, it is the kinds of opportunities that this accessibility will now provide to the physically disabled, opportunities that were formerly denied these people. So many of these people have been denied jobs because, of course, they could not get to the building, they could not get in there. And now, with these regulations, we hope that these people will be given this opportunity of obtaining jobs and being able to earn a living the same as ordinary people.

No doubt in the past, Mr. Speaker, we have seen the capabilities of the physically disabled displayed in the public sector and in the private sector. And it is absolutely heart-warming to see the numbers of people in recent years, the numbers of physically disabled people who have overcome their disabilities because of the sensitivity of people in the private sector and agencies in the public sector, as well, who saw the obstacles and the discrimination against these people in

MR. LUSH: terms of accessibility to buildings. And over the past number of years, without this legislation, I think we have seen a number of people, particularly in the public service and charitable organizations, doing precisely this, making buildings accessible to the handicapped. And, as I have said before, it has

MR. T. LUSH:

opened up a new world to these people. It has given them the opportunity to become independent, it has given them the opportunity to participate and to earn their own living. And, Mr. Speaker, there is nothing worse in this world when a person feels, of course, that he cannot earn a living because of some handicap, simply because, of course, he has no way of getting to the work place. And over recent years we have seen this kind of change and, of course, not nearly quick enough. We hope that this Act will have the effect of certainly speeding up the accessibility to these people not only to make a living, Mr. Speaker, although that is a big one certainly. Because many of those people are trained and capable of working. So it is not only that, it also will allow them the opportunity to carry on their own business affairs, to go to government offices to do the many things that we have to do in public buildings and other buildings in this complex world. There are so many things that we have to do to get around, move around and this will certainly help these people. They will not be dependent on other people. They will be able to carry on their own affairs, their own business affairs, as well as provide them with the opportunity of making a living, to provide them with the opportunity to participate in those ordinary affairs that we take for granted.

I think, Mr. Speaker, really over the years that more than, let us say, doing the thing intentionally of not providing accessibility, I think it was just a matter of not being sensitive to the concerns and to the needs of the handicapped people.



MR. T. LUSH:

So now, of course, with these regulations we hope that these things will change and that the physically disabled people of this Province will certainly have, as I have said before, a new world opened up to them because of these accessibility regulations, because of this particular Bill.

There is only one thing, Mr. Speaker, that I would like to ask - it is not a major point, I am sure - but I just wondered why, for example, that this particular Bill would come under the Department of Labour and Manpower? It might be very obvious when the minister can point it out to us, but by just looking at it, it would seem to me that it would more logically fall under the department that looks after housing or some other department. But just on the surface of it, it does not look to be a logical thing to fall under the Department of Labour and Manpower. So I would certainly like for the minister to deal with that, as to why this particular Bill falls under the Department of Labour and Manpower? Because one wonders whether the expertise is in the Department of Labour and Manpower to deal with this kind of regulation. As I have said before, it would seem to fall more logically under some other department, under Municipal Affairs which is involved in building or in housing, this sort of thing. But the Department of Labour and Manpower which is to look after labour problems basically, does not seem to be the logical choice. But maybe the minister can elaborate upon that and tell us why it is that it does fall under the Department of Labour and Manpower as opposed to some other department which would seem to be a more logical department than the Department of Labour and Manpower.

MR. T. LUSH: But that, Mr. Speaker, does not affect the principle of the Bill at all and it does not affect the usefulness of the Bill. It is just a matter of - in terms of seeing that this Bill is carried out, that the regulations are carried - it would appear on the surface that maybe the Department of Labour and Manpower is not the logical department, that maybe some other department more suited to building, building codes and this sort of thing would be the logical department and the department with the expertise to carry out this Bill and would appear, if it were put under such department, it would not need extra personnel because that expertise would be there. But I just want to make that point and leave it to the minister to explain why it was seen fit by the government to place it under the Department of Labour and Manpower, which will be very important, Mr. Speaker. Because one thing is having a Bill and, number two, is ensuring that the regulations are adhered

MR. LUSH:

to. There is no point in having a bill if, one, we do not give it the teeth and the power, or to give the bill the teeth that can carry out the regulations that are intended. So that would be my only concern with the bill right now at this particular moment. But with respect to its principle, Mr. Speaker, the principle of the bill, we agree that it is a very important bill, that it is certainly a bill that will receive the approval of all of the people throughout this Province. This is the kind of bill, Mr. Speaker, that will not find one dissenting throughout this entire Province. And, as the minister pointed out, one wonders, of course, why we did not have this particular kind of legislation sooner. But, I suppose, Mr. Speaker, it has to do with attitude and a lot of other factors within society. And it is because, of course, of the concerns of the handicapped people themselves, the physically disabled people themselves, because they were able to take up the cudgel, as it were, to go to work on this and fight for themselves. And as the minister indicated, certainly a person who deserves a lot of credit for this bill today is none other than Mrs. Irene McGinn from my own district, the district of Glovertown, a person whom I know well, a person who I worked with throughout the years. And she is to be given great credit, Mr. Speaker, for the work that she has done with the physically disabled throughout the years. A lady, Mr. Speaker, who has overcome her own handicap, a lady who has been awarded the - what do we call that award for the physically disabled? - the Pippy Award. She won that award this year in recognition of the way in which she was able to overcome her own disability to be a completely independent person. And, Mr. Speaker, recognizing the obstacles and the things that were preventing other disabled people from making their own way through life, she certainly fought for them, became involved and over the years she has done a marvelous job, she has done an excellent job, Mr. Speaker, and there are not

MR. LUSH: enough words that I can say in commending Mrs. McGinn for the tremendous effort that she has put into helping the physically disabled, not throughout this Province alone, Mr. Speaker, but throughout Canada. And she is to be commended for her concern and for her involvement and for the success that she has attained in her own personal life and also in working with others and giving others, Mr. Speaker, the courage and the incentive to overcome their own disabilities, and then by convincing society of the necessary changes that we have had to bring about to be able to make life a little easier for these people, to be able to accommodate their needs and demands.

So, Mr. Speaker, she is certainly a lady to be praised and a lady to be commended. And I am glad that she is from the district of Terra Nova, and I am glad that I have been associated with her. So, Mr. Speaker, we, as I have said, want to commend the government for coming out with this bill in this the Year of the Disabled and certainly this is a good way, an excellent way, to show the physically disabled that we, as a parliament, as a House of Assembly, are certainly concerned about the physically disabled and want to do anything that we can in terms of legislation to help them to become independent people, to help them to make it through life the same as ordinary people - those of us without any handicaps, those of us who are well in body, soul and mind, Mr. Speaker, as it were.

MR. LUSH:

Mr. Speaker, there is one other concern I want to raise. It is a rather important one. I talked about the importance, of course, of putting teeth into the bill, the importance of putting it under the right department so that we could assure that the regulations will be carried out, that it just will not be another series of regulations that will not be adhered to, that we should ensure that they are put in the right department, that they are put under the right administrative body with the right expertise, so that all the things contained in the bill are adhered to with respect to future buildings and existing buildings.

But, Mr. Speaker, one wonders how serious the government is with respect to this accessibility when, as far as I know, for example, that with the latest construction in this city right now, with respect to the skywalks at Memorial University, I understand that these are not accessible to the handicapped of this Province. Now, Mr. Speaker, that certainly is an important point, that is an important matter. We have the government now bringing in this legislation to ensure that in the future that in public buildings we have accessibility for the handicapped, and we start building this Summer, skywalks at Memorial University and, to my knowledge, we have not provided accessibility for the handicapped. This is the government's own project, and, Mr. Speaker, certainly a very important matter. I am wondering whether the handicapped have not raised this matter. I am surprised if they have not raised this matter with the government, that here we are building two skywalks for the students of this Province right on the eve of this bill and we have not provided accessibility for the handicapped of this Province.

Mr. Speaker, I am wondering whether it is too late to take care of that.

MR. LUSH: Because this certainly would be a great inconvenience on these handicapped people, more so, Mr. Speaker, for those who are able to get around than the handicapped, naturally. People who use wheelchairs and one thing and another, to be staying in residences, having to get to classes, and to find out that we now have put in these expensive skywalks and we have not made provision for the physically disabled of this Province. And I am pretty certain, Mr. Speaker, that they have not made this provision. So here right away, we have the government almost flaunting their own regulations, setting up a set of regulations and then proceeding with something so important as the skywalks - I suppose that is the official name for them, is it? -

MR. HOUSE: Yes, it is.

MR. LUSH: - and not having made provision for the physically disabled of this Province, not giving them the same convenience as we have the other students. And I think, Mr. Speaker, that certainly is a serious oversight by somebody in government, that that service was not provided for the physically disabled of this Province. I hope something can be done about it and I hope the minister will address this point. Maybe there was some reason. Maybe it was architecturally impossible, but I doubt it very much, Mr. Speaker. I am sure in the twentieth century that it is not architecturally impossible, because I understand we are doing all sorts of things in transportation now with respect to buses and all this sort of thing so that the physically disabled are able to use our public modes of transportation, be it trains, buses, airplanes, whatever. And I hope that we will see in the future that all of these modes of transportation and all of the things we use, apart from buildings,

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, will be made accessible to the handicapped of this Province, to the physically disabled, because getting into buildings is one thing, Mr. Speaker, but to be able to move around - and sometimes those of us again who can do those things take them for granted, do not realize the great inconvenience to people who cannot use the public transportation system. So I understand that there are also moves in this area and that there are some moves afoot to try to accommodate the physically disabled with respect to using public transportation throughout Canada.

Mr. Speaker, it is certainly unfortunate that we have the government bringing out these regulations right now in this, The Year of the Physically Disabled, and to certainly not provide accessibility

MR. LUSH:

or provide the handicapped use of these skywalks, these two skywalks that are now being constructed in this the Year of the Disabled. In this the time when the government brings in this bill, to not have done that seems to be certainly a matter of great concern to me. And it brings into question, Mr. Speaker, really, the sincerity of this bill when we have the government bringing in these regulations to go and construct skywalks at Memorial University where we have - certainly we want this place to be accessible to the physically disabled people of this Province. If there is one institution that we want to be accessible to the physically disabled, it is certainly Memorial University.

So, Mr. Speaker, that is a matter of concern to me and I am sure it is a matter of concern to the physically disabled of this Province and if there is anything that can be done to correct that matter, I would certainly urge the government to do so and to do so quickly. Because, Mr. Speaker, it is certainly a matter of grave concern to the physically disabled of this Province and what we do, as we have said before, what we do for other people then we should also do for the physically disabled.

But, Mr. Speaker, outside of that let us say that we support the bill. We commend the government for bringing it in and we hope that they demonstrate that they have every desire to carry out all of the conditions and regulations of this particular bill.

Thank you.

MR. HICKEY:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Butt):  
Services.

The hon. the Minister of Social



MR. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to hear the hon. gentleman finally say that he supports the bill because I had some doubts there for a while.

Mr. Speaker, I am not going to be too long. I cannot let the opportunity go by without making a few comments on what is yet another masterpiece, if I can call it that, for this administration. This last couple of weeks, Mr. Speaker, there have been two pieces of legislation go through this House which can and will have such impact and such effect on so many of our people who are confronted with problems and who have been for so long, and have gone to the largest extent unnoticed. Now, finally, they can look for some solution to their very serious problem.

The Accessibility Act - there are a couple of items the hon. gentleman raised which were rather interesting to me. He wanted to know why it is in Labour and Manpower and I do not purport to speak for my colleague who will very ably explain why it is there. Let me tell the hon. gentleman that I have some connection with this legislation, having introduced the initial bill in 1978, one which I cited as a step forward, one which I was not really happy with but at least we were getting somewhere. We at least commenced or started to tackle this very serious problem of barriers facing the disabled people. That legislation was inadequate. I knew at the time that it would not solve all the problems, but it was at least a step forward. That bill, when it was passed through the House, Mr. Speaker, was under my department. Having wrestled with it for a while, we found that we had no expertise in this area. This was an area which required, number one, an engineering expertise, on the one hand, and a real knowledge, detailed knowledge of construction and the construction industry, the building trades

MR. HICKEY: and all the rest, And then it was transferred to my colleague in Public Works, and he did a great deal of work and made some very real attempts to make that legislation work, and to make it operative. And between the two of us we still could not really solve the problem. We still could not really achieve the goal that government had envisaged. And finally it was transferred to my colleague in Manpower and Labour, and with the help of all, and all my colleagues, we have today, finally, this amendment to the original act, which will solve the problems, and which will meet the needs of the disabled community.

My colleague, I am sure, will explain why it has finally found its right home, finally found the right place, because his department is expert in a number of areas of inspection, and, indeed, has the mandate in a number of areas of inspection which he will go into in some detail.

What I want to say in the couple of minutes that I wish to use, Mr. Speaker, is that this has got to be one of the most major steps taken on behalf of the disabled community in this Province. One has to broaden his horizons so to speak, to realize what this legislation means and what it is all about. Is it to provide access to apartment buildings? The answer is yes, obviously. But, Mr. Speaker, it requires the opening up of places of employment which will allow the disabled people like never before to find their place into gainful employment, be it part-time or full-time, as well as allow them to be able to realize the fulfillment in their lives they have never been able to realize before. Because disabled people throughout this Province have been in the past, and are today, confined to certain areas within our society, and outside of that they cannot move, cannot go.

MR. HICKEY: Another classic example, Mr. Speaker, of breaking down the barriers which have kept disabled people down, so to speak, and kept them from reaching their full potential and now, at last, here is the vehicle which will solve that problem and I commend my colleague, the Minister of Manpower and Labour (Mr. Dinn), and indeed my colleague in Public Works and Services (Mr. Young), for the tremendous work that they have done, respectively, in their own departments. I would like to mention as well the efforts and the demonstration by government in this the Year of the Disabled, to highlight the ability of disabled persons by the classic example of the numbers of those who have been hired within the Public Service in this Province, exceeding the numbers ever before, Mr. Speaker. And let no one question the sincerity or commitment of this administration to do something for our less fortunate citizens, or our citizens who have got particular problems.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HICKEY: We have demonstrated it in so many ways this year that I am really and truly proud to be Minister of Social Services, with some responsibility for this very critical area, at a time when an administration such as this administration so clearly demonstrates its commitment not only in the hiring of disabled persons and allowing them that opportunity that they have sought for so long and which has escaped them, but also to take that final, very critical and important step. And what we are saying today, Mr. Speaker, to the disabled community is that at last,

MR. HICKEY: in due course, no place will be barred from you. The barriers will come down at last, at last you have been unshackled from that which has held you and kept you and prevented you from realizing a fuller life and realizing gainful employment and realizing your rightful place in society.

It is not enough, Mr. Speaker, to open up the education areas of this Province to the disabled person. Maybe the hon. gentleman has a point when he talks about the skywalks. I am not competent to make any comment on that particular issue. I have some feelings, but really they are not appropriate at this time because I really would not know what I am talking about in terms of the engineering problems that may be involved, or the technical problems that may be involved. I will leave that to someone who is more competent to speak on it.

But I will say this though, it is not just enough to open up the educational facilities in this Province, as has been the case, to the disabled community, it is not enough for governments, as governments have done in the past, both federal and provincial, to open up its programmes, and create programmes, to encourage through rehabilitative methods the educating and the full development of the potential that the disabled people have.

What use is it if, when a disabled person having achieved, as I know of one, a Master's degree has to leave this Province and go to British Columbia to get a job. Why? Because the only positions that he could have gotten were in buildings that he could not get into, Mr. Speaker. That is a pretty sad commentary of a system. That clearly shows a weakness in a system. And that is why I highlight that, Mr. Speaker, to remind hon. members of

MR. HICKEY: just what we are doing today, and the significance of it.

As I said, it is futile and useless to spend the monies that have been spent in the past, by both levels of government, to encourage and, indeed, to provide facilities and programmes to fully develop our disabled persons, if we do not go that other step and allow them full access to the labour market. And that is what this legislation is doing today.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot find words to say how proud I am as Minister of Social Services who deals with the disabled community in this Province. And I am so thankful that, as I said, I cannot adequately express it on behalf of those people who already see this and who already know what it means to them, for at last our disabled people, not only will be able to find employment, but what is equally important, Mr. Speaker, disabled persons who have not been able to get out of their homes very often to go anywhere of any account will now be able to realize a more full life through visitations and through normal living, the kinds of things that you and I, Your Honour, take for granted, do not put very much value on because, I suppose, one could say, you have to be there to experience, to really and truly feel it and understand it.

I have had the privilege and pleasure of being close to a lot of those people, and I hope I understand, to at least some degree, their plight. That is why I am so proud and happy today to see this legislation go through. It will take some time, of course it will. It will take one horrendous amount of money. Let us not forget that. That is another significant factor in what this administration is bringing about today. But I too would be remiss if I did not,

MR. HICKEY: as Minister of Social Services, express my most sincere thanks, as my colleague has done, to the people in industry, the construction industry, and to all the organizations, as mentioned by my colleague, who have worked so hard and who have finally resolved their issues and problems and come together to support this cause. For that I am truly grateful.

Mr. Speaker, it is a big day for the disabled people in this Province, and at last we are finally achieving the goal which we have been working on for so long.

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

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words on this bill. As my hon. colleague from Terra Nova (Mr. Lush) said, we are in full support of this bill, Bill 118, that finally is giving the disabled people in this Province the opportunity of getting into the employment field, getting into buildings that they need to get into for their well being, Mr. Speaker. I want to go on record as saying that I do not think there is a more determined group of people in this Province than those who have a handicap problem. Mr. Speaker, these are the most determined people you can witness in society. And, Mr. Speaker, speaking from experience, in the few years that I was working in Happy Valley/Goose Bay I was very much affiliated with the handicapped group there. Pretty well daily I was in close contact with several members of that handicapped group, and I tell you, Mr. Speaker, that when you have the determination of that group of people - it was only a small number, maybe ten or fifteen in number, but they went out, Mr. Speaker, just to give you an example of what determination they had, they went out and used their wheelchairs and any other means possible on one sunny Sunday afternoon and raised in excess of \$2,000 in trying to find some monies to put on a building and renovate a building capable of accommodating them. That day, Mr. Speaker, was called, 'A Mile for Quarters'.

MR. WARREN: And I think my hon. friend, the member for Naskaupi (Mr. Goudie), probably can recall that the people in the community, the people in Happy Valley/Goose Bay, participated, went up and helped to wheel some of those in the wheelchairs down the streets to gather money from whatever public sources possible. But those people were the determining factor behind it, Mr. Speaker, It was not us out in society as much as it was these people. They went out and they wanted to be part of society and wanted the rest of that town to know that, Look, you fellows may be doing this for me and for the handicapped, but at the same time you are showing that those are very important people.

Mr. Speaker, I do have a very touching relationship with the handicapped, having a family on my mother's side which has six children who are handicapped - six out of ten children, Mr. Speaker, who are handicapped and are on disability pension. And, Mr. Speaker, when I go and visit my aunt and uncle and see those children, from thirty-four years down to twenty years, unable to participate in the average society that you and I are glad we can do,

MR. G. WARREN: it really, Mr. Speaker, sometimes brings tears to my eyes; to know that those people have to go through society and be able to look at you and I, with maybe a desire to be like us, while at the same time they are pleading with us to help their cause.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey) several months ago, at the beginning of the year, down in the lobby of the Confederation Building, declared this year the Year of the Disabled. In fact, the banner is still down in the lobby of this building. My only concern is, Mr. Speaker, as today is the 27th. day of November, it is during the eleventh month of the Year of the Disabled that this government saw fit to bring this Bill in. That is my only concern, Mr. Speaker. This Bill should have been brought in in the Spring session. If this Bill had been brought in during the Spring session, at the beginning of the Year of the Disabled, then I would think some of the things that have to be done in renovating public buildings for the access of the disabled could have been done.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to go on record as saying I congratulate the government on bringing in this Bill. However, Mr. Speaker, the eleventh month is several months too late. I believe we should have brought it in during the Spring session, when the minister announced that this was the Year of the Disabled.

Mr. Speaker, I still believe, when I have the opportunity of going down to the cafeteria, or going up and down in the elevator, seeing a couple of handicapped employees with the government here in this building, it shows determination on their part. However, I have noticed on occasion, Mr. Speaker, that when the elevator door does come open there are people in this building who will get in that elevator



MR. G. WARREN: before letting that handicapped person in. I think we, society, the public, have to recognize that if there is a handicapped person the least we should do is assist them in getting in and out of elevators where possible, not just cram into the elevators first. And I have seen this happening, Mr. Speaker, with people in this building and with people on the outside, who sort of pass along by the person, who sort of see the person probably out in the public and all of a sudden, well, he is a handicapped person or she is a handicapped person, we just probably turn our heads away from them sometimes. I think we have to pay more attention to them. Every one of us, every one of us in this Province, Mr. Speaker, has to realize that the handicapped do need attention. The handicapped do need attention! And in this Bill I believe that this government is giving attention to the handicapped. And I think we, as society, Mr. Speaker, have also got to do our small part, which may not be very much but, at least, it is showing respect for them.

Mr. Speaker, the minister did mention money. I am sure that there may be some other questions on this Bill that need to be asked. It is going to cost society - it is going to cost a lot of money to get some of those buildings renovated and brought up to standard for the access of the handicapped people. However, Mr. Speaker, I really think, although money is a problem for this government -

MR. WARREN:

it has been a problem for this government since it came into power - when they do have money, they do not know what to do with it, Mr. Speaker.

But, Mr. Speaker, there is one example of - regardless of some of the other pressing things. Mr. Speaker, if the Premier would stop some of his propaganda that is going out to the householders in this Province and spend some of that money on getting buildings renovated for the handicapped, I think it would be much better. It would be much better, Mr. Speaker. Because I am sure if the Premier and this government would treat the handicapped equally as well as his propaganda that is going out on the constitution and other things, that he has distributed - I think there are about five different pieces of literature that have gone out within the past year and a half. If the money that could have been saved on this bit of literature was put into making buildings more accessible for the handicapped, it would be appreciated by the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Mr. Speaker, it is only recently that - by the way, I want to commend one individual person who was working with the Department of Social Services in Happy Valley-Goose Bay there about a year and a half ago. Since then, I think, he has been transferred here to St. John's. That gentleman came to me, and it was, Mr. Speaker, during the federal election campaign, the last federal election campaign when I was campaigning on behalf of the hon. William Rompkey, and this individual chap, working with the Department of Social Services came to me and said, "Look, can you get after Mr. Rompkey to see what the federal government will do for the handicapped?" So I had a chat with that gentleman and I asked him, 'What is your biggest concern with the handicapped?

MR. WARREN: And he said, 'My number one concern is that there is not one building in Happy Valley - Goose Bay that a handicapped person in a wheelchair can enter.' That was at that time. And that came from a member of the Department of Social Services. That was at that time.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible) building

MR. WARREN: Not at that time, okay?

Now, Mr. Speaker, that was back in the last election campaign. The federal government, as we know, have, throughout Newfoundland and Labrador, been making entrances to the federal buildings - not all of them, there are a lot of them still not done - making entrances to the federal buildings accessible by installing ramps. And, Mr. Speaker, this bill will enable this government to do the same thing with the buildings under their jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, the Elizabeth Goudie Building does have access for handicapped people now. It does have access now, Mr. Speaker, but at that time the Elizabeth Goudie Building was still under renovation. So in case anyone wants clarification, it did not at that time.

So Mr. Speaker, I believe that that message was relayed to Mr. Rompkey. Mr. Rompkey made a commitment, when going through the town of Happy Valley - Goose Bay, that he would encourage the federal government to have accessibility for the handicapped into the federal buildings. Now, whether he played a small part or not, I do not know. But at least, as we know now, the federal government has recognized that as fact and likewise the provincial government, with this bill, is recognizing the same needs.

So, Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, this employee of the Department of Social Services is

MR. WARREN:

probably a little responsible for seeing this bill brought into this House today. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that he has been in contact with his minister through his officials, advocating the same concern.

Mr. Speaker, again I would venture to say he and maybe a lot of other employees, perhaps with the Minister of Labour's (Mr. Dinn's) department, these people who are out in the field - it is not you and I, it is the people who are working with the various departments, who are out in the field working in association with the handicapped, who realize the problems that are confronting them.

Mr. Speaker, as the hon. the member for Terra Nova (Mr. Lush) said, we want to make sure handicapped people have the opportunity of getting their rightful education. And when he mentioned about the two skywalks across Prince Philip Drive, I think he had a genuine concern.

Mr. Speaker, these skywalks being put there at the present time are for people who have no physical disability, but, Mr. Speaker, there is this minority group which does need access too, across Prince Philip Drive, I think that government should see that there are means and ways of getting those people in and out of the university and the schools throughout this Province.

I remember that the Labrador East Integrated School Board has a vehicle chartered, I guess, through one of the taxi companies down there, and every morning this vehicle goes around to the half dozen or so houses that have handicapped children and picks them up, brings them up to the school and brings them into the school, which they cannot do themselves.

MR. WARREN: This has been done by the Labrador East Integrated School Board, and I am sure the other school boards throughout the Province are doing the same thing.

So, Mr. Speaker, we all have to put on a real effort.

MR. HOUSE: That is a government policy.

MR. WARREN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I honestly believe the Minister of Health (Mr. House), that it is a government policy. But as I said earlier, if the Minister of Health was not here, today is the 27th of November and it is eleven months after the Year of the Disabled was recognized that this government saw fit to bring in a bill, which is eleven months too late, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, if the Minister of Health was not listening, this bill could have been brought in during the Spring session and some of this work could have been done.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am not disagreeing, that it is not a good government policy, it is one of the very few government policies that are good. This is a good government policy, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN: But there are many other government policies such as, for example, Mr. Speaker, the recent one on taxes in the various towns by the Municipal Affairs Department. That is not a good government policy, the taxes in municipalities, the property taxes, Mr. Speaker.

So when you talk about good government policy, Mr. Speaker, you can

MR. WARREN:

also talk about bad government policy.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not want to get a little bit nasty with the Minister of Health (Mr. House), but -

MR. WHITE:

He is nasty enough now.

MR. WARREN:

Yes. I thank my hon. colleague there from Lewisporte, The Minister of Health, if he would just listen, I am trying to make some concrete sense in speaking on this bill, and I agree that some of the policies of this government are good and this is one of the very few that are good. And, Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the Minister of Labour and Manpower (Mr. Dinn), in conjunction with the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey). I am sure both of those ministers have been very instrumental in bringing this bill into the Legislature. Mr. Speaker, I do fully support this bill. As I said earlier, there is a money problem but let us not procrastinate any longer. Let us not keep on saying, "Look, we got the bill brought in." The bill is only a piece of paper, Mr. Speaker, it is only a piece of paper that does not say anything, does not say anything if there is no action put into it.

Mr. Speaker, it is pointless to bring a bill into the House if there is no action put into it. So I urge the government today, now that this bill is going through second reading, that as soon as it passes the stages that -

MR. WHITE:

It should be proclaimed.

MR. WARREN:

- that it should be proclaimed immediately. Exactly! It should be proclaimed immediately and let us get action, Mr. Speaker, let us get action throughout this Province to provide accessibility to those people who rightfully and duly deserve it.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Butt):

The hon. member for St. Barbe.

MR. BENNETT:

Mr. Speaker, I will try to be as brief as possible. I suspect most people want to get this legislation through and get on with other legislation. I feel myself this is a bill in the right direction as far as it goes.

Sometimes it might be a little difficult to define how far the physically disabled, or the handicapped - how we define and how far it goes. All of these people who have handicaps, or disabilities of any kind, and unfortunately an awful lot of people come into the world with physical disabilities, mental disabilities as well, and they are all human beings. And they all certainly need recognition and assistance. They need assistance more in every aspect of life, more than people who are in good physical and mental condition.

I myself, while this is good to make buildings more readily available to handicapped, I would like to see legislation of this sort brought forward to assist further in making handicapped people, or physically disabled persons more self-sufficient, more independent persons. They do have certain skills, they develop skills that are not normally, not usually, developed by those who apparently have all the faculties that are necessary to carry on the challenge in life.

I would like to see, myself, some incentive given to handicapped persons, incentive by governments, instead of being pushed aside by society and not recognized as human beings, not recognized as

MR. BENNETT: people who have abilities and certainly covered up abilities, abilities that have not ever being exposed and exploited and used, put to the use of the rest of mankind.

I should say quite a lot of handicapped people find difficulty in mobility, A lot of them could, if they had proper training and proper motor vehicle equipment available, be more mobile themselves instead of being so totally dependent on others to take them from A to B, across the town, across the Province.

The hon. Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey) must be delighted to see a bill of this sort come in. And we understand, of course, the funding will be 50 per cent, hopefully 50 per cent, financed in most areas from federal funding. We all realize this Province is having a tight time, this government is having a tight time for financing, A lot of it is self-inflicted, I might add. It is not all economics of the world or the Province or the country brought on by world conditions, a lot of it has been brought about, I might suggest, by gross mismanagement, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to sound too critical or too hard on the government, they have had a challenge to administer the affairs of the Province. Most areas of their effort has not been too successful in the years that I have been around to experience.

So if they can bring this bill in and make it a success, I would certainly like to congratulate them. It could cover quite an area, a piece of legislation of this sort. I would like to suggest to the minister that inspectors, when they are selected or appointed, Mr. Speaker. "The minister may, in a manner authorized by law, appoint such persons as officers and inspectors as may be necessary for the purpose of this Act and the regulations." And I do sincerely hope that



MR. BENNETT: these inspectors get off on the right foot. I have lived in a business world and I have had to live with inspectors, and while this is a more humane approach to things than inspectors coming in on me as a business person and giving me grave difficulties many, many times, I do hope the inspectors that are appointed by the minister - I hope he is very selective in his choice of inspectors, because they can blow the whole works, they can upset the whole apple cart, because you are dealing with a different type of inspection.

Inspectors, when they inspect buildings or whatever, if they come on strong with their demands instead of having compassion for both levels, both parties involved, the handicapped as well as the owners of buildings - we are not only speaking of government buildings here, hopefully we are speaking of many public buildings, all public buildings. So I hope these inspectors get some kind of a preliminary grooming to equip them to have compassion for both parties involved, not to jeopardize the success of this piece of legislation, even if it were jeopardized two years or ten years down the road. There is a way to ask and get co-operation rather than to demand and put shotguns to person's heads who rebel at being forced into doing things that they may not agree with having to do, to accommodate handicapped persons.

When you look at it from a dollars and cents point of view for the persons who have to spend money, they can bring it down to a numbers

MR. BENNETT:

game and the cost factor for making buildings accessible. They can easily say, 'Well, you know, I am not very anxious to invest extra dollars in my building just to accommodate the very minimal number of handicapped people who I have to cater to'. Just a word of caution on that, Mr. Speaker, and I hope you understand what I am saying; when we say disabled persons we can certainly carry that a long way. It must be a terribly devastating effect to parents when they bring handicapped children into the world.

I have quite a number of constituents in my district who have quadraplegic children and these children are - and we have some adults, I might add too, Mr. Speaker, not only children, and they are totally disabled. And I would hope that something can be done, more than is being done at present, to recognize the parents who are handicapped themselves because they have handicapped children, wholly and solely because they have handicapped children. I feel that there is not nearly enough assistance being made available to parents of children who are totally handicapped. While the children might get a certain amount of recognition, there is certainly not recognition enough given to both levels in that area be it the victim - I could call the parent the victim. We think in terms of the child or the quadraplegic being the victim but actually, in many cases, it is the parent who is the victim. In many, many cases the quadraplegic or the handicapped persons are not aware that they are even in the world.

I would like, for the record, to congratulate the management and the hotel operator in my district who, this year, got honorary mention and recognition from your department. Mr. Speaker, that is the Ocean View at Rocky Harbour. They were recognized, and rightfully so, for, I think, being on the top of the list in hiring disabled persons in that area. They must have done an excellent job to have captured that award and I congratulate them. And I think that is

MR. BENNETT: a good move on your part, to recognize such a deserving effort on the part of business generally.

The hon. Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey) is not in his seat at the moment but, Mr. Speaker, welfare and welfare families—and I am somewhat concerned for the stigma attached to welfare generally. Many, many people find themselves victims of having to go on welfare, most cases through no fault of their own, sometimes just through probably carelessness and a desire to just take an easy way out, but in most cases, Mr. Speaker, people are genuine victims. If they happen to be on welfare, they are genuine victims of welfare. And after they have had a taste of the welfare roles, usually they find they would like to get something better. It is more difficult for people on welfare to get themselves out of the rut if they have handicapped children, and this is a perpetual thing, where the stigma applies

MR. BENNETT: to welfare families. In many cases in society generally, handicapped, retarded or disabled are shoved in the background and not brought out in the eyes of the public. I think there might be more of this evident where we have heavy welfare areas. It would be interesting to have the statistics from the Minister of Social Services as to just how many handicapped persons we have who are totally dependant on his department for survival, and how that corresponds family wise, how these figures relate to the family which happens to be on welfare.

The families, Mr. Speaker, which find themselves on social assistance find it more difficult, much more difficult to bring their handicapped children- if they happen to be children they find it much more difficult to bring their children forward and place them in the labour force or to make education available or make mobility available to them. The people on welfare find it much more difficult than persons who have a reasonably good income and people who - many people do not need the help of the departments to survive and put bread on the table. But those who do need assistance from the Department of Social Services to put bread on their tables, I think they should have extra- most certainly extra assistance, when it comes to assistance to people who have handicapped children in their homes and find it very very difficult to handle them.

Among the pet peeves that I have in life, myself, is when I move around various buildings, sometimes I even notice on the front of the Confederation Building- you are rushing out of a building or trying to get into a building and you try, oh, five or six doors before you find one that will open. I find this quite often, especially in groceterias, supermarkets. I have to

MR. BENNETT: stand back and let wheelchair people through one access when there were six others or five others locked. I have noticed in this building, down at the front here, sometimes there is just one door open. Since I have been here in the last two and a half years, I have noticed it, just one door that would open and the others have remained with the lock turned in it.

So, while we have the opening to let people in or out, we have the door capacity, many times it is not much good if half the door capacity is locked.

The hon. Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey) touched on handicapped persons having to go to British Columbia to seek employment because they could not be accommodated in the Province here because of lack of facilities, like door access and all the rest of it. I guess the hon. gentlemen realizes that not only the handicapped have to go to British Columbia to seek employment. Unfortunately, too many of our young people, and our people generally, have to go to British Columbia, or

MR. T. BENNETT: go to Fort MacMurray. So in your efforts, Mr. Speaker, to accomodate the handicapped, to make work available, make mobility available for them, I think we are going to have to see an improvement from all areas of government administration, all the various departments, to make employment available for people so they do not have to go to British Columbia, and our handicapped persons might very well be able to stay in Newfoundland and be gainfully employed. Because it is not only the handicapped persons, who have to go to British Columbia, there are an awful lot of others who are quite capable of working but cannot find employment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER(Butt): The hon. Minister of Labour and Manpower.

MR. W. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Bellevue.

MR. W. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, I thank you. I hear on the other side 'filibuster'.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. CALLAN: There are not very many on the other side to say very much of anything. Of course, neither are there on this side, but there are supposed to be more on that side.

Mr. Sperker, Bill No. 118, "An Act To Amend And Revise The Law Providing For Accessibility To Buildings For Physically Disable Persons": Let me, along with my colleagues, congratulate the government on the introduction of this Bill today, in the eleventh month of the International Year of the Disabled. And I, like my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, I trust - and as the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey) told us earlier, it is going to cost a lot of money to implement many of the programmes that will be needed to make this Bill do what it is intended

MR. W. CALLAN: to do- I trust, Mr. Speaker, that this Bill will make life a lot easier, a lot more pleasant and open up new opportunities for the physically disabled.

I remember, probably a month ago, the Minister of Public Works & Services (Mr. Young) was on the airwaves talking about the fact that government had hired, I think it was four, disabled persons at that time. That was at that time, I do not know what the total figure is that government has hired during this year, or how many disabled persons are on the government payroll generally. I know when I was in the former Leader of the Opposition's office downstairs, working in that office, I received many calls from different areas of the Province, St. John's and elsewhere when, of course, it was learned, just over a year ago, that this year, 1981, was designated as the International Year of the Disabled. I received many calls in that office from concerned people, doctors and others, who talked about government playing an active role in placing some of these disabled people on the payroll, giving them jobs.

It is all very well, Mr. Speaker, it is all very well to make it possible, make accessibility to buildings a lot easier for the physically disabled, but once they get into these buildings, such as the one we are in here, I hope that they come and once they get inside that there is employment for them. We all know, of course, that people travel in and out of many buildings for other things besides what we in this House of Assembly do here in this building, and all the other employees in this buildings. But I believe, Mr. Speaker, that government can and should do more

MR. CALLAN: in their efforts to try to rehabilitate and provide employment for the physically disabled.

Mr. Speaker, I did not hear all of the speakers in the debate on this bill, but I want, I feel obligated actually, to pay tribute - the Premier, earlier, this morning, said he was going to throw a bouquet at the Minister of Mines (Mr. Windsor). Well, I am not going to throw a bouquet at, what I want to do, Mr. Speaker, is hand a bouquet to the Lions Clubs in this Province, of which I am a member and have been for twelve or thirteen years. As a matter of fact, over the weekend, as part of my obligations or duties as a member of the Lions Club in my home town, I have to go knocking on doors collecting for the CNIB, which is one of the things that Lions Club members do, raise funds in various ways, knocking on doors, collecting for various organizations.

Mr. Speaker, the Lions Clubs and the Minister of Labour (Mr. Dinn) nodded his head in approval, because he anticipates, I believe, that I want to hand a bouquet to the Lions Clubs throughout this Province. And I, in my small way in my club in Norman's Cove, also help financially out-of-pocket plus raising funds in other ways to bring about the success that we have in Central Newfoundland with the Max Simms Memorial Camp for the Handicapped. I knew Max Simms quite well in my earlier years as a Lions member, and to have the camp named after that fine gentleman is exactly what that gentleman deserves.

But I am sure that the minister, and other ministers as well, I believe, realize what a tremendous effort service-minded



MR. CALLAN: people in the Lions Clubs and other service organizations - how hard they worked to make that handicap camp a reality.

I fully realize, of course, that government had some input into it, and I believe, the federal government as well, in the form of grants through Canada Works or Community Development or whatever.

So, Mr. Speaker, I could not let this morning pass without mentioning that fact, that everybody, I suppose, throughout the Province, service organizations in particular, do a lot of things for which, perhaps, credit is sometimes not given in a tangible way. So I wanted to do that this morning.

Mr. Speaker, in closing my few remarks let me repeat what I said at the beginning, that I support this bill and I hope and trust that the bill accomplishes what it sets out to accomplish. And as the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey), as I mentioned earlier, as the Minister of Social Services mentioned, you know, it is going to take a lot of money, and let us hope that the money that should be spent in implementing and bringing about the desired effects of this bill is not borrowed and put into some other avenue, an avenue that perhaps would be more advantageous to government and less noticeable. I hope that the bill accomplishes what it sets out to do and I support the bill, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

If the hon. the minister speaks now he closes the debate.

MR. DINN:

I will attempt in the five or so minutes left to answer the concerns of hon. members who spoke in the debate, and I thank them for doing so.

It is indicative of the quality of this piece of legislation that there were not very many criticisms in the House this morning of the legislation itself. It is particularly gratifying to me, because when one brings forward

MR. DINN:

legislation, there is always a possibility, the possibility is always there that you can forget or leave out something in the legislation that is not meant - that the policy of the government is carried out by legislation in this particular bill.

Some of the items that were brought up, however, I think I should address and hopefully will discuss all of them in the next few minutes.

With respect to the hon. member for, I believe, Terra Nova (Mr. Lush) who brought up the question as to why this legislation is now the responsibility of the Department of Labour and Manpower, well, as hon. members will know, over the past several years the inspection staffs of various departments in government were put into, or consolidated in the Occupational Health and Safety Division of the Department of Labour and Manpower. We have inspection staffs right now, for example, that deal with electrical inspections, mines inspections, boiler and pressure vessel inspections, elevator inspections, amusement rides inspections, and so on throughout the Province, so that the Department of Labour and Manpower now has a great deal of expertise in the inspection area and, of course, we will need more and will get more as time and dollars permit.

In the legislation, also, there was some concern expressed by the hon. member for St. Barbe with respect to the fact that he did not want a kind of a Gestapo tactic, or a bludgeoning of private enterprises with respect to doing things that may not need to be done, for example, with respect to supplying facilities for our disabled people in the Province. And with that in mind, if the hon. member would note in the bill the fact that we do have the capability in the department, we do have inspectors in the

MR. DINN: department, and we do have provided for in the legislation an appeal process whereby if an inspector does get out of hand the particular individual can appeal to the director, as designated by the minister, and if that is not satisfactory, then, again, to an appeal board, an independent appeal board which will be the final arbiter of disputes as to whether an inspector is being overly enthusiastic.

Now, Mr. Speaker, these are some of the things that were mentioned. With respect to the skywalks at the university, for the information of hon. members opposite, the skywalks at the university were put in on the basis of basically a 75 per cent financial contribution from the provincial government; 12.5 per cent was to be provided by the City of St. John's, and 12.5 per cent by the university itself for the skywalks. And there was concern expressed that the handicapped would not be able to use the skywalks, but in lieu of that what has basically happened at the university, and the disabled people at the university concur with what has basically happened, and that is that there was a provision made for escorting disabled people throughout the campus and into all departments by, more or less a jitney service, a bus service for disabled people.

MR. SPEAKER (Butt): Order, please! I must inform the hon. member it is now one o'clock.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Stop the clock.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it agreed that we stop the clock?

AN HON. MEMBER: No.

MR. MARSHALL: No. There is no agreement.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no agreement. Do I hear agreement? No.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I move 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, at 3:00 P.M.