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PRELIMINARY
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TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
FOR THE PERIOD:
3:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1983.

The House met at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I have a very brief statement to make. I would like to advise the House that there will be no increase in hydro rates for 1984.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear hear!

MR. MARSHALL: There will be no application by Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro Corporation in 1984 which would result in an increase in electrical rates payable by the people of this Province. There will, of course, be a fuel escalation charge, the same as charged every Winter, because of the switch into thermal generation and the kicking in of the power from Holyrood, but this has happened from time to time before.

So I rise, Mr. Speaker, to make this brief statement and make it crystal clear, and I repeat once again, there will be no hydroelectric increases in 1984.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is just parroting what one of his bosses already announced on radio at lunch time today, that there would be no increases. The people would be anxious to hear the news if it was decreases. Will there be any decreases? Will the company that is recording record profits be directed to roll back their rates, Mr. Speaker?

And why must there be a fuel escalation charge when the cost of fuel is decreasing, is going down Mr. Speaker? Perhaps the hon. gentleman could explain that to us.

MR. MARSHALL: If that is a question the hon. gentleman wishes me to respond to, I can respond to the question he asked by saying that we have the hope and anticipation of being able to reduce electrical rates in the future as soon as our resource policies are able to take effect, and we are able to put them into effect and their impact is realized throughout the Province.

So if we want

MR. MARSHALL: reduced electrical rates,
I say to the hon. gentleman, what he might consider doing is supporting us in the offshore, supporting us in our position with respect to the Upper Churchill and the many other positive moves that this government has brought forth.

MR. NEARY: How silly can you get!

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Government House Leader (Mr. Marshall) could tell us if the Emperor is going to be in his seat this afternoon or did he go to Gander this morning after the meeting last night? He did not have the courage to go last night. Will he be in his seat today or is he gone off to try to straighten out the mess in Gander?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I assume the hon. gentleman is referring to the hon. Premier because he has a habit of referring to people in pejorative terms from time to time. But I can set the hon. gentleman's heart at rest so it will not skip a few extra beats, I can say the hon. Premier will be along shortly and he is not over in Terra Nova, which is really what I think the hon. gentleman was apprehensive of when he asked the question.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. Premier is Newfoundland's answer to Gallup, I thought he might have gone 'galluping' off somewhere again today to see if the polls showed if he is in good shape today, if he is popular.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear.

MR. NEARY:

The fighting Newfoundlander who did not have the courage to go to Gander last night, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMMS:

What a bunch of loons!

MR. NEARY:

No doubt about it, this is the looney show.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier has to do with a controversy that is apparently brewing in connection with what ports are suitable and what ports are not suitable to service the offshore oil rigs. Will the Premier tell the House if the provincial government and the federal government, either individually or separately or jointly, did commission a study of the ports in Newfoundland to determine which ones were suitable for service offshore rigs?

MR. SPEAKER (Russell):

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

As I understand it, and I stand to be corrected, there has been a study ongoing by the federal government, I think through the National Harbours Board, looking at various sites or ports around Newfoundland. I do not think we participated in that study, I think they did that by themselves. We have, through the Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor), been active for some time now, several years,

PREMIER PECKFORD: in trying to identify appropriate sites for spinoff activity as it relates to onshore development relative to offshore. So we have been looking at sites and have identified a number of sites around the Province, not just specifically as it relates to ports and wharfage, but in addition to that to land areas around ports and coastal sites as it relates to spinoff activity. But I think what the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) is referring to is a study that was done by the federal government through the National Harbours Board.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker,
I am referring to remarks the Mayor of the City of St. John's made yesterday and today.

MR. YOUNG: The future leader.

MR. NEARY: Well, there are so many leaders, Mr. Speaker, we have so many candidates. That is more than they can say on that side of the House. Even though the knives are out they are not sure where they are going to get a replacement.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: They are not sure if Mr. Barry is the right one to take over or not.

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

MR. NEARY: But the comments of the Mayor when he stated publicly that this was a joint study done by the Province and by Ottawa to determine which ports were suitable and, according to his comments, the one port that

MR. NEARY: could handle all the servicing of offshore rigs is the Port of St. John's and surrounding area, that is the study I am referring to.

Now I notice the hon. gentleman was looking at the Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor) to make sure, He said, "I do not think we were involved." Is the hon. gentleman sure that the Province was not involved?

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

PREMIER PECKFORD: First of all, Mr. Speaker, you know, we are not an administration that is going to respond to comments from the Mayor of St. John's. It has not been uncharacteristic of the Mayor of St. John's to get things wrong from time to time and, you know, I do not know if he has something wrong now or not; all I know is that there was a study done by the federal government -

MR. NEARY: No participation is part of the problem.

PREMIER PECKFORD: - and I think that is the one that the Mayor is referring to. All right? For the Leader of the Opposition's (Mr. Neary) benefit, that is the one, as we understand it, that the Mayor of St. John's was referring to. And with all due respect to the Mayor of St. John's or anybody else, as we have said since 1979 and even before that time, when developments do occur, if they do occur as it relates to the offshore, we are going to have a major say in it. Now everybody far and wide, from Bonavista to Vancouver Island, had better get that straight, that this government and this administration and this Province are going to have a significant say in any developments that happen on land in this Province as it relates to offshore developments. Let them get that straight.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: It makes no difference who does studies or who does not do studies, I mean, that is one thing for sure, we are not going to stand for it otherwise. That is not to say that there is not a lot of valuable information that can be gathered by various federal agencies or the federal government or the municipal governments or all the rest of them, there is no question. But I think what the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) is referring to is a study that was commissioned and carried out by the federal government and I think that is the one that the mayor was responding to.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Would the hon. the Premier undertake to table the study that was done by the Province and would he also indicate who did -

PREMIER PECKFORD: We have done that.

MR. NEARY: I am not sure if it has been tabled or what. I do not think it has.

PREMIER PECKFORD: We held press conferences and all the information on the development sites has been tabled.

MR. NEARY: I do not believe it was. The hon. gentleman might have released it at a press conference but I do not believe it was ever tabled in the House. Now I am subject to correction on that. But I would like to ask the hon. gentleman if he would send me along a copy if it is public information, send me along a copy and, Mr. Speaker, we will take a look at it and see what it

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PREMIER PECKFORD: questions. On the question of Argentina, is the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) aware that I have over the last year or so, as well as

PREMIER PECKFORD: the Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor) and others, and as minister responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs, had negotiations with the Canadian Ambassador to the United States and the United States Ambassador to Canada, here in St. John's and in Ottawa, and we have had people down to Washington to try to get the Canadian Government and the American Government to agree to release some of the land that now comes under the American lease out at Argentia so that we can have it as not a supply base necessarily, but a supply base - fabrication centre and whatever to service part of the offshore developments. We are still waiting for the two national governments to affect that change to allow that land to become available. I met with Mr. Robson, the American Ambassador to Canada, here in Confederation Building several weeks ago and once again impressed upon him that the number one priority, from Newfoundland's point of view, in Canadian-American relationships in the immediate term was the release of that land. Mr. Robson assures me that he is moving on it down in Washington; there are two departments involved, External Affairs, or whatever it is called in the United States Government.

MR. PATTERSON: Secretary of State.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Secretary of State department, and the Department of Defence. The member for Placentia (Mr. Patterson) has been on to it constantly. He has had meetings with the head of the American Forces base in Argentia on three or four occasions and has made representations to me that the manager out there, or the head of the base out there is in complete support of us.

Now, once we get that land released so that you do have land available for development - and there are a number of private companies who have already applied under our process that was made

PREMIER PECKFORD: public a year or two years ago to locate there to service part of the offshore - once that is done, then the economics of what will make that place fly will be determined. And if, in fact, there are additional incentives needed based upon the kind of development that has been applied for, then at that time we will be only too ready to provide additional incentives. But until we know, until we get the land released, until we know the level of interest - because perhaps there will be no incentives needed; I mean, we are not a government like the government that the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) was a part of, that before you even know whether you need to put incentives in place or not, just give it away

PREMIER PECKFORD:

in place or not, just give it away, let the incentives and the concessions go—we will cautiously move. And the first thing to do is to get the land. After we get the land, we will see the level of interest and what is available, what kind of development, Is the development a large development which will need some extra push from government? If, in fact, it does, and the development shows a cost benefit analysis positive to the Province, then we will provide that incentive. And that is the way this government operates both as it relates to Argentina and to the Province as a whole.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell):

Opposition.

The hon. the Leader of the

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, before the hon. gentleman decided to answer my question he gave us a little lecture. The next thing is he will be taking us up to the Eleventh Floor, to the Conference Room and like a school teacher - he cannot forget his former profession - he will give us the lecture up there. He has to follow the programme. He is programmed like a school teacher, Mr. Speaker.

Now as far as the report is concerned, Mr. Speaker, I do not recall ever seeing it. I do not want the orchestrated version of that report, I want the report itself.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

It has all been made possible.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, I do not want the parts that they picked out and orchestrated, I want the full and complete report. I do not recall ever seeing it, I do not believe it was ever tabled in this House.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Hogan, yesterday when he was speaking for the Argentina area, and he

MR. MARSHALL:

order.

Mr. Speaker, on a point of

MR. SPEAKER (Russell):

Council on a point of order.

Order, please!

The hon. President of the

MR. MARSHALL:

The hon. gentleman is in the Question Period on a supplementary question. He is obviously making a speech conveying to us what Mr. Hogan said yesterday, or allegedly said yesterday, and he is reading the very words that Mr. Hogan stated. So, you know, this is Question Period. It is not for him to come in and deliver a speech prepared by somebody else.

The hon. gentleman is in the

MR. SPEAKER:

once again I must remind the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) that in asking a supplementary question it is very clear in Beauchesne and in the Standing Orders that there should not be a need of any preamble whatsoever. So I would ask him to be a bit more precise with his question, please?

To that point of order,

MR. NEARY:

clear, Mr. Speaker, is the arrogance of this crowd. They do not want to hear any criticism at all. They cannot stand it. They are jumpy and jittery over there.

One thing that must also be

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:

and requested the hon. Leader of the Opposition to direct a question, and he gets up and proceeds to make some comments that certainly do not appear to be a question. Again I would ask him to be more direct and more precise with a question.

Order, please!

The Chair has just ruled

MR. NEARY:

Well, Mr. Speaker, what I am asking the Premier is if they will recognize the Argentinia Corporation, give them access to whatever property is available down there so they can establish a presence and attract new customers to the area, attract new business and industry to the area.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell):

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Mr. Speaker, we will do all we can, and have been doing all we can to attract business to the area, especially as it relates to offshore. But it is very much contingent upon some of the land that the Americans have a lease on. The Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor) informs me that they are doing everything possible to accommodate the requests that are coming in from the area and from the corporation in consultation with the member for the area, the member for Placentia (Mr. Patterson).

So, you know, we are moving ahead as fast as we can and as logically and rationally as we can to help the matter. I mean, we have been on this now for two or three years, and are trying to do what we can to push the Canadian authorities and

PREMIER PECKFORD: the American authorities into an agreement and as late as November 25, which is not too long ago, there had been some discussions and communication back and forth, and meetings are going on over these days now on this whole question of the American sublease.

But as it relates to what we do have ourselves on the North side, the Argentinia Development Corporation and the Department of Development are working very closely to try to put things in place to try to move it along even faster. But the proposals that have come in to date, which are significant and substantial, involve the land which is under the American sublease and for which we are trying to get some release to make it possible to do the kind of development that needs to be done there. But we are doing all we can and will continue to do so, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. the Minister of the Environment and it concerns the Strange Lake mining development area in Northern Labrador.

Could the minister advise the House if there has been any environmental impact evaluation study ongoing as it pertains to the Strange Lake mining area?

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

MR. ANDREWS: Mr. Speaker, no, not at this point in time. We have asked the company concerned to register the project under the Environmental Assessment Act; there is very little activity at this point in time that would, as I understand it, indicate any further action at this point in time.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the member for
Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary
to the minister. Could the minister advise the House what
company is involved?

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

MR. ANDREWS: The mining company
involved on the Newfoundland side, I certainly do not know
what is happening on the Quebec side, is the Iron Ore
Company of Canada.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the member for
Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary
to the minister, and I would like to quote from a paragraph
from the Wild Biologist employed by this Provincial
Government.

MR. SIMMS: Are you going to table
that?

MR. WARREN: I surely can table this,
no problem at all.

He stated that, 'The
Strange Lake area is the main migrating area for almost all
the George River caribou herd and any development in this
area would have a deterrant effect on the caribou
population.' Again I would like to ask the minister if,
although he has said he has done nothing yet, he would
undertake to have an environmental review done in the
Strange Lake area before any further development takes place?

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. Minister of the Environment.

MR. ANDREWS: Mr. Speaker, I would like for that information to be tabled because I am not personally familiar with it. There are a lot of biologists who have probably worked with the provincial government or maybe that is federal government. But at this point in time, as I indicated, the amount of work being done now is exploration. There is mining exploration being done all over the Province and all over North America, and to ask every one of these exploration activities to come under the full Environmental Assessment Act, that there be an environmental impact statement done, I think would be a little bit outrageous, because they vary from a fellow going around with a little pick chipping at rocks to what you could call a major exploration project such as is in Strange Lake. But even if it is major, at this point in time the amount of activity is very limited to a very small area. The airstrip that is established there is in the Province of Quebec, of course, which we have no control over, although I am sure the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth (Mr. Simms) might speak to some of the discussions that are ongoing with the Province of Quebec regarding the George River caribou herd.

My big concern, regarding Strange Lake from the environmental point of view, would be what activities they would require if and when they do discover that there is a viable economic reserve of ore there. And that would be in the order of how they would extract the ore, how they would transport it from the area, whether by highway or railway and so on, and in that case, most certainly, more environmental studies would be needed. Whether a full environmental impact statement would be required would still remain to be seen.

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell):

Mountains.

The hon. member for Torngat

MR. WARREN:

to the hon. Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth (Mr. Simms), as he is responsible for the Wildlife Division.

Could the minister advise if there is any monitoring of the caribou herd?

Mr. Speaker, a supplementary

MR. ANDREWS:

A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

A point of order, the hon.

Minister of the Environment.

MR. ANDREWS:

I would ask the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) to table that document.

MR. NEARY:

When he is finished with it he will table it.

To that point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

To that point of order, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, hon. members will recall that there is a recent precedent in this House for tabling documents, and we saw that with the provincial Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan), that the member can table the document in due course. He can

MR. NEARY: take several days or several weeks, apparently he can table it at his own leisure. My hon. colleague indicated he would table the document and, according to that precedent, the ruling of Your Honour a couple of weeks ago, the document will be tabled when my hon. friend sees fit to table it.

MR. HICKEY: To that point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. the Minister of Social Services, to that point of order.

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, just last session I attempted to quote two lines from The Evening Telegram, a clipping I had, and the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) got up and held up the whole process, demanded that I table it and, of course, as a consequence, I could not continue with my quote. The rules apply to both sides of the House. The hon. gentleman should table the document right now or stop quoting from it.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please!
The Chair has heard enough debate on this point of order. The hon. the Minister of Environment (Mr. Andrews) previously did ask the hon. the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) if he would table that document and I think that I did hear the hon. member say that he was prepared to, and would, table it. If he needs it for some more notes to ask further questions, he would probably be prepared to table it after he is through with it.

The hon. the member for
Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
I will table it in due course.

MR. WARREN: My supplementary question is to the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth, who is responsible for wildlife. Could the minister advise this House if there has been any monitoring of migratory disturbances to the caribou caused by exploration activities? Has his department done any monitoring on the effect of exploration activity on migration of the caribou herd in the Strange Lake area?

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth.

MR. SIMMS: Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for the question. I might take the opportunity to inform the House that we have had ongoing discussions with the Government of Quebec. Personally, I have met with the minister responsible for wildlife there on three occasions to try to put together some sort of a joint management plan with respect to the George River caribou herd. One of those activities will be to monitor the herd, to do an appropriate census of the herd and to do the other kinds of scientific analyses that are required, because, unfortunately, up to now that herd has not really had the kind .

MR. SIMMS:

of management that it requires and deserves. I am pleased to say also that we have had a tremendous amount of progress in those discussions that I referred to, and in fact I am anticipating having a further meeting with the minister from Quebec, Mr. Chevrette, sometime within the next couple of weeks to discuss to discuss these sorts of things. But there are some activities going on with respect to our own biologists in that particular area at the present time.

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell):

The hon. the member for Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, I understand during the past Summer the minister's department has been quite active and aircraft are going in and out of the Strange Lake area. In fact, I think they have built some kind of a cabin or cabins in the area, which in itself is going to have an affect, according to his biologist, on the caribou herd. May I suggest to the minister and this government, would he consider not waiting for Quebec? If Strange Lake is in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, which it is, why do we have to wait for Quebec in order to act? Why does the minister not take it upon himself and set up a monitoring system on the migration of the caribou herd and see what effect any proposed mine in the Strange Lake area would have on the population of the caribou?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, I am not sure what the hon. member saying. First he said he wanted to suggest something to us, but he never did suggest anything, he asked then if we would do something.

There is monitoring ongoing now

MR. SIMMS: by biologists working for this government, and there is monitoring going on by biologists on the other side of the border, in the Province of Quebec.

MR. WARREN: Your own biologists say no.

MR. SIMMS: Well, I am not familiar with the document the member is quoting from so he obviously should table it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

MR. SIMMS: In any event, Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons why a joint management activity is necessary is because, as the hon. member knows, that herd spends half its time in Quebec and the other half in Labrador. So obviously there needs to be -

MR. YOUNG: The herd is bilingual.

MR. SIMMS: Yes.

Actually they are Newfoundland caribou, because they are born in Newfoundland, and they go over to Quebec in the Fall and just take a few weeks over there to get away on a holiday.

In any event, that is why it is important I think to have a joint management programme. It has been under discussion for about six years and I think finally we are making some progress in that area.

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

MR. WARREN: A final supplementary,
Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Environment (Mr. Andrews).
Since the minister responsible for wildlife said
there is some ongoing monitoring, would the minister
advise the House if it is his intention of having an
environmental impact study done before any further
development takes place in the Strange Lake area?

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. Minister of
the Environment.

MR. ANDREWS: Mr. Speaker, at this point
in time no, because the amount of activity that is taking
place there is very minimal at this point in time. But as
I indicated to the hon. member before, Mr. Speaker, if
the activity increases, and if we have indication from the
monitoring that is already ongoing now from the provincial
wildlife officials and any other sources
with sound information, I will review the process again.
But at this point in time, now, I do not see the necessity of
it. It is just another mining exploration activity, which
incidentally falls under the Department of Mines and Energy
for regulations. But from an environmental point of view,
of course, we are concerned.

The main environmental
concern, as indicated by the member, is the caribou population,
but I also indicated that this is a very small dot in the
whole wilderness of Northern Quebec and Labrador.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, this is another
example, of course, of urban thinking; they cannot realistically

MR. NEARY: visualize the rural areas and what is happening. Let me ask the Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. Dawe) if -

MR. WARREN: He is not here.

MR. NEARY: No, he is not here. Who is the Minister of Mines and Energy now?

MR. WARREN: Ron Dawe.

MR. ANDREWS: He is in Labrador.

MR. NEARY: Well, let me ask the Premier in the absence of the Minister of Mines and Energy, what is happening regarding Strange Lake? Has the boundary yet been defined? Because we saw in a statement made by the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) some time ago that there was money allocated to survey the boundary.

MR. NEARY: Is there any dispute over Strange Lake? Is this the reason the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth (Mr. Simms) has to go and talk to Quebec? Is there any dispute over where that mine, if it is developed, will be located, in Newfoundland and Labrador or in Quebec? And is the hon. gentleman aware that they have a temporary landing strip there and that there is activity going on on the Quebec side that could interfere with the movement of the caribou that my hon. colleague is concerned about?

MR. WARREN: They are even landing in Labrador.

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

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, we are completely and absolutely up-to-date as it relates to the Strange Lake activity. A number of departments, including the ministers of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. Power), Culture, Recreation and Youth (Mr. Simms), Environment (Mr. Andrews), and so on, has been constantly monitoring the situation as it relates to the Strange Lake exploration activity. And they have spent a fair amount of time and money in the Labrador area during this past season and right up until a few weeks ago. So we are completely up-to-date. We had last week, I think it was last week, a complete update report in writing from the company on what is taking place in the way of exploration from the company's point of view. And as the Minister of the Environment has so clearly pointed out to the hon. the member for Torngat Mountains, first of all they are assessing to see whether there is a significant amount of ore there to make an application for a development lease. Up to now they have not done it and that is why the environmental assessment process has not kicked in, because there is only exploration activity. And the hon. member

PREMIER PECKFORD: for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren), with all due respect to him and his concern, I mean, is inflating and exaggerating the situation there. It is exploration and every year in Labrador, all over Labrador and the Island, there are exploration companies doing exploration work. And the potential does exist, but it is as you get into development that obviously additional environmental and wildlife assessments are going to have to be done independent of the company. There is no question about it but at the present moment that is not the case.

MR. WARREN: Traffic going in and out now.

PREMIER PECKFORD: There are people going in and out of Labrador for mining exploration every year since I can remember, since I got involved in politics.

MR. NEARY: But this is on the Quebec side they are going in.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Lots of them. It was happening at Kitts-Michelin years ago. It has been happening all over Labrador, both federal government people, provincial government people and private company people who have got exploration licences. So you have to determine, first of all, whether in fact there is sufficient ore deposits there to warrant a development and, if they so decide

PREMIER PECKFORD: and then make application, then obviously the full weight of environmental law, and the full weight of environmental assessment must be brought to bear on them as it was, Mr. Speaker, in the Kitts-Michelin development, which we turned down, which this government turned down. Talking about urban thinking, it was this government who said to BRINCO you cannot go ahead with the Kitts-Michelin uranium development because you have not been able to prove to us that you are able to take care of the waste coming out of that uranium development.

Contrary to that, Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to note that the socialist government of Saskatchewan has gone ahead in Northern Saskatchewan with massive development of uranium mines, massive, very, very massive uranium mining developments.

MR. WARREN: That is all cancelled.

PREMIER PECKFORD: It is not all cancelled. There are mines in operation. The hon. the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) does not know what he is talking about. There are two or three of the largest uranium mines in the world now operating in Northern Saskatchewan. It is only in Australia now where they have discovered larger quantities of uranium, potential quantities of uranium.

So we are on top of the situation as it relates to Strange Lake. There is a boundary question there. The discovery of the ores that have been discovered to date are near enough to the two Provinces to cause some problem and so it has yet to be determined because no boundary has every been placed on the ground, it has been done on high land and the way water flows and all the rest of it. So we have spent considerable time, and effort, and money in the various departments

PREMIER PECKFORD: monitoring the situation and, of course, someday, if there is an economic development to occur there, determination of where the boundary actually stands will have to be made on the land. So that is where the situation stands.

MR. NEARY: In the meantime, the exploration is going ahead on the Quebec side.

PREMIER PECKFORD: There is exploration going ahead in an area which nobody is sure for certain is all in Newfoundland or partly in Quebec. So they are saying part of it is in Quebec and there has been exploration going on there for years. So there is exploration going on in what is unquestionably Newfoundland soil, and there is exploration going on on what is questionably somebody's soil.

PREMIER PECKFORD: So, I mean, that is the story. They have a legitimate exploration lease and that is what is happening. We are informed, from what we can gather from our mines people who have been monitoring the situation, that there are significant amounts of valuable ore in Newfoundland. You know, more exploration is going to have to be done, more assessment during the Winter on what they have done so far to determine just whether the deposits are economic or not. And there is a boundary question that will have to be solved as it relates to it, because it will be an area, it looks like, that may be under dispute.

MR. NEARY: Will they have to get a permit then from both provinces?

PREMIER PECKFORD: Oh, obviously. In an area where they are not sure whether it is in Newfoundland and Labrador or Quebec, they would have to get a permit from the other government, too. I would imagine they would. But there is a question of the boundary and our people have been working very hard on it to determine where, in our view, the boundary does lie. But there is a large area of land where exploration has occurred and discoveries have occurred that demonstrate that there is significant quantities of this ore in legitimate Newfoundland territory, you know, so that is where it stands right now. But we are completely on top of it and we have had our people up on the land, walking on the land, inspecting the land, seeing what is going on and all the rest of it.

MR. NEARY: Another row!

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

PREMIER PECKFORD: I mean, the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. Power) and the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development (Mr. Goudie) can answer the questions.

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MR. WARREN: They have not been up there.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

PREMIER PECKFORD: Where you up there?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

PREMIER PECKFORD: We have two cabins that we built up there this Summer.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: All the activity is in Quebec so far.

PREMIER PECKFORD: No!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please!
Time for the Question Period has expired.

I would like to welcome to the galleries a delegation from the community of Jean de Baie, the Mayor, Mr. Bill Coady, and Councillors Peter Coady and Martin Hammond.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

NOTICES OF MOTION

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

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The Social Assistance Act".

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Health.

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The Newfoundland Medical Care Insurance Act".

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

MR. SIMMS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The Wilderness And Ecological Reserves Act, (No. 2)".

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

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

MS. VERGE: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give answers to questions posed yesterday by the hon. member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) about the provincial student aid programme, specifically the number of post-secondary education students who have received provincial government grants so far this academic year, the amounts of grants and the same information for last year.

I am pleased to report, Mr. Speaker, that so far in this academic year, that is from September 1, 1983, until today, December 1, 1983, which is just three months, one-quarter of a calendar year, 3,860 students have received grants. The total amount of grants is \$5,545,957. Mr. Speaker, for last year, September 1, 1982 to August 31, 1983, twelve months, 7,071 students received grants. The total amount received was \$12,666,664.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MS. VERGE: And, Mr. Speaker, the year before that the 1981/82 academic year, 4,254 students received grants. The total amount received was \$6,729,137.

Mr. Speaker,

MS.VERGE: it is significant to note that so far in this academic year, even without any high school graduates coming directly into post-secondary institutions because of the start of Grade XII, an unprecedented number of Newfoundland and Labrador students have received a record high amount of grants. In fact, the numbers are almost as great for one quarter of this year as they were for twelve months two years ago, Mr. Speaker, I want to underline the fact that all of this money comes from the provincial government, all of the outright grants, which do not have to be repaid, contained in the Student Aid plan come from the provincial government. The federal government provides only loans to the Canada Student Loan programme.

SOME HON.MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR.SPEAKER (Russell): Is the hon. member rising on a point of order?

MR.HISCOCK: Yes.

MR.SPEAKER: Continue.

MR.HISCOCK: The point of order is that the question was asked by the member for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock) and not from Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren). The other question with regard to that, the question I asked the Minister of Education (Ms. Verge) was if she could give the breakdown of September to December 1982 and September to December 1983 and we will see there is a decline there. The minister ended up giving September 1982 to the end of 1983, the full year.

MR.SPEAKER: Order, please! That is not a valid point of order as raised by the hon. member for Eagle River.

MR.SPEAKER (Russell): Are there any other answers to questions for which notice has been given?

The hon. Minister of Culture,
Recreation and Youth.

MR.SIMMS: Mr. Speaker, I wish to give a couple of verbal answers to questions asked by the hon. member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren), I believe it was, relating to the 400th Anniversary Celebrations recently, Question No. 155. My department did not provide funding to events like the Bakeapple Festival - perhaps it might be directed to my colleague the Minister of Development (Mr.Windsor)- and therefore no application was received from the Bakeapple Festival by the 400th Anniversary Committee, by the way.

My department does not provide funding to such festivals. Question No. 154; the cost of the state banquet for the Prince and Princess of Wales was \$33,301.46. The people who attended the state banquet were drawn from the provincial protocol list that exists in the Province, as exists in other provinces, and is used for all such functions and covers all levels, federal, provincial and municipal. I might add in passing there were such notable Newfoundlanders as former Premier J.R. Smallwood, the federal minister then, Mr. Rompkey, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr.Neary) and many of the members opposite, the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) himself, E. John A. Harnum was there, a number of senators were there from the Liberal party, so it obvious was not a PC cocktail party as often we are accused of holding.

SOME HON.MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR.SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. SIMMS: And, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the other question the hon. member asked, I will table it because it was a lengthy question and I do not want to take the time of the House when I can simply table it - it is Question No. 153 - also with respect to the Anniversary Celebrations.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. member for Eagle River.

MR. HISCOCK: Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition on behalf of the community of Norman Bay, Labrador, in Eastern Labrador. Since I have been elected in 1979, I am after presenting at least three or four petitions on this as well as numerous letters to the Minister of Energy (Mr. Dawe) and also to Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro. The prayer of the petition, Mr. Speaker, states: 'We, the undersigned residents of Norman Bay in the electoral district of Eagle River, Labrador, petition the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador: We request that the government take necessary action to have Newfoundland Hydro provide electrical service for our community. We are only one of two communities in South-eastern Labrador which does not have a community generator. At present we have fourteen potential hook-ups, including houses, school and sheds. Small generators for individual householders had to be used by some homes in the past, but they are in need of constant maintenance and unsatisfactory for providing electricity on a regular basis. Life in Norman Bay is very difficult by the absence of electricity. For example, construction is very slow without power tools, laundry for a normal size family for a week requires a full day of using the scrub-board each week, and paperwork is difficult by kerosene lamp light.'

MR. HISCOCK: I might add that school children have sometimes to study by this when they go home at night.

'The major concern, however, is the lack of refrigeration for food. All our food must be shipped in bulk, as the nearest retail outlet, Charlottetown, is fifty kilometers away and is often inaccessible to us, particularly this time of year and in the Spring. Fresh food shipped in in the Fall must be consumed soon after it arrives or it is lost through spoilage. There is danger to health from the consumption of goods not properly refrigerated, which is a serious concern. During the period when we cannot reach Charlottetown by boat or Ski-doo, our diet is limited to salt foods or those not needing refrigeration. Furthermore, we are unable to bring frozen food here except for a few months during mid-Winter from Charlottetown. As well, we are not able to freeze food to store for later use. Fish cannot be frozen for Winter, thus we solely rely on salting methods for preserving our Winter fish.

'It has come to our attention that Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro has been expanding and upgrading its facility in the Province and yet, we are without a community generator. Perhaps one of the phase generators from the Island should be relocated to Norman Bay. At present, when electrical services are very basic to daily life, we feel that we are entitled to this service. Thus, we petition our government to take the necessary steps to provide this service." And I wrote the Minister of Energy (Mr. Marshall), as well as the Chairman of Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, that last year there were numerous communities on the Northern Peninsula that were taken off diesel and put into the

MR. HISCOCK: electrical power grid.

I wrote and asked if it would be possible to have some of these generators relocated to the district of Eagle River in the communities of Norman Bay and Pinsent Arm.

Members of this government, including the President of the Council (Mr. Marshall), who is also the Minister of Energy, get up time after time in this House to say what a bad deal the Liberals did on the Upper Churchill and saying we were sold out and talking about all the things that could be done in our Province if we had the profits from the Upper Churchill. Well, I say, Mr. Speaker, if it were not for the people in Eastern Labrador, particularly Norman Bay and Pinsent Arm, then we would never be able to lay a claim to Labrador by right of settlement.

It was brought up in Question Period today about Strange Lake. If it were not for these people, we would not even have a boundary question because there would be no Labrador as far as our Province is concerned. As I have said, Mr. Speaker, time and time again, this administration is neglectful of their responsibility to the residents of Coastal Labrador. A lot has been done, but these are basic things they need. They need school facilities and they need T.V. and other basics. And what we have are conditions that hark back to the eighteenth century. And I, for one, Mr. Speaker, have been very consistent in trying to present this to the House, to the corporation and yet it falls on deaf ears. I cannot understand why this government cannot take some of the generators no longer in use now on the Northern Peninsula - it is not as if they have to go out and buy more - take these

MR. HISCOCK: used generators from the Northern Peninsula. And there were about twelve communities connected, so therefore, there would be about twelve generators no longer in use. And I would say that the Power Corporation will probably end up selling them at a profit to go into their general revenue.

I would hope that the Premier, who says that he has compassion for the people of Labrador and claims to be the champion of rural Newfoundland will assist here so that I will not have to go back to the people of Norman Bay and Pinsent Arm and say here is another petition that will have to wait until next year or wait for a Liberal Government to give them power.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I was hoping
somebody on the other side would rise, but obviously, but they
are too ashamed to get up -

MR. SIMMS: We still can.

MR. NEARY: They can, but I was hoping
they would get up before I spoke in support of the petition
and express the views of the administration on this very
serious problem that exists in Norman Bay, Mr. Speaker.
Who would think in 1983, in this modern age of technology
when we take so much for granted, when hon. gentlemen there
opposite are building an extension to Confederation Building
and providing us with our third House of Assembly since
Confederation, giving themselves rent free apartments for
the first time in the history of this Province, Mr. Speaker,
who would think that my hon. colleague would have to stand
in his place in this House and describe conditions that you
only read about in the Dark Ages, Mr. Speaker?

MR. TOBIN: Did you hear what Bill
Rowe said about you?

MR. SPEAKER : Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, this is a very
serious matter indeed.

AN HON. MEMBER: : Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I
did not want to draw to your attention the ignorance of the
hon. member for Burin-Placentia West (Mr. Tobin), I am glad
Your Honour noticed it himself.

But, Mr. Speaker, we are
doing our best to try to raise these matters and bring them
to the attention of the various ministers. The one yesterday

MR. NEARY: about Hopedale and the one today about Norman Bay, where they do not even have a generator, Mr. Speaker, I think it is shocking, shocking in this day and age, and I would like to know what the administration are going to do about it. This is another example, by the way, of how this administration are treating rural Newfoundland. All their plans and policies are directed towards the urban centres and they are ignoring rural Newfoundland, our way of life, our tradition and our culture in this Province, and the rural areas are being downgraded and destroyed by this administration. They cannot see beyond the St. John's Overpass, Mr. Speaker, and the reason for it is that out of eighteen Cabinet ministers six of them represent St. John's districts and, of course, they have a greater impact and a greater influence on the Cabinet than any other part of Newfoundland. One street in St. John's has more power and more authority than the great Northern Peninsula, than the whole of Labrador, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

Of course, the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) in speaking in support of the petition is permitted five minutes, but I think he should confine his remarks to the prayer and the contents of the petition presented by his hon. colleague.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, one street in downtown St. John's has more authority, more power than the whole of Labrador. And I think it is shameful the way that this administration are treating rural Newfoundland and Labrador, I include Labrador, Mr. Speaker, and -

MR. WARREN: All he wants is recognition.

MR. NEARY: Pardon?

MR. WARREN: All he wants is recognition.

MR. NEARY: Yes, that is right. All the people are asking for, all they are asking for, Mr. Speaker, listen to this, they are asking for a generator so they can generate electricity. And when we hear hon. members there opposite get up and talk about their grandiose schemes, let them think about the people in Norman Bay and Pinsent's Arm who do not have electricity in their homes.

MR. WARREN: No increases this year in electrical rates, he said.

MR. NEARY: No, increase this year. He gloated about that this afternoon. Here you have Labradorians, Newfoundlanders down there with no electricity while they are carrying out their grandiose schemes over there, their private dining rooms, their rent-free apartments, a third House of Assembly since Confederation, Mr. Speaker, I support the prayer of the petition and I know I am going to get a rise out of the

MR. NEARY:

Government House Leader (Mr. Marshall). I can see him over there now looking at me with daggers. No doubt he will get up now and he will squirt his usual poison across the floor of the House, he will rant and rave about the former Liberal administration and Mr. Smallwood and the Upper Churchill, and he will give us a show, as he usually does, of his partisan politics.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell):

Order, please! Order, please!

The time for the hon. the

Leader of the Opposition has expired.

MR. MARSHALL:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the President of

the Council.

MR. MARSHALL:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to try to respond sensibly to the petition as opposed to the way the hon. gentleman, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary), responded to it a few moments ago. No one denies the needs of the people of Norman Bay and Pinsent's Arm. Certainly it is a very real need and the petition which has been presented, will be taken and it will be considered by Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro and, as in every other instance, we will do our best to see what we can do to service the needs. But as the hon. gentleman must realize, all of these desires and all of these very legitimate needs, as legitimate as they may be, depend upon money. We have to be able to afford to provide the services in order to do them. Now I hope the hon. gentleman, when he is talking and conveying this to his constituents, will tell them that the government is in sympathy with them and tell them that the government is doing everything it possibly can and will do so in the future. I hope he will also tell them, Mr. Speaker, that they are denied the services they seek because this very

MR. MARSHALL: electricity which they are now seeking, or the wherewithal to provide it, was given away to the Province of Quebec by the hon. gentleman and their colleagues in years gone by. I hope he will explain to them, Mr. -

MR. HISCOCK: Mr. Speaker, a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!
The hon. the member for Eagle River on a point of order.

MR. HISCOCK: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Energy, the Government House Leader and the President of the Council (Mr. Marshall) said that the hydro of Labrador was given away by myself and my colleagues present. I would like to point out that I nor anybody in the House on the Liberal side were present when this contract was signed and when it was signed it was passed unanimously by both sides of the House. The people of Norman Bay and Pinsent's Arm do not want to get involved in what happened in the past. They are asking one thing only and that is to the Minister of Energy who is now speaking: Are they going to get a generator - they are even asking for a used generator - are they going to get a generator or they not going to get a generator? They do not want political talks.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!
To that point of order, the hon. the member for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock) has not raised a valid point of order but has used the occasion to again repeat his question and try to clarify some points that he already had made during the presentation of his original petition.

The hon. the President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, you know, the hon.

MR. MARSHALL: gentleman knows full well there is line of relationship between them. As a matter of fact, the hon. gentleman would not be elected today if it were not for the fact that the same type of impression of the hon. gentleman, that they are voting Liberal in those areas, because of their great reverence for the previous, previous leader, Mr. Smallwood. I mean, there are still a few gentlemen of the other side who have been elected on the coattails of the previous, previous premier. But the fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman should appreciate - and I hope he will tell his constituents to appreciate the fact - that there is in fact, ironically, some \$600 million a year now flowing yearly into the Province of Quebec while this poor Province only realizes some \$8 million to \$10 million from it, and if we only had a fraction of that we would be able to attend to these needs and to other needs. So I hope the hon. gentleman, when he responds to these people, will tell his constituents how concerned this government is, as it is, it wishes it had the money -

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

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

 The hon. the member for Eagle River on a point of order.

MR. HISCOCK: Is the Minister of Energy (Mr. Marshall) saying that the people of Norman Bay and Pinsent's Arm will only get power when the Upper Churchill contract is straightened out? Is that what he is saying.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

 Once again I have to rule that the hon. the member for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock) has not raised a valid point of order.

 The hon. the President of the Council.

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MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is just getting up on points of order to use up my time and I am not going to enter into that with him. But the fact of the matter is instead of passing along little statements like he made about the government taking the generators and selling them and putting it into the monies and the coffers of the Province so that he can go back and he can tell his constituents that this is what the

MR. MARSHALL:

government is doing, it does not care about the people from Norman Bay and Pinsent's Arm, but the fact of the matter is that we are very concerned about it and we will respond to the petition to the best of the limits of the government and the resources of the people of this Province.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell):

The hon. member for Burin-Placentia West.

Hear, hear!

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. TOBIN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have a petition to present on behalf of 218 people, I believe, from the Burin area. The prayer of the petition is, "We, the undersigned, request your assistance in obtaining a Winter works programme for the upgrading of the existing wood road leading to Piccos Pond, Big Salmonier, Burin, in the district of Burin-Placentia West. This will enable the local people to have access to the area for cutting firewood. The programme would also create jobs for many of the local residents who are now unemployed."

Now, Mr. Speaker, I guess the prayer of the petition is somewhat twofold. It is a request to have a road opened whereby people would have access to wood. The people of Burin, like many other people in many of the rural parts of Newfoundland, are reverting back to wood furnaces and need a wood supply and that would certainly permit them access to this forest for that purpose.

And also part of their petition clearly states that the programme will create jobs for many of the local people who are now unemployed. And it refers to, Mr. Speaker, a Winter works programme. So I am not sure why they presented that petition to me to present.

MR. TOBIN: I would imagine it was for the simple reason that they wanted action on the petition. If it were presented in other quarters, where Winter works programmes are a responsibility, I am not sure that people would know too much about it.

In any case, Mr. Speaker, the people of the Burin area certainly have every reason to request a forest access road, or the upgrading of roads, Last year I know there were a couple of new roads built on the Burin Peninsula, one in my district, Burin-Placentia West, and one in my colleague's district, Grand Bank, which have served the people rather well and with tremendous benefits to them for access to forests, and I am sure that the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. Power) will give this petition every consideration and see what we can get done to serve the needs of the people there. So, Mr. Speaker, I lay this petition upon the Table.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. member for Eagle River.

MR. HISCOCK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope the member for Burin-Placentia West (Mr. Tobin) realizes that when he was presenting a petition nobody on this side was interrupting him like happened when people were presenting a petition on this side and that we at least deserve the same courtesy. But, Mr. Speaker, I support this petition that they need a woods road. More people in rural Newfoundland are depending on wood and the reason why they are depending on wood is because the economy is falling down around our ears and everybody is finding out that we cannot have necessary jobs, that food is going up, electricity is going up, and people have to revert back to a way of life that

MR. HISCOCK: . . . we would have thought we would have gotten rid of twenty or thirty years ago.

But with regard to this petition, a make-work project, I would assume that it would have been referred to the Canada Works or Ottawa. But in the meantime, this administration itself has said that this is the type of work that you end up building graveyards and fences. I have heard it from the member himself saying that we should do away with these types of make-work projects and I find it rather ironic that here he is in the House now presenting a petition and I am wondering if he is not, in the old phrase, talking from both sides of his mouth. But the petition is extremely serious, It illustrates rural Newfoundland. It points out, Mr. Speaker, that the people in rural Newfoundland have a way of life that is extremely important and rely on the environment. And I think it is long overdue that the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. Power), and I wrote to him with regard to the Port Hope Simpson woods road, to have that upgraded, and I hope that the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands will take this under consideration. And I will be monitoring to see if he ends up doing the one in Burin and not the one down in Port Hope Simpson.

MR. HISCOCK: I think that this government should have a project for this. I think in many areas of our Province our forestry is under pressure and that if we do not have good management with regard to wood cutting we are going to find ourselves in danger of having a limited wood supply.

It was mentioned before and I think this Province and this country can take Germany's reforestation project as an example.

The petition that was presented is extremely serious. With regard to the petition I presented from rural Labrador, we found out that we have two communities that do not have electricity. Now we find that we have a place in Burin - Placentia West which, because of economic conditions, has to go back to burning wood for heating their homes. As I said, Mr. Speaker, we never would have thought ten or fifteen years ago that wood would become so important. I do not think it is good enough for the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. Power) to get up and say it is a federal responsibility, these make-work projects. I think this government has to come up with make-work projects, we have to come up with ways to open up our woods roads not only for firewood, as I think the people in Burin would agree, but for house building and for boat building and for cabinet making and for other things. But the important thing is we need these roads opened up to our woodlands not only for Bowater and Abitibi-Price but we need our woods roads opened up for the people of the Province so that they can, at least in these hard economic times, use our resources.

MR. HISCOCK: There is not much we can do; the people in Pinsent Arm cannot even freeze their fish. All the people in Burin are asking for is wood so they can heat their homes. At least the government cannot take our basic resources from the people in rural Newfoundland and Labrador such as berries, fish, wood and agricultural land. I know they are bringing in enough regulations, making it harder all the time for our people.

But now when anything happens, as has happened in Burin with regard to the fish plant, and as happened in St. Lawrence, we find that these rural areas of our Province have to revert to a way of life that was prevalent prior to Confederation, and in the dirty thirties, and in the 18th Century.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands.

MR. POWER: Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I rise to support the petition so ably presented by the hon. the member for Burin - Placentia West (Mr. Tobin). I certainly do not wish to digress from the topic of the petition, which is a woods road, but I do want to take some exception to the remark just made by the member for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock), who makes such comments as the fact that we have destroyed the rural way of life, or we have destroyed the concept of people living in the rural parts of the Province.

I venture to bet, Mr. Speaker, and I saw a report just yesterday or the day before that showed that the average income in rural Newfoundland has risen something like 160-odd per cent from 1972 to 1983, that this government has done everything in its power since

MR. POWER: 1972 to reestablish rural Newfoundland, a rural Newfoundland and a concept of rural Newfoundland that was almost destroyed by an administration in this Province which thought that you had to burn your boats, which thought you had to industrialize, which thought that that was the only way to get away from cutting wood, away from fishing, away from farming - get out and get industrialized. And I venture to bet, Mr. Speaker, that this government, from 1972 to now, and certainly in the last few years, has done everything possible to re-establish and make it easier to live in rural Newfoundland.

As it relates to the forest access road in the petition presented by my colleague, certainly there is a crying need in many, many parts of Newfoundland to have greater access to our wood resource for a firewood programme. I would say that last year close to 200,000 cords of wood were used as firewood in Newfoundland; 200,000 cords of wood is one and a half time the wood requirement for the Stephenville newsprint operation, so you can see the magnitude of the wood resource that we have. I am sure many people in this House do not realize that since 1978 we as a government, in co-operation with the Canadian Government through our DREE agreement, have built 1,500 kilometers of access roads simply for the purpose of getting at wood, 1,500 kilometers over the last six

MR. POWER:

years on forest access roads alone, and you combine that with all of the other things we are doing to make firewood available, anything from tree improvements at our Wooddale Nursery to experiments that we are now doing in co-operation with our Department of Energy and the Canadian Department of Energy to find faster growing species so the tree can grow on twelve or fifteen year cycles and be easy and able to be cut, all that is designed to make firewood available to our residents both in rural and in urban Newfoundland, and that is something that people should realize, it is not just rural Newfoundland that are into firewood burning. Anyone who watches what is happening in the St. John's, Corner Brook and Grand Falls areas realizes that the urban parts of our Province are very much into burning firewood also.

As it relates to the Winter Works programme, there certainly have been in many cases of wastages with Winter Works programme. Programmes such as this, a forest access road, is an extremely wise way for a Winter Works programme to be conducted. It not only performs the valuable need of satisfying employment requirements but it also gives a community access to a very valuable resource which is very badly needed to cut down on heating costs in our Province. I can only say, Mr. Speaker, that, besides the 1,500 kilometers of road that we ourselves have built as a government over the last six years, there are also many thousands of kilometers of road in this Province, some forest access roads of long ago, some old company roads which are no longer used that we as a department try and maintain. It is almost impossible to maintain all of the forest access roads in this Province. We are having, in the last couple of years particularly, a very difficult problem

MR. POWER: financially to try and find money to clear these roads in the Wintertime. We find that all these Canada Works programmes get approved in January and February, they have no access to logs that they are trying to get at to do wharf projects or other projects around the community, and we are doing everything we can as a government and as a department to make sure there is access to as much timber as possible.

In the case of this petition from the member for Burin-Placentia West (Mr. Tobin), then I certainly say I want to support it fully and that my department will be working very closely with the member to see that action is taken on the petition, and if it cannot be done through Winter Works, then maybe there is some other way to make access available to that resource.

Thank you.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

On motion that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Aylward): Order, please!

RESOLUTION: That it is expedient to bring in a measure further to amend The Loan and Guarantee Act, 1957, the Act No. 70 of 1957, to provide for the advance of loans to and the guarantee of the repayment of bonds or debentures issued by or loans advanced to certain corporations.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, we do not wish to unnecessarily delay the passage of this bill.

MR. SIMMS: You have already.

MR. NEARY: No, we have not. We have had some very interesting discussions on it. It is too bad the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) is not here today. He has been dispatched to Terra Nova, I understand, to try to save face for the administration, for the leader of the party, to try to save face, Mr. Chairman. So Mr. Gallup has sent his Minister of Fisheries galloping to Terra Nova and what a rude awakening is waiting for that gentleman in the district of Terra Nova, Mr. Chairman. The feedback we got today about these so-called polls that are not identified, the people are in a rage, they are in a rage. They said, has not that hon. gentleman, does he not have anything better to do than to be dreaming up these sorts of things that he dreams up? Is he living in a dream world? Does he not know that rural Newfoundland is out here, that he is neglecting rural Newfoundland, that it is a St. John's government? There was a time, Mr. Chairman, when the former Liberal Administration was referred to as Her Majesty's Outport Government. And I must say we were rather proud of that, rather proud of it. But you have a group over there now representing outport districts who are just like sheep, they are just like the sheep. It is the St. John's Ministers who dominate the Cabinet, who make the decisions, who set the policies and plans that are directed towards -

MR. MARSHALL: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): On a point of order, the hon. President of the Council.

MR. NEARY: - the urban centres and not the rural parts of this Province.

MR. MARSHALL: On a point of order. I mean, the hon. gentleman anticipates, I know, this point of order, this is not germane to the issue. I mean, the

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MR. MARSHALL:

hon. gentleman is obviously
frantic over the situation in Terra Nova. He is not allowed
in the district by his own party, but he is trying to put

MR. MARSHALL: a little jibe in from his bench in the House of Assembly. Now, Mr. Chairman, I can appreciate his frustration and I can appreciate very much the fact that his own Party does not want him in Terra Nova and all that, But, Mr. Chairman, we do have to comply with the rules of the House and what he is talking about is certainly not relevant to this Bill.

MR. NEARY: To that point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): To that point of order, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: If I was the hon. gentleman, Mr. Chairman, I would be the last member of this House who should speak about being allowed in any district. They have to keep him under wraps. Every time we get him an interview on television, the administration loses another few thousand votes, Mr. Chairman. And if the hon. Premier wants to come down next week, the same night that I am speaking at a couple of meetings in that district he can set up his own meeting and we will both have our rallies and see who gets the biggest turn out, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

To that point of order, I would remind the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) we are discussing Bill No. 77, "An Act To Amend The Loan And Guarantee Act". I do note that the hon. Leader of the Opposition was talking about rural Newfoundland and I would say vaguely some of the things that we are discussing here have to do with fish plants in rural Newfoundland.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: That is an excellent ruling, Mr. Chairman, an excellent ruling.

MR. NEARY: Now, Mr. Chairman, as I indicated, we are not going to delay the passage of this bill. We have had a thorough debate on it. If the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) was in his seat, where the Premier keeps telling us members should be, he was there earlier today, then I would have a few more questions to put to the hon. gentleman. I did not get a reaction, for instance, from anybody on the benches there opposite about Canada negotiating on the quotas on the East Coast of Canada in return for access to the European Common Market for Canadian fish. I do not believe I got a reaction from hon. gentlemen there opposite when I raised that matter.

Mr. Chairman, we are not the administration. We are not in a decision making role. We can only raise these matters. We can only carry the ball for the people in rural Newfoundland. And we expect to get a reaction from hon. gentlemen there opposite who have had this nationalist issue for the last several years, it seems to have paid off for them but now they are prepared to lay back and let Bowater not tell them who they are dealing with, not fight against the External Affairs Department, the bureaucrats in Ottawa, giving away quotas of fish on the East Coast to get access to the European Common Market for Canadian fish. They are just laying back, Mr. Chairman, laying back. They have rolled over and are playing dead on this matters and as a result rural Newfoundland, our traditional way of life, our culture, our way of life that was built on the fishery, our most basic industry, is being eroded and downgraded. And members who represent fishing districts over there are mute and silent on this matters while the St. John's members of the Cabinet do what they like; they set policy and make plans that are directed towards St. John's, the urban centre,

MR. NEARY: at the expense of rural Newfoundland. Mr. Chairman, how can these members sit there, in all conscience, and let that happen?

MR. CALLAN: Most of them have left, you notice.

MR. NEARY: Do you remember what the battle of Confederation was all about? Do you remember who fought against Confederation? The Tories and the Water Street merchants, Mr. Chairman. They finally got the power back in their hands again. They have it back now. After thirty-four years of Confederation, they finally got the power back into the hands of the power brokers in St. John's.

MR. CALLAN: That is right.

MR. NEARY: And the hon. gentleman, who is from an outpost himself, has allowed that to happen. He has surrounded himself with six Cabinet ministers from St. John's, which gives St. John's more power. One street of St. John's has more power than the whole of Labrador, the Great Northern Peninsula. One street in St. John's has more power than the whole Southwest Coast of this Province.

MR. OSMOND: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman from St. Barbe (Mr. Osmond), who I do not believe has uttered a word so far this session, should get up and have a few words.

Mr. Chairman, if it were not for the federal money that is going into rural Newfoundland for make work projects, the people would starve to death. It is just as simple as that, and it is just as well for hon. members to face it.

MR. CALLAN: They would have doors torn down down here.

MR. NEARY: That is right.

MR. NEARY: I am amazed that there are not more demonstrations, not more people surrounding Confederation Building demanding action on this, that and the other thing. If it were not for the federal funds that are going in for fire halls and town halls and water and sewerage and parks, recreation facilities, if it were not for the federal funds going into rural Newfoundland in the multimillions of dollars, Mr. Chairman, the people would be pretty hard pressed, indeed. Some of them probably would be starving. That is a record to be proud of, Mr. Chairman! What we are seeing developing, unfolding, unravelling in this Province is rural Newfoundland versus urban Newfoundland. That is the real issue of the future in this Province, Mr. Chairman.

MR. WARREN: They are down in Glovertown now promising something else.

MR. NEARY: That is right. And they have gone down now, I suppose, to trot out a few more promises.

MR. CALLAN: Ask the people in Bellevue about those promises.

MR. NEARY: The fish plant down there that is in trouble, and I suppose he has gone down now to make a few promises.

DR. COLLINS: What guarantee is this you are talking about?

MR. NEARY: We are talking about the real issue of the future, rural Newfoundland versus my hon. friend's home town. The Townie.

DR. COLLINS: I have my roots in rural Newfoundland.

MR. NEARY: Oh, yes, he has his roots, alright. If there was ever a red-headed Tory in this world,

MR. NEARY: it is the hon. gentleman.

MR. WARREN: The member for Grand Bank

(Mr. Matthews) is, too.

MR. NEARY: No, the member for Grand Bank is not a Tory. The member for St. John's South (Dr. Collins) is a Tory. The member for Grand Bank does not know what he is. He runs with the hare and holds with the hounds, Mr. Chairman. But one thing you cannot say about the member for St. John's South is that he is not a Tory. I believe when Art Scammel wrote the song, 'the red-headed Tory out there in a dory', I think he was describing the hon. gentleman, Mr. Chairman.

Anyway, unless my hon. colleague has a few words and we are not motivated or provoked by hon. members on the other side, then we will pass the Loan and Guarantee Act, Mr. Chairman. We have had a good debate on it. We did not

MR. NEARY:

get many answers, we did not get the administration to lay out their plans on what they are going to do to rescue the Newfoundland economy from complete ruin or what they are going to do about the incredible financial mess they have created in this Province. They did not give us any plans on what they intended to do about these two items. Tomorrow the unemployment figures will be released again by Stats Canada. I predict now it will show that Newfoundland leads the nation in unemployment and 50 per cent of those who are unemployed are young people between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five who cannot find jobs at the most crucial time in their lives when they need jobs to further their careers, Mr. Chairman. And here we are three weeks in this House now and no sign of any plans to deal with that problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!

On motion, resolution carried.

On motion, clauses 1 through 3 carried.

Motion, that the Committee report having passed the resolution and a bill consequent thereto, carried.

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

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

The hon. the member for Kilbride.

MR. AYIWARD: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of the Whole have considered the matters to them referred and has directed me to report that it has adopted a certain

MR. AYLWARD: resolution and recommends that a bill be introduced to give effect to the same.

On motion, report received and adopted, bill ordered read a first, second and third time now, by leave.

On motion, a bill, "An Act To Amend The Loan And Guarantee Act, 1957 (No. 2)", read a first, second and third time, ordered passed and its title be as on the Order Paper. (Bill No. 77).

MR. MARSHALL: Motion 1, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Motion 1 is a resolution to be moved by the hon. the Premier.

The hon. the Premier.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to introduce into this House the following resolution that was just referred to. As all hon. members know, the Constitutional debates, which led to the new Constitution of Canada, got into the thorny issue of aboriginal and native rights. I guess it was one of the key aspects of the whole Constitutional discussions that caused a lot of the First Ministers a lot of agony and a compromise was struck

PREMIER PECKFORD:

at that time to allow the new constitution to go ahead. And the compromise that was struck by all the first ministers was that we would, before we got into the whole question of aboriginal rights and title and land claims and all the rest of it - I think, Mr. Speaker, it should be recorded that it was chiefly because of the provinces that this approach was taken and I think over time that this approach will be seen to be a far more rational approach to the whole question of natives and aboriginal rights than the approach that the federal government at the time wanted to take. They wanted to rush fairly quickly into putting a number of provisions there that were suppose to cover all the problems as related to it, when, in fact, given the way that things work across the nation, it varies from place to place, and you have various treaties, and in other places you have your status and your non-status people - and so it felt by a fair number of the provinces, including Newfoundland, that a far more appropriate mechanism would be to commit ourselves in the constitution to some ongoing discussions with the native people and the Territories to insure that after that debate was held amongst all the first ministers and the territorial representatives and representatives of the various native peoples that then we would introduce various new constitutional amendments that could be entertained, that could get consensus and that could get the constitution amended along the lines that everybody wanted to see. And so a commitment was put in the constitution that a constitutional conference would have to be held with the native peoples and with all the first ministers and the

PREMIER PECKFORD: territorial governments to further discuss with everybody present the kinds of provisions which were appropriate to put in the constitution. And, of course, as everybody knows there was a conference held to discuss constitutional matters that directly affect the aboriginal peoples of Canada, including the identification and definition of the rights of those people to be included in the Constitution of Canada, and that was the approach that was taken and it was successful. So, as a result of that meeting, and I guess most people are familiar with that constitutional conference. I think it was televised at the time and it was held up to be a very important and significant conference. It was not just a first ministers conference, it was a conference of first ministers of Canada plus the territorial governments, plus representatives of all of the native groups in Canada. That conference went on for a couple of days, I believe, and the result of that conference was an accord that was struck between all the groups there to further amend the constitution. And that is what we are doing here today, we are passing into law amendments that will become amendments to the constitution as a result of that conference that was held in April 1983. So what we have here, Mr. Speaker, if anybody has the copies of the Act itself, and we undertook as part of the accord that this would have to be passed by all the legislatures as well as the House of Commons and the Senate, of course, and so, as I understand it, the provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario have already passed the resolution. And another provision in the accord was that it would be passed by all the legislatures by December 1983, so we

PREMIER PECKFORD:

are just really, for all intents and purposes, getting in under the wire. British Columbia has introduced the resolution in its House in July but it still has not been passed, and I guess we understand the reason for that. Saskatchewan has given notice of its intent to introduce it but it has not been introduced in Saskatchewan yet. And it was approved by the House of Commons in late June and referred to the Senate, and it was given approval by the Senate on November 3, just a few weeks ago. And so there is British Columbia and Saskatchewan to come, and the Senate has now given its approval of it.

So what this accord does is to further try to clarify how we are to proceed in the future relative to constitutional change for the aboriginal and native peoples of Canada. If I may read it, "WHEREAS the Constitution Act, 1982, provides that an amendment to the Constitution of Canada may be made by proclamation issued by the Governor General" and so on, two-thirds, "AND WHEREAS, the First Minister of Canada, First Ministers of nine of the provinces," because, of course, Quebec has never been a party to the new constitution and has refused to acknowledge that it is the legitimate Constitution of Canada, so it is, first ministers of nine of the provinces, the Prime Minister of Canada, "the Government Leaders of the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, and the leaders of the National Aboriginal Associations were signatories to an Accord on March 16, 1983, to lay before the Houses of Parliament and Legislative Assemblies of the Provinces prior to December 31, 1983, a resolution to authorize a proclamation to amend the Constitution Act 1982

PREMIER PECKFORD: . with respect to
aboriginal rights.

"AND WHEREAS, the Premier of the Province of Newfoundland was one of the signatories to the accord; NOW THEREFORE, the House of Assembly" go on record and to put this into place.

And then if one looks at the various sections here, because it is very short, we can see what the accord really consists of. "Paragraph 25 (b) of the Constitution Act, 1982 is repealed and the following substituted therefore:

"(b) any rights or freedoms that now exist by way of land claims agreement, or may be so acquired." Before that time it was just existing rights. The new constitution, that is all it had until this one gets passed and that has been sort of refined now to include land claims treaties, or any that may be acquired in the interim. So treaties will be legitimized or constitutionalized in the constitution, which was not there before. So that is one refinement that has come about as a result of the first meeting of the leaders of the native peoples and the territorial governments with the provinces, is that we refine that provision giving recognition of land claims, which I think is a very significant move, Mr. Speaker.

And then, for greater certainty, section (2) says, "Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 is amended by adding thereto the following subsections: "(3) For greater certainty, in subsection (1) "treaty rights" includes rights that now exist by way of land claims agreements or may be so acquired." which clearly then puts it.

Then Number (4) "Notwithstanding any other provision of the Act, the aboriginal and treaty rights referred to in subsection (1) are guaranteed equally to male

PREMIER PECKFORD: and female persons."

That was another very key point, if you remember that meeting of a few months ago, that there was this legitimate argument. As a matter of fact, there was not unanimity on that point. There were some aboriginal associations, or native associations, that supported putting in male and female persons; there are other native and aboriginal associations that did not. And this was the danger, and it just points it up again, Mr. Speaker, that if we had taken any other approach than the one we are on now look at the problems you would have been in

PREMIER PECKFORD:

without discussing them with the native associations first because there is not unanimity among them. As I said, you have your status and your non-status and your more localized native groups, like in our Province the Naskapi Montagnais who might not see eye to eye, their association, with the Inuit Association, who do not see eye to eye with the Micmac peoples of Conne River, who do not see - and on you go - and the Matis and so on. But finally, after some debate and some reluctance by some native associations, they went along with putting into the Constitution that all of these aboriginal treaty rights referred to in subsection 1 are guaranteed equally to both male and female persons. It seems like an obvious kind of thing to have in there and why should anybody argue about it. And, of course, different native groups have different positions as it relates to male and female persons, obviously. And if you look at the cultural lifestyle of some of these groups that is sort of understandable, at least historically, in the way that they have operated their societies.

Then 3 goes on:

"The said Act is further amended by adding thereto immediately after section 35 thereof, the following section: "The Government of Canada and the provincial government are committed to the principle that, before any amendment is made to Class 24 of section 91 of the Constitution Act, 1867, or to section 25" - which are the ones applicable to the native peoples, that "a constitutional conference that includes in its agenda an item relating to the proposed amendment, composed of the Prime Minister of Canada and the first ministers of the provinces, will be convened by the Prime Minister of Canada; and (b) the Prime Minister of Canada will invite representatives of the aboriginal peoples of Canada to participate in

PREMIER PECKFORD: discussions on that item." So all governments are giving a commitment that the aboriginal peoples will be informed and consulted before additional amendments to things affecting them actually can put into the Constitution.

Then Part IV.1 deals with constitutional conferences. "In addition to the conference convened in March 1983, at least two"- and here is a commitment by everybody again - "constitutional conferences composed of the Prime Minister of Canada and the first ministers of the provinces shall be convened by the Prime Minister of Canada, the first within three years after April 17, 1982 and the second within five years after that date." So there is a commitment by the government leaders of Canada that not only will we consult the aboriginal peoples when something comes up which affects them, but we go on to give them an additional commitment that two further constitutional conferences or First Ministers' Conferences will have to be held within the period of time as just described and as I just read. And, of course, "each conference convened under subsection (1) shall have included in its agenda constitutional matters that directly affect the aboriginal peoples of Canada, and the Prime Minister of Canada shall invite representatives of those peoples to participate in the discussions." So we will not only have these constitutional conferences but we will obligate ourselves to invite representatives of the aboriginal people who will be allowed to speak at that meeting and express their views. "The Prime Minister of Canada shall invite elected representatives of the governments of the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories to participate in discussions on any item on the agenda of a conference convened under subsection(1) that, in the opinion

PREMIER PECKFORD: of the Prime Minister, directly affects the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories

Here is a funny kind of provision, it is a commitment for the Yukon and Northwest Territories to attend, but it is not complete in itself, it has within it some power left to the Prime Minister of Canada. Of course, the reason for that from the federal government's position is that the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories come under federal legislation and are not in themselves in the

PREMIER PECKFORD: not in themselves in the same status as our provinces, so that, therefore, you have a little thing here which gives the Prime Minister some power if in his opinion it does affect them.

So those are the main parts of what we are doing here today, Mr. Speaker. It is not extensive but I think it is significant. And I will just make the point again that, in my opinion, it is important primarily because you are establishing a logical, reasonable process. And not only has that been established, it has been further refined by the conference of March past, which further puts into the constitution obligations upon the Prime Minister of Canada and the Government of Canada, obligations upon all the provincial Premiers for additional constitutional meetings, and also obligates us that if anything comes up which affects the aboriginal peoples that they have to be notified and consulted on it and, of course, the male and female persons being already in there as well.

So I think it is a significant step forward, Mr. Speaker, for Canada, and I am, as Premier of the Province, pleased and proud to introduce it into our Legislature, into the Newfoundland Legislature, and hope that it gets the unanimous support of all hon. members. It remains to be seen, Mr. Speaker, how it proceeds from here, but there has to be full consultation, and no doubt there is going to be lively debate over the next couple of years as further refinements and additions, no doubt, to the constitution are made, relative to the interests of the aboriginal people of Canada.

From a more provincial point of view, Mr. Speaker, where the Province of Newfoundland, as it relates to our own native groups, are on record,

PREMIER PECKFORD: as it relates to the Naskaupi, Montagnais and the Inuit of Labrador, that we are prepared to sit down with the federal government and with the peoples of the Naskaupi Montagnais Association and of the Inuit Association and begin serious discussions towards what happens as it relates to native and aboriginal claims and rights in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. As it relates to the people of Conne River, we have done an extensive and detailed research and could find no evidence which would support aboriginal title by the people of Conne River. And our position is that they should be treated exactly the same as all the other people who live on the Island. But as it relates to the Naskaupi Montagnais, and as it relates to the Inuit, we do state that we believe that there is an aboriginal claim. There are legitimate rights which the people of these two groups should have more discussion on with the Canadian Government and with the provincial government and we are prepared to sit down and recognize, right from the start, that they are different from the rest of us on the Island, including the different band of people in Conne River.

Our problem has been that in all our correspondence to date with the federal government, they have not been willing to sit down, so we are still waiting for some answer from them on that.

PREMIER PECKFORD: But that notwithstanding, Mr. Speaker, and I do not want it to detract from the import and substance and items in this particular resolution, this is an extremely important one and no doubt over the coming years there will be additional amendments to the Constitution which will have to go through the respective legislatures of Canada to further refine and support, really, the aboriginal peoples of Canada who remain such an important part of the total Canadian society. I take great pleasure in introducing this.

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

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, first I would like to thank the Premier for giving me advance notice. In the last week I was out of town, in Toronto, and he agreed to hold off until I got back to respond to this resolution.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the Premier failed to give the whole story, he failed to give the story started back in November 23, 1981. That is when the story started, for that is when the Premier betrayed the native people and is continuing to betray the native people. Regardless of what he is bringing into the House today, he still made a big mistake, he made a big blunder on November 23, 1981. It is fine and dandy. The Premier came in today, like an old dog with its tail between its legs, trying to play up to the native people, hoping to get them on his side.

Mr. Speaker, we will recall, on November 23, 1981, and I will read it for the record, a resolution that the hon. the Premier brought into this House: 'WHEREAS the Government of Newfoundland' - he did not even say Government of Newfoundland and Labrador - 'has supported the inclusion of the rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada in the Constitution;

MR. WARREN:

'AND WHEREAS an agreement has now been reached among all the signatories to the Constitutional Accord that the rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are to be entrenched in the Constitution;

AND WHEREAS the identification and definition of the rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are to be discussed at a constitutional conference with representations of those people within the next year;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that this House approve and support the agreement of the Government of the Province to the inclusion of the rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada in the Constitution in the following terms: '

MR. NEARY:

Two years ago?

MR. WARREN:

November 25, 1981.

'Rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada.

34(1) The existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed.'

Now, Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what the Premier said earlier. And when he mentioned this first he said the new resolution says, and I will repeat what the Premier said earlier, 'Any rights or freedoms that now exist by way of land claims agreements or may be so acquired.' Now, Mr. Speaker, this is what the Premier tried to do back in 1981.

He came into this House on three successive days trying to get unanimous support for that resolution and the next day both newspapers carried the headlines: "The Premier was trying to betray the native people."

MR. WARREN: The Premier came in in 1981, Mr. Speaker, and tried to do that. And it was not the minister on that side who is responsible for Labrador who stood up and tried to stop him from bringing that resolution in, No, Mr. Speaker, it was the gentleman from Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) who stood up on three consecutive days and stopped the Premier from getting unanimous consent in this House.

There is no reason the Premier should feel happy today because he is finally bringing in - by the way, I may as well say it at the beginning, I am going to support this resolution, yes, because it is the resolution that the natives peoples who came into St. John's on November 23, 1981, native people from Nain, the Naskaupie - Montagnais Indian Association, and the Conne River Band Council and persuaded the government, persuaded the Premier not to sign the Accord under the then present conditions, when the Premier was hoping to get consent of this House so that he could call a big press conference and say that he had finally done it.

Mr. Speaker, it was my constituents who stood up and said, 'Look, we do not want this to go ahead.'

MR. NEARY: So what you are saying, even though he had unanimous consent on that resolution he could not deliver on that resolution?

MR. WARREN: That is right. That is right, he had to bring in a new resolution and the new resolution came after he had met with the native peoples across the Province, and across Canada, and this is it here. But if it had not been for the will of the people who were sitting in the galleries on November 24, whom the Premier betrayed twenty-four hours earlier in a meeting, and my

MR. WARREN: getting up and not giving unanimous support that the Premier finally gave in and dropped the resolution from the Order Paper altogether.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I will quote, and I will table it afterward for hon. members information, some comments that were made about those notorious days of the Premier, the blackest days. As the President of the LIA said, it is on page 3659 of Hansard

MR. SIMMS: How did he get in Hansard, the President of LIA?

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, I quote from a letter from the President of the LIA: He said, 'The day of the signing of the Constitutional Accord by the Prime Minister of Canada and the Premier of the Province has been one of the blackest days in the history of Canada's aboriginal people.' Now, Mr. Speaker, that was because the Premier was still determined to make sure that the native people were not going to be recognized.

Now, Mr. Speaker -

MR. SIMMS: The venom.

MR. WARREN: - "On November 24, or shortly thereafter - I believe the hon. minister, by the way he is taking notes, is going to have a few comments to make afterwards. I only wish, Mr. Speaker, that he could be more positive than he was back in November, 1981.

"When the nine Premiers"- I am quoting, Mr. Speaker, from a book on the Newfoundland native groups in the Constitution, a report by Adrian Tanner - I will be only too glad to table it: "When the nine premiers and the Federal Government signed the Accord on November 9, 1981, native people across Canada felt betrayed by the dropping of the aboriginal rights clause."

MR. WARREN:

He said, "It had been 'Peckford' who was given the credit for proposing the compromised draft of the Constitution which dropped the aboriginal rights claim."

MR. WARREN:

Remember the Premier coming back from Ottawa on his high horse? 'I was the man who got the Constitution brought back to Canada, I was the guy who convinced all the other Premiers.' He was also the same fellow, Mr. Speaker, who dropped the aboriginal rights clause.

I repeat another comment that was made here, and I repeat it the same as it is here: 'Peckford's office refused the request for a meeting with the aboriginal people. Two support group members' - just listen to this, Mr. Speaker - 'two support group members intercepted Peckford as he was leaving a meeting at Memorial University and were told that he could not agree to re-insert the aboriginal rights clause because it would break the delicate accord between the nine Premiers.' That is what the Premier told two support group members, Mr. Speaker, that he could not re-insert the aboriginal rights clause because it would break the delicate accord with the other Premiers.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is the same Premier who came into today saying he is concerned about the native people. It was the native people who got him right up to the wall, had him cornered so that he finally had to bend. The Premier did not do this willingly, this Premier has not done one thing willingly in this Province other than raise taxes.

Mr. Speaker, an emergency debate on aboriginal rights was introduced in the House of Assembly against the government's wishes. I believe you will remember, Mr. Speaker, that I brought in a resolution and the Premier would not even bring it to a vote, and the reason the Premier would not let that resolution come to a vote was because it was going to put his Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development (Mr. Goudie) in an awkward position because that minister would have been

MR. WARREN: obliged to vote for it, and I believe his conscience would have made him vote for it. But the Premier would not let it go to a vote because he did not want one of his Cabinet Ministers to vote for the resolution.

Now all of a sudden, just to follow the sequence of events, when the Premier did speak to that resolution he brought up the subject of land claims, the delicate subject of land claims. Here is what Adrian Tanner said about the subject of land claims: 'The attempt to substitute land claim negotiations for constitutional aboriginal rights can also be seen in the following statement by the Premier. He said, 'We do agree, as we had indicated in our statement on land claims over a year ago, that we are totally in favour of negotiating the whole native rights situation, but negotiating it like we have indicated, like we wanted to is one thing, inclusion in the Constitution is another.' Now, he wanted to, he said, but he cannot do it. The reason he could not do it, Mr. Speaker, was because, if he mentioned aboriginal rights, the other nine Premiers - he said nine, but I think there were only seven of them - would not be willing to go along with it.

MR. WARREN: It was the determining factor in 1981, when the hon. the member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry), the Premier's stiffest competition, spoke in favour of the resolution. The member for Mount Scio, and we all know to whom I am referring. I will repeat, Mr. Speaker, just in case some hon. member does not know, when the Liberal Opposition tried to force an emergency debate on aboriginal rights in the Constitution, one after another the government members opposed the idea until one of their colleagues, 'Leo Barry', made it clear that he sided with the Liberals that such a debate should be held. The Premier was then so scared that one of his former Cabinet Ministers, a member on his side could get up and convince the Premier that the debate should be held.

Now, Mr. Speaker,

'At this time Peckford quickly agreed to the debate on condition that at the end no vote would be held.' As I say, Mr. Speaker, the reason no vote was held was because he did not want to embarrass his minister from Labrador.

Mr. Speaker, right

through the debate on November 24 the theme was, 'However just the principle of aboriginal rights may be, Newfoundland cannot agree to it without knowing how much the principle is going to cost the Province.' Now that was the concern.

If we go back to Hansard -

MR. TOBIN: You are supposed to give your own opinion here, not somebody else's. You should not be reading from a paper. You will never be leader that way, Garf.

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, I ask for the protection of the Chair. I would also like to suggest to the member for Placentia West (Mr. Tobin) that he refer to a member by his district, not by his first name.

MR. SIMMS: Burin-Placentia West. You have to do the same thing, only use the right name.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:

I am doing okay.

MR. SIMMS:

Instead of reading somebody

else's read your own speech.

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, it goes on:

'Newfoundland cannot agree to it without knowing how much it will cost.' And every member on that side who spoke on November 24, 1981, said, 'What is it going to cost us? How much is it going to cost us to look after 2,000 native people?' That was the big bottom line, the big concern, how much it was going to cost us.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, the important fact is that we have native people in this Province and we should respect them, which this government did not do until they were forced to.

The Premier said today in the half hour he was speaking, 'This government is concerned about the future of the native people.'

MR. WARREN: Just today, Mr. Speaker, in the Question Period the Premier said, and the Premier was right proud today when he brought in this resolution -

MR. SIMMS: He is going on Provincial Affairs next Saturday, by the way.

MR. WARREN: Good! Good! I hope he will do as good a job as the man did there last week.

MR. SIMMS: Your campaign speech, I can visualize it now around the 15th., in Gander, when you make your announcement about the leadership.

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, when the Premier brought in this resolution today, the Premier said, 'We are concerned about the native people, we are concerned about the land claims.' Mr. Speaker, it is ironic. How can a person, the Premier of this Province, talk out of both sides of his mouth? It is not very easy but he did it within the past hour. In response to a question today to the hon. Minister of the Environment (Mr. Andrews), to the hon. the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth (Mr. Simms), who is responsible for wildlife, and to the Premier concerning Strange Lake, the answers we got back were there was no monitoring going on; the only monitoring that is going on is watching the Quebec officials. The Minister of the Environment did not even know there was such a place up there. The only thing he is concerned about is, if development takes place, then we will do an environmental impact study.

Now, Mr. Speaker, these are the kind of ministers -

MR. SIMMS: (Inaudible) vote for you now.

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to be heard in silence.

MR. SIMMS: I am sorry. I apologize.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas): Order, please!

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, these are the kind of ministers that we have in this Province, who, just an hour before the Premier brought in this resolution, were contrary to what it says.

MR. SIMMS: What does that have to do with Strange Lake?

MR. WARREN: It has a lot to do with Strange Lake because the Premier is talking about land claims in this resolution.

SIMMS: Do not get excited, just explain it to me.

MR. WARREN: Okay. What does this have to do with Strange Lake? In this resolution that the Premier brought in, he is referring to land claims acquired, land claims that will be ongoing. The lands claims that will be ongoing are the ones that are ongoing now.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas): Order, please!

It being five o'clock, I would like to inform the House there are no questions for the Late Show.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: What? What?

MR. MARSHALL: No questions again for the Late Show, Some Opposition!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the member for Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, before I was so rudely interrupted by the hon. gentlemen, I was saying this resolution concerns land claims. And the minister knows, and the Premier knows - that minister there does not know - that there are ongoing claims now with the Province and with Ottawa about territory in Labrador, and Strange Lake is included in Labrador.

MR. ANDREWS: What do you mean, I did not know?

MR. WARREN: You did not mean by the way you answered the question.

MR. SIMMS:
you talking about?

All he said was, What are

MR. WARREN:
Premier brings in this resolution and what happens he is
contradicting what was said in the past about the native
people. The Premier cannot go along

MR. WARREN: is scared, because if the Premier would adjust honestly and sincerely the native people's claims, the native people's concerns, then he knows it will have some effect on development. I know it will have some effect on development, but let us face it, let us stand up and address those concerns now. If not it is still going to continue and you will see the Minister of the Environment, who is acting like a fool in the doorway, coming in two years down the road saying, We will have an impact study on Strange Lake. Then it will be too late, Mr. Speaker. The George River caribou herd will be destroyed by then by the activity, even by the activity that was going on in the George River area this past Summer.

Mr. Speaker, it is high time that this government recognized that the native people of Labrador are not to be taken for granted. They are not going to be taken for granted any more. Past administrations, from 1949, Joey's administration, the Moores' administration and now this present administration, have taken the native people for granted, but they will not be taken for granted any more.

Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to note that only last week in response to a question I posed to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Ottenheimer) which had to do with a Daniel S. de LaPenha, Hilton Head, South Carolina -

MR. SIMMS: How do you spell that last name?

MR. WARREN: How do you spell the last name? P-e-n-h-a. Penha.

MR. SIMMS: Penda?

MR. WARREN: I suppose your pronunciation might be different than mine, but, anyhow, it is some foreigner.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice responded, and you would not

MR. WARREN: believe the kind of
ridiculous answer he gave us.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: The question was
ridiculous.

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, the question
was, knowing that the Premier was going to bring in this
resolution, and this resolution says that the native people
will be protected, were the native people advised about
this land claim being before the Supreme Court of
Newfoundland? The Minister of Justice (Mr. Ottenheimer)
said, no, why should they?

Now, here is the Premier,
on the one hand, saying the Constitution is for the native
people, when the minister will let a case go to the Supreme
Court of Newfoundland that could affect the lives of any
native people in this Province. That is the kind of
government we have over there, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMMS: What was his answer?

MR. WARREN: The minister's answer was
that he did not think they should have been notified. But,
he said, if there is an appeal -

MR. SIMMS: I am sure he did not mean
it.

MR. WARREN: I hope the hon. minister
did not mean it. But the minister did say, If there is an
appeal, I am sure that the Inuit people will be advised.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: It had nothing to do with
land claims, it had to do with the territorial integrity of the
Province.

MR. WARREN: And it has to do with land
claims. It has to do with land claims.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: They do not need me to
send newspapers up to them. The hon. gentleman reads
newspapers, if he was so interested, he would have told them.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, the reason I did not tell them is the same reason the minister did not tell the native people. He did not tell anyone. No one knew but a couple of lawyers and people in the Supreme Court. These are the only people who knew.

AN HON. MEMBER: You knew about it.

MR. WARREN: Yes, after it came out.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: You should read the newspapers. It came out months ago, months ago.

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, it came out in the newspapers after the fact. The minister cannot get off the hook on this one, nor the Premier, nor the Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor), nor the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Andrews), now the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth (Mr. Simms). Put your act together, gentlemen, get your act together, and then you will do wonders for the native people. Unless you act collectively, it is going to be a sad day for the native people because this resolution which the Premier brought in today -

MR. SIMMS: The President of the Council (Mr. Marshall), what did he have to say about it?

MR. WARREN: He has not said anything yet, I do not think.

MR. BAIRD: His time is up, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WARREN: I wish to advise the hon. the member for Humber West (Mr. Baird) that I have at least until five thirty and some time again tomorrow. So I will continue as long as I can to try to knock something into some of the heads on that side, that the native people have to be listened to.

Mr. Speaker, I suppose it is an error that is not worthy of note, but, in fact, the

MR. WARREN: Premier was not one of the signatories to this Accord, it was the Minister of Justice (Mr. Ottenheimer). So it was the Minister of Justice who put his signature to the Accord and not the Premier, and this was brought out by the lawyer for the Native Association who attended the meeting back in November of 1982, I think it was.

Mr. Speaker, I have all kinds of things here that I can relate to hon. members about how frustrating it has been. If we are concerned, as the Premier and I hope he was being honest today. He has not been so far. I hope it was a new leaf.

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

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas): Order, please!
A point of order, the hon. the President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: It is time to give the hon. gentleman some shock treatment. He is not allowed to impugn the honesty of anybody. I mean, the hon. gentleman gets up, and I

MR. MARSHALL: know the hon. gentleman does not mean it, but I know the hon. gentleman equally - oh, look at the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary). He is alive and well and bestrides this Assembly like a colossi. But, Mr. Speaker, he impugned the honesty of an hon. member, namely the Premier, and I think he should be asked to retract it.

MR. NEARY: To that point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas): To that point of order, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. mugwump, when he was raising his point of order, used a very unparliamentary term when he said my hon. colleague needed some shock treatment. Now, Mr. Speaker, your honour knows that that kind of a remark in this House is unparliamentary and I ask that the hon. gentleman be directed to withdraw it.

MR. SPEAKER: To that point of order: The point of order was about the comment impugning the Premier's honesty and it was said by the hon. member. I would ask him to withdraw it.

MR. WARREN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, there is no problem there. I am sure the Premier does not want to be dishonest to this House or dishonest to anybody else, but I hope that today he was honest.

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

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, when the mugwump there opposite made his point of order, he used unparliamentary language.

MR. YOUNG: He did not. He was telling the truth.

MR. NEARY: He certainly did use

MR. NEARY: unparliamentary language.
You cannot case aspersions or reflections on the physical or mental capabilities of anybody in this House, Mr. Speaker. The hon. gentleman knows that. The unparliamentary language that the hon.gentleman used was 'some shock treatment'. Mr. Speaker, if you research the rules of order in Beauchesne you will discover that that is unparliamentary, but I understand it is typical of the kind of poison the hon. gentleman squirts across the floor of this House. Only the hon. gentleman would be capable of making such a lowdown statement to this House, Mr. Speaker, and it is no wonder the administration try to keep him off television. Every time he gets on he loses thousands of votes for the administration. I would submit that the Chair direct the hon. gentleman to withdraw these nasty remarks.

MR. MARSHALL: To that point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER(McNicholas): To the point or order, the hon. the President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman was out having a drag on his Panamanian cigar -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL: - and did not hear what I said. Mr. Speaker, all I said with respect to the hon. gentleman, after listening to the hon. gentleman for half an hour, was that he needed a shock and we all needed shock treatment having listened to him. That was myself, so I withdraw it if I made an aspersion against myself. But, I mean, the hon. gentleman is being ridiculous. The hon. member for Torngat Mountains(Mr. Warren) got up and he withdrew an unparliamentary expression, which he ought to.

MR. NEARY: Well, now, you withdraw yours.

MR. MARSHALL: I will do nothing.

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MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas): To that point of order,
the hon. the President of the Council (Mr. Marshall) has
withdrawn that remark.

The hon. the member for
Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I do not know, Mr. Speaker,
but it appears that members on that side of the House really
think that when you talk about native people in this
Province

MR. WARREN: it is a laughing matter.
When you talk about native people in this Province and you look across at the backbenchers over there, and you look at the ministers especially the minister responsible for wildlife (Mr. Simms), you can see it is just a laughing matter. I can assure hon. members it is no laughing matter when you are talking about 2,000 people in this Province this government is trying to destroy. It is no laughing matter, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMMS: I agree, it is no laughing matter.

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, I want to further state that the reason that this motion -

MR. SIMMS: Go on, you mugwump.

MR. WARREN: Look how silly the minister is. You should be ashamed of yourself my friend. You should be ashamed of yourself. You do not have any respect at all for the native people. Why do you not go back to Grand Falls and put on your monkey suit?

MR. NEARY: And he was the Speaker
of the House at one time.

AN HON. MEMBER: He is uncouth.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, to a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas): A point of order, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, one of the rules of this House is that a member has a right to be heard in silence in this House. Now my hon. colleague is continuously being interrupted by hon. gentlemen there opposite who think they can take the House on their backs. They think they own the House; they allow the public servants to walk in on the floor of the House, they do what they like, they change the rules whenever they feel like it. Mr. Speaker, we have precedents in this session of the House that are unheard of.

MR. MARSHALL:

Why do you not tell them about -

MR. NEARY:

Well, that particular gentleman, by the way, is the fellow I defeated back in 1966 and he is bound to get in on the floor of the House one way or another. Legally or illegally he is going to come in on the floor of the House. Mr. Speaker, you have to get elected to get in on the floor of this House.

But the point I am making is my hon. friend has a right to be heard in silence and I would ask the Chair to direct the rowdies on the other side to restrain themselves. Mr. Speaker, my hon. colleague is making a good speech and we want to hear what he has to say.

MR. SPEAKER(McNicholas):

To that point of order, the hon. member has the right to be heard in silence, and I would ask all hon. members to acknowledge and honour that.

MR. WARREN:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

When Adrian Tanner was doing his summary on the actions of the Premier back in November of 1981, and the actions of other members in this House, Mr. Speaker, with respect to a resolution that we were debating, he did say that the native people wanted something stronger in the Constitution. That was their request. They went and met with the Premier and the Premier made a promise to them - I do not know whether it was in the Premier's office or not - that he would make sure that he would satisfy their wishes. In fact, he wrote them a letter the next day, which was delivered to me about a quarter to three by the native people, and his response to the native people's objections was that the word 'existing' did not change anything. He did not interpret the word in the narrow, legalistic sense that worried the native people. However, he offered no hope that the term would be dropped.

MR. WINDSOR:

Trudeau would not

drop it.

MR. WARREN:

That is right. That is

exactly the answer, and I thank the hon. the minister for bringing it up, he would not drop it because the Prime Minister, who was in the same bed with the Premier at the time, would not let the word 'existing' be dropped. That is the reason,

MR. WARREN: that is the reason. And the Premier did not have the intestinal fortitude of standing up and being counted as a person representing Newfoundland and Labrador including the Native people. That was the reason, Mr. Speaker.

In fact, it went to the point that the letter the Premier actually sent to the Native leaders shattered, I repeat that word, Mr. Speaker, shattered any hope for a relationship or trust. The letter that the Premier wrote to the Native people, and Mr. Speaker, that letter is available upon request, it sort of gave no trust at all. It sort of shattered any relationship or trust.

However, there were lessons to be learned from the experience of the campaign to reinsert aboriginal rights into the Constitution. Here is one of the lessons, Mr. Speaker. First it is clear that among the politicians on both sides of the Provincial House of Assembly very few knew very much about the issue. Although there were eight or nine people spoke, very few knew very much about the issue, except in respect of Mr. Peckford, and possibly Leo Barry, who will make the decisions on these issues. And this is from the support group. They are saying that the Premier is going to make the decisions regardless, come Hell or high water.

Mr. Speaker, I must say one thing, I am glad for one thing, that the Premier did see fit to bring this resolution in. But at the same time when he was bringing in the resolution, only a matter of an hour before, there were some vital questions asked of two ministers in the House, including the Premier, about land in Labrador that is contingent on land claims, and the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Andrews), and the Premier, in response to

MR. WARREN: a question from the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary), said that there are permits issued by both governments, by the Quebec Government and by the Province.

Mr. Speaker,
with all due respect to the Premier, one of his statements is not factual. Either this resolution he is bringing in, or his response to the question today, one of the things he is saying is incorrect. Why would the Premier and the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Andrews) be issuing permits and allowing work or surveys to be going on in the Strange Lake area—which is included in the Native land claims synopsis that the Province has their hands on, which is included in the synopsis that the federal government has their hands on—why is it that the Premier would allow movement to go ahead in Strange Lake if he is concerned about the resolution he just brought forward? Because the resolution states that any land claims that are on the negotiating table will be looked at or any others added, which include the proposed ones that the Premier has known to be ongoing for the last year and a half or two years.

The Liberal Government under Mr. Smallwood did not give very much respect to the Native people. The Moores' Administration gave less respect to the Native people. And this administration is trying

MR. WARREN:

to do one thing, take the 2,000 or so Native people in this Province and try to twist them around their small finger. But it is not going to work. The Native people have stood up before, the Native people have put the Premier in the corner. The Native people have cornered the Premier and he could not get his big wishes of going forward and having the Constitution adopted on the 26th of November, 1981. He really thought he would, Mr. Speaker. And I will repeat for the Premier's benefit in case he might have missed anything - well, he missed one thing, he missed the response the Minister of Justice (Mr. Ottenheimer) made with reference to land claims by an individual outsider and on territory in Labrador, he missed that much. And he also missed, Mr. Speaker, the reason the Premier, although he did not say it publicly, but the reason was there and the Native people know the reason too, that the reason why the Premier would not have any vote on November 25th is because he knew if there was a vote carried forward his Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development (Mr. Goudie), the minister responsible for Labrador, because he does have a conscience, that is one thing I will say about the hon. member, he does have a conscience and he would be forced, his conscience would have forced him to vote for the resolution that I brought into the House. But the Premier did not want a vote and he got his way, having forty-four members to eight in the House, the resolution would not be brought to a vote and subsequently there was no vote carried. But the underlying current was there, he did not want to upset the apple cart. And the Premier can come in with what resolutions he wants in this hon. House, like he came in today. He came in all full of smiles saying that they were going to support a resolution for the

MR. WARREN: Native people, knowingly and probably hopefully that no media or anyone else would pick up the double turn that he has made, could put up the 360 degree turn that the Premier has made since November 1981. He was the same gentleman, the Premier of the Province at the same time, who came in here in November 1981 and wanted to leave the word 'existing' in the Constitution, and he wanted the full unanimous support of this hon. House. Now he comes in because, Mr. Speaker, he has no other choice. And we are ready to support this, sure. We will support this resolution, Mr. Speaker, because it is a resolution that should not have been necessary in the first place. It was just another ongoing confrontation and this time it was with the Native peoples with an extra year and a half which was not necessary. The member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry).

MR. SIMMS: Where?

MR. WARREN: You know who the hon. member is. Most hon. members over there, if there was a leadership convention called on this side today, most likely a lot of them would support him.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, can I have the protection of the Chair, please?

Mr. Speaker, I only wish the Premier, if he is going to respond at the closing of this resolution, would be factual with the Native peoples about the meeting of 23-24 November, 1981.

MR. WARREN:

and tell us why he would not agree at that time to take the necessary changes that the Native people requested. It was not a big deal, but the reason was because the Prime Minister and Mr. Lougheed and Mr. Blakney would be on his back, that is the reason, Mr. Speaker.

You can read it whichever way we like, Mr. Speaker, that the Premier of the Province, up until one hour ago when he brought in this resolution, he was right down on the totem pole as regards the Native people. I believe the Premier realizes that, and, yes, the Premier will get some credit for that, and the Native people will give him some credit for it. But the credit has to go to those delegations, those people from Labrador and from Conne River who came out and pushed the Premier into a corner and forced him and stopped him from not going ahead with his ultimate aim of wiping out the Native people. That was the ultimate aim, let us get the word 'existing' in there.

If the Premier had his way what would have happened, and what the Premier was after, and this has been said by the Native people in Labrador and in Conne River, if the Premier had his way what would have happened is that there would not have been any meetings with the Native people, this would not have come about, and then there would not be any talk of lands claim at all in Labrador. The Premier has not yet identified his government's position on lands claim.

Mr. Speaker, seeing it is 5:30, I adjourn the debate.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell):

It has been noted that the hon. member for Torngat Mountains adjourn the debate.

This being Thursday and there are no items for the Late Show, it is deemed that a motion

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MR. SPEAKER (Russell):

to adjourn has been made.

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

Index

Answers to questions

tabled

December 1, 1983

*Called by Hon. Min
of Culture, Recreation
& Youth, 1 Dec. '83*

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS 153, 154, and 155 AS THEY ARE RELEVANT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION AND YOUTH:

153. (1) My Department did no electronic advertising.
- (2) My Department did no print advertising.
- (3) My Department acquired no medals, pins, medallions, etc. for the 400th Anniversary Celebrations.
- (4) The Co-ordinator was paid \$16,000 for an eight-month contract.
- (5) (a) The Honourable Len Simms, June 12-18. Expenses - \$3,482.76 from the 400th Anniversary budget of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Youth for airfare, hotel and per diem - to participate in 400th Anniversary Celebrations in London, Plymouth and Bristol.
- (b) Mr. John Perlin, the Director of Cultural Affairs (Chairman of the 400th Anniversary Committee).
- Two trips to the U.K. in conjunction with the exhibition program and finalization of the Newfoundland programme in London, Plymouth and Bristol.
- | | |
|--------------------|------------|
| March 27 - April 1 | \$1,109.55 |
| June 7 - 18 | 2,024.75 |
- (6) (a) Mrs. W.R. Gilbert, Chatelaine Compton Castle, Ancestral Home of Sir Humphrey Gilbert.
- (b) Councillor and Mrs. Francis Gilbert of the Devon County Council all from Devon, England to take part in the August Celebrations at St. John's, Grand Falls and Corner Brook.
- Transatlantic airfares and internal flights in Newfoundland and accommodations. Total expenses - \$4,048.51.
- (c) Mr. Nicholas Dodd, designer of the Newfoundland Postal Exhibit to supervise its initial installation and set up in Newfoundland. Total expenses including airfare: \$1,258.99.
- (7) No expense was incurred by my Department.

SUMMARY OF GRANTS PROVIDED STUDENTS
BY THE GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
FOR THE YEARS 1981-82, 1982-83 AND SO FAR THIS YEAR

| | <u>NUMBER OF STUDENTS RECEIVED GRANTS</u> | <u>AMOUNT RECEIVED</u> \$ |
|--|---|------------------------------|
| September 1, 1981 to August 31, 1982 | 4,254 | 6,729,137 |
| September 1, 1982 to August 31, 1983 | 7,071 | 12,066,664 |
| September 1, 1983 to December 1, 1983 | 3,860 | 5,545,957 |

December 1, 1983.