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PRELIMINARY

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TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

FOR THE PERIOD:

3:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1983

The House met at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

MR. GOUDIE: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development.

MR. GOUDIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I wish to advise the general public that government will be enforcing the regulations regarding sod and topsoil removal again this Summer in the St. John's Agriculture Development area. The agriculture regulations are designed to preserve the agricultural land base; therefore, activities which destroy, remove or degrade the soil resource are not permitted.

The typical pasture sod contains a considerable amount of soil and plant nutrients regardless of how carefully it is removed. Tests by the Department indicate that sods contain between 60 to 150 tons per acre of topsoil, organic matter and plant nutrients. Sod and topsoil removal therefore depletes an irreplaceable natural resource and reduces the capability of the land to produce agricultural food commodities. Because topsoil takes hundreds of years to form and the soils around St. John's are very thin in any case, sod and topsoil removal is unacceptable.

I wish to advise that failure to comply with the regulations could result in prosecutions.

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, if anyone needs a lecture on duties and responsibilities it is a minister who makes such trivial statements as the hon. minister just made. I would suggest to the hon. House Leader (Mr. Marshall) that he should read Beauchesne concerning the rules of parliament and probably he could come up with guidelines for ministers to follow in reading Ministerial Statements.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, first of all let me say that this morning I wrote a very long letter of apology to Mr. Ian Langlands, Chairman of the Fisheries Council of Canada, in connection with the unfortunate lapse of judgment of the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) in this Province, whom I know now must regret his words. I feel that the hon. gentleman is not a true racist but the matter is not going to go away, Mr. Speaker. Would the Premier tell the House if he has dealt with this matter, is he in the process of dealing with this matter or does he intend to ignore it?

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I indicated to this House my position on that some time ago. My position remains as it was then, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WARREN: Shame!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, we in the Liberal caucus would like to table this letter for the benefit and the information of hon. gentlemen and for the media. Now would the hon. gentleman tell us what his position is on this matter, Mr. Speaker? Or is he aware that the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) will not be able to function adequately within the area of marketing, international conferences, national conferences and so forth? The credibility of the hon. gentleman has been so severely battered and bruised and damaged that it will be impossible for him to function efficiently and adequately when attending these meetings in future, Mr. Speaker. What does the hon. gentleman have to say about that?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I do not know, but I think the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) was here when I made my position abundantly clear some time ago, and I am sure the hon. Leader of the Opposition is aware of that position. I am sure that he does not want me to take up the Question Period repeating what I had said earlier.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Leader of the Opposition, a supplementary question.

MR. NEARY: To my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman said he would take the matter under

MR. NEARY: advisement. The matter has been under advisement now for over a week and a half ten days. Now would the hon. gentleman tell us what the position is now? Would he care to restate his position?

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: No, Mr. Speaker, I have my position clear and it remains the same as it was a week or two ago.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Leader of the Opposition, a supplementary question.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, this is the fourth time now the Premier has defended the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan). Hon. gentlemen will recall the Auditor General took the hon. minister to task when he was Minister of Transportation.

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

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

MR. MARSHALL: The hon. gentleman is making a speech in Question Period.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

I did permit some preamble when the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) first introduced his question. I would request that he direct his question now to the appropriate minister.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, this is the fourth time that the hon. Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) has been defended by the hon. Premier for very serious and grave matters.

MR. NEARY:

Would the hon. gentleman tell the House, when he took the matter under advisement, what steps then he took to deal with this situation?

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

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I have indicated to the hon. member on a number of occasions, and in the other question that he just asked, that my position is clear, I made my position clear some time ago, and I do not intend to pursue the matter any further with the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary).

MR. NEARY: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman says he made his position clear. Nobody in the House or nobody outside the House knows what the hon. gentleman's position is. The hon. gentleman merely said in this House in reply to some questioning some time ago that he would take the matter under advisement. What is the hon. gentleman's position on this matter?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, it is the same question and I can only give the same answer.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, we can only assume the hon. gentleman has no position, that he does indeed intend for the fourth time to defend the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan). So, therefore, Mr. Speaker, I hope that the letter that we wrote, we had the courage to write -

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

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

A point of order, the hon.

President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman does not seem to understand that either he is in Question Period. The fact of the matter is that this is Question Period and the hon. gentleman is making a speech.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

To that point of order, I would ask the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) to direct his question to the appropriate minister.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Well, Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Opposition have taken it upon themselves to write a letter of apology to the Fishery Council of Canada, would the hon. gentleman indicate if, as head of the administration, and the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) was speaking for the hon. gentleman and speaking for the President of the Council (Mr. Marshall) and speaking for the ministers, and representing the Queen, when he spoke down at that Fishery Council meeting.

Would the hon. gentleman indicate if it is his intention to follow the example set by the Opposition and that is to send out a letter of apology on behalf of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador to the Fishery Council of Canada and to all the delegates who attended that international conference?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition and the Opposition are free to do as they wish on any major issue, and it is quite within their right to do it. I will do and this administration, this government,

PREMIER PECKFORD: will do what it intends to do.  
When we do anything we will let the hon. Leader of the  
Opposition (Mr. Neary) know and the House know and the  
people of Newfoundland know. So, you know, the Leader of  
the Opposition can take whatever position he likes, that  
is quite within his right to do. I am not going to  
argue with the Leader of the Opposition's position,  
that is quite all right with me.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.



MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. Leader of the Opposition, a supplementary question.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, let me ask the hon. the Premier if he thinks that the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) can function adequately now when dealing with the people who market our fish, people in the international markets, people on the national fisheries scene. All these people from all over the world who attended this conference, does he think now that his Minister of Fisheries can function to his full capacity as a result of this distasteful thing that happened down at the Fishery Council of Canada, or does he think he should be replaced and somebody else should do the job?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I have made my position clear on the matter and I have no more to say on it.

MR. NEARY: What is your position?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Fogo.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries, but in his absence I will ask it to the Premier, I am referring, of course, to the notice of layoffs that has been given by Fishery Products to some 750 plant workers, as I understand it, at Catalina, Marystown, and Trepassey.

AN HON. MEMBER: Eight hundred and fifty.

MR. TULK: Some 750 or 800, whatever. Would the Premier tell the House if he was aware of these layoffs before today's announcements?

MR. SPEAKER: I just heard about it. I just got in town a few minutes ago, I just drove in from my constituency, but I will take the matter under advisement and have an answer for the hon. member before the day is out.

MR. TULK: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. member for Fogo, a supplementary question.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, I understand that one of the reasons that has been given by Fishery Products is the reason of fish supply, I would like to ask the Premier if indeed that is the case, if it is a case of fish supply, or is it a case of what we heard the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) announce last week and say in this House, and I believe say outside of the House, that indeed Fishery Products may indeed be very close to bankruptcy, or may be unable to pay their bills? Are they now trying to save those funds through layoffs or what is the situation with Fishery Products at this time with regard to that statement?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: I will get the information for the hon. member and let him know before the day is out, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Fogo.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, let me ask the Premier another supplementary question that he can perhaps again get the answer for if he does not already know. In view of the restructuring negotiations that are presently taking place in Ottawa whereby we all hope in this Province that the problems being experienced by the deep-sea fishery will be resolved, will the Premier now approach Fishery Products asking them to see that those layoff notices are withdrawn until such time as restructuring has taken place?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: We have been doing all in our power along those lines and we will continue to do all in our power to see that no jobs are lost, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. member for Fogo, a supplementary question.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, a couple of days ago I believe, three or four days ago, Fishery Products were bragging about a \$100,000 profit that they had made. I would ask the Premier, in view of the notices of layoffs that they have given to those 800 people, if indeed he would perhaps appoint a group of auditors, or a firm of accountants to look into the financial operations of Fishery Products to

MR. TULK: see if the company is indeed making a profit, or to see if it is indeed gouging perhaps the people of this Province as fish companies in this Province have been known to do before. Are they now bragging about a gouging that took place or are they really making a profit or just what is the situation with them? It seems strange to me, Mr. Speaker, that where you have a layoff of 800 coming up that a company that just recently announced it had made a profit now seems to be saying, well, we are not going to put on a second shift. Would the Premier investigate that as well?

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

PREMIER PECKFORD: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker,

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

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour and Manpower (Mr. Dinn).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The hon. member for Terra Nova.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour and Manpower and it relates to the Ocean Ranger enquiry that is presently going on. Throughout that enquiry, Mr. Speaker, the matter of the government's local preference policy keeps cropping up and not in a very favourable way. I think in the present sitting now senior personnel from ODECO indicated that there was great pressure applied from the provincial government to hire untrained, unqualified, unskilled, personnel. I wonder if the minister could comment on this very, very, important issue?

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

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated many times here in the House, we have a registry that indicates the qualifications of Newfoundlanders that was supplied to all companies. It is the responsibility of the company to check these qualifications to make sure that they are hiring qualified people, and under no circumstances does my department, or anyone else in government, force anybody to hire any unqualified people.

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

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, again the senior official, before the hearing a couple of days ago, said that there was an implied threat from the government to the effect that if the company did not hire

MR. LUSH:

Newfoundlanders that the government would cancel their licence. Mr. Speaker, could the minister comment on that? Coming from a very senior official of ODECO, could the minister please indicate whether or not this is an accurate assessment, that this is an accurate statement by officials of ODECO?

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

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker, I am certainly willing to await the outcome of the Ocean Ranger inquiry to see what the results are and what the recommendations are. I can assure the hon. member that no company has been pressured into hiring any unqualified people.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. LUSH: It is all very well for the minister to say that he is going to await the final results of the inquiry, wait until it is carried on to its logical conclusion, but, Mr. Speaker, these are serious accusations, very serious accusations, and certainly the minister now has the opportunity to shed some light on these accusations and certainly alleviate and allay the fears of the people of this Province. Again, Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious accusation when a senior official of ODECO would say that his company was threatened with having their licences suspended. So can the minister indicate, Mr. Speaker - it is a simple, straightforward question-whether there was indeed a threat issued, whether ODECO was threatened with losing their permits to operate if they did not take these Newfoundlanders. It is a simple, straightforward question and one that needs to be answered.

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

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker, I am surprised the hon. member does not realize that I have shed a great deal of light on the question the hon. member asked when I said that no company operating in the offshore of Newfoundland has been forced to hire any unqualified people, they are simply given a registry where qualifications are listed, and it is the responsibility of the company to see to it that these people have the qualifications for which they have listed qualifications. So it seems to me that is a great deal of light for me to shed on what the hon. member's concerns are.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, it certainly seems rather strange that this matter should keep cropping up all the time in the hearings. Yesterday was not the first time, they have kept cropping up continually whenever officials of ODECO are questioned. So my final question to the minister is, Were there any pressures of any kind applied or exercised with the companies in terms of taking on unqualified Newfoundlanders? It does not necessarily have to be threats. Were there letters written; were there phone calls made, were there ambassadors sent

MR. LUSH:

to apply pressure unnecessarily on these companies to take unqualified personnel?

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker, I am not really overly concerned what an official of ODECO says at a Royal Commission of Enquiry. We were here in the House only last year or the year before when the hon. the Leader of the Opposition presented to this House an affidavit from one Andy Davidson, and it was proven later on that it had no foundation in fact at all, that the information was unreliable. So I am willing to await the outcome of the Ocean Ranger enquiry.

MR. HISCOCK: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. HISCOCK: My question, Mr. Speaker, is to the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe). Could the hon. the Minister of Transportation inform this House if the road that is being constructed from Mary's Harbour to Lodge Bay needs a bridge across the Lodge Bay River and if this bridge has been purchased, seeing that 95 per cent of the community lives on the other side where the school and the community hall, etc., are located?

MR. DAWE: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. DAWE: Mr. Speaker, the situation to which the member for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock) refers is one that was realized by this Province when initially it applied for funding under the Labrador Subsidiary Agreement and subsequently the transportation aspect of it, and there



MR. DAWE: were considerably more funds asked for in that initial agreement than were subsequently issued. And the fact of the matter is that for that particular section the funding that was available was only enough to complete the road link to the harbour. There is obviously necessary work to be done additional to that, part of which is a bridge to cross the water and the other is about a two mile stretch of road on the other side to connect the community. We are attempting and have been attempting to get the federal government to expand that programme, especially as it relates to the transportation section of it, not only to complete that particular section of road but also to complete the Red Bay section of the road to an acceptable standard. If that becomes a reality, then certainly the necessary road work will be undertaken.

MR. HISCOCK: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. the member for Eagle River, a supplementary.

MR. HISCOCK: With regard to this road, the road itself is only six miles. I have stated before I can understand where we would go for funds for the Trans-Labrador Highway, but I am a little bit amazed that we as a Province have to go to the federal government and ask for money to build a six mile road. Can the minister inform this House, with the Coastal Labrador DREE agreement, which will not run out until 1985, will

MR. HISCOCK: the people of Lodge Bay have to wait until a new agreement is signed or will the provincial government putting this bridge there itself?

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. Minister of Transportation.

MR. DAWE: Mr. Speaker, I have already indicated that to say we are only talking about a six mile piece of road is completely irrelevant to the situation. We are talking about a transportation sector of a Labrador agreement which involves a considerable amount of road work, and that six mile stretch of road happens only to hook into that major work that is being done on the Straits.

So it is a package, it is a programme that was designed to help alleviate some of the isolation of a number of communities on the Straits of Labrador rather than to become involved in a resettlement programme that was a popular opinion some time ago, and fortunately is no longer a position of the government in power.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. DAWE: The situation is that we have continuously indicated that the funding available to do the necessary transportation work in that particular area is not sufficient, and we have subsequently consistently approached the federal government to expand that agreement or continue on with the agreement, either with funding after the present agreement expired or to in fact include additional funding in the present agreement so that particular section of road and that particular community can be hooked up to a consistent network.

MR. HISCOCK: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. HISCOCK: Mr. Speaker, the children who have to go to school on the other side, in the Spring and in the Fall these children are put in a boat, a rope is attached and the boat hauled across the ice so that it will not go through the ice when the thawing begins. Is the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe) saying that now they have to wait for the federal government to get enough money to construct this bridge, that we, as a Province with over \$2 billion being spent this year, cannot find \$200,000 for this bridge?

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. Minister of Transportation.

MR. DAWE: Mr. Speaker, we have always been ready, as indicated by the agreement that is presently in place, to put in our share. As it relates to the construction of roads in Labrador, we just recently reached agreement in principle for a Trans-Labrador Highway where the Province is putting in its share, a substantial share, an increase of 5 percentage points over a previously agreed upon transportation network in Labrador. We are still willing to put in our share, Mr. Speaker, and we will be continuing to encourage the federal government to live up to what we consider to be a substantial amount of their responsibility in making sure that the communities in Labrador have the same kind of transportation opportunities as other people in the Province.

MR. SPEAKER: Before I introduce the hon. member, with your permission I would like to welcome to our galleries seventeen students from Renfrew, Ontario,

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): together with their host students from Gander. The students from Ontario are here on an exchange visit and it gives me great pleasure to welcome them to our galleries.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: I am also delighted to welcome to our galleries sixteen students and two teachers, Bernice Pearce and Kevin Snook from Frampton Elementary from Monkstown in the district of Burin-Placentia West.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Fogo.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Premier a supplementary, if I could, to my original question, and it comes out of his answer. I asked originally if he was aware before the impending layoffs were announced by Fishery Products in Marystown, Catalina and Trepassey. I think the Premier said to me that he had just got back from his district and would attempt to get me the answers. The question that still remains, Mr. Speaker, is is the Premier now telling me that he was not aware of this before he went to his district, or is he telling me that he is not now aware of it, or is he telling me that we have a situation here, similar to other companies in this Province they have laid off workers in very essential industries and have told them afterwards? Just what is the Premier saying with that answer?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I told the hon. member that I would get all the information concerning the situation for him and for the House before the day is out and I will keep that undertaking.

MR. TULK: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward):

A supplementray question -

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, that question can be answered immediately. Now is the Premier refusing to answer the question? Obviously if the hon. gentleman knew about it, if he had prior notice, he can answer the question right away. He does not have to go and look for the information. The hon. gentleman either knows about it or he did not know about it. Yes or No, it is as simple as that.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I told the hon. members that I will get all the information for them before the day is out and give them the information.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, the other day when we were discussing hiring for the Summer holiday period, seasonal workers for Summer employment, we

MR. NEARY:

were told by hon. gentlemen there opposite that if we could come up with a case of where there was discrimination, where the policy of not what you know but who you know is being followed, that hon. gentlemen would look into it. So I am going to put this question to the Premier in connection with an assistant forest ranger who is being hired for Paddy's Pond. My understanding is that three names were submitted of young Newfoundlanders, students in the College of Trades and Technology Forestry course. These three gentlemen were tested, met all the qualifications and their names were submitted to the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. Power), Mr. Speaker, is the hon. gentleman aware that these names were not accepted by the minister but instead the hon. gentleman sent back one of his own constituents, who was not qualified to fill the job, who eventually had to be turned away? And then he sent back a second constituent. Now would the hon. gentleman tell the House is that the policy that is being followed by this administrator for hiring for Summer employment in this Province?

MR. POWER: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): A point of privilege, the hon. Minister of Forest Resources and Lands.

MR. POWER: Three persons have been interviewed. Nobody has been hired for the job. There are still interviews being done, recommendatins being taken, and in due course somebody very qualified will be hired for that job.

MR. SPEAKER: To that point of privilege, I rule that there is no case for a point of privilege.

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to answer the question the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) asked. I think the minister has now taken care of the situation. I was not aware of it but I would be willing to look into it if the hon. Leader of the Opposition had given me the information.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, all the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. Power) did was to try to clear his own skirts. I am asking the hon. gentleman, in the interest of fair play to see that justice is done in the hiring for Summer employment, if he would look into this particular case of the hiring of an assistant forest ranger down at Paddy's Pond. Would the hon. gentleman thoroughly investigate that case and see if the practice of the Public Service Commission is being followed in this Province.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, this is one of the problems the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) has. The Minister of Forest Resources and Lands just answered his question saying that nobody has been hired. There was an allegation made by the Leader of the Opposition that somebody had been hired, now we have

PREMIER PECKFORD: found that the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) is wrong in his allegation. And I am sure the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. Power) is not misleading the House. If there was somebody hired, the hon. the minister would have said somebody was hired. So obviously, the Leader of the Opposition is asking questions from false information. And, you know, that is the story. I am sure that the minister, as he said, will ensure that a Newfoundlander is hired for that job as we will for all jobs that are available this Summer, Mr. Speaker, no problem there.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. the Leader of the Opposition, a supplementary question.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I did not say that the job had been filled, I said the minister is trying to manoeuvre one of his constituents into the job.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the recommendations have been made, three names have been submitted to the minister.

MR. TULK: That is right.

MR. NEARY: But the minister will not acknowledge these three names, who are qualified people who passed their test, and is now trying to manoeuvre one of his constituents in.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

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

MR. MARSHALL: This House is being pervaded by the hon. gentleman giving his own impressions, spreading



MR. MARSHALL: rumours, casting imputations, casting innuendoes. When questions are answered, he is not satisfied, he has to continue to cast the innuendo, and he is out of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): To that point of order, I rule there is a point of order. I would ask the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) if he would put his question to the appropriate minister.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the question I am putting to the Premier is, will the Premier pay particular attention to this particular position? Because I think it will be an indication to the hon. gentleman of what is happening regarding the employment of people for the Summer holidays. Would the hon. gentleman tell the House what the overall picture, what the overall policy is for hiring students and others for Summer employment? Is it left up to the ministers' discretion or do they have a procedure that can be followed to see that fair play and British justice will be done by the 500 people who will be hired for Summer employment?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if that was a question or a speech. It seems like the Leader of the Opposition wants to put all of his other members down, will not give them a chance to ask a question. I do not know why the Leader of the Opposition would know so much about trying to make allegations of hanky-panky. The Leader of the Opposition, when he was in government, never got involved in that kind of thing, Mr. Speaker.

MR. HODDER: Answer the question.

PREMIER PECKFORD: And why would the member for LaPoile even know anything about this, Mr. Speaker? Because when one looks at his record when he was a minister in the government, he was absolutely

PREMIER PECKFORD: lily white, Mr. Speaker.

Obviously what happens for Summer employment is that there are a whole range of people, a number of people, who apply and then the department chooses from the many, many people who apply. You know, that is the way it is done. Unfortunately, there are more applications than there are jobs and then decisions have to be made. But we will be and have been as fair as we can in the allocation of those jobs to individuals who are applying. We have been fair and we will continue to be fair, Mr. Speaker, That is the policy of this administration, that we are honest, aboveboard, straight and fair, Mr. Speaker, and all his little innuendoes will get the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) nowhere.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

PREMIER PECKFORD: That is the biggest thing we got in Question Period today now, is whether there was an assistant forest ranger hired out at Paddy's Pond or not, Mr. Speaker. One would think that the hon. members opposite would do their research and come into this House armed to the teeth with all kinds of substantial questions, Mr. Speaker. What do we get? Grade VI stuff. The students in the galleries must wonder what the Opposition do with all their time, do with their research assistants. I cannot understand it. I am waiting to hear some tough questions, Mr. Speaker. Come on, give us some tough questions.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

Time for Question Period has expired.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD:

I demand some tough questions,

Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward):

Order, please!

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

I would like to remind hon.

members on both sides of the House that it is impossible to carry on the business of the House when both sides are shouting back and forth at each other.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker, in answer to Question No. 112 on Order Paper No. 24 dated April 21, 1983 asked by the hon. the member for Terra Nova (Mr. Lush), "To ask the Honourable the Minister of Labour and Manpower to lay upon the Table of the House the following information : A list of the number of complaints waiting to be processed before the Labour Relations Board." Mr. Speaker, the answer is that there are two complaints before the Labour Relations Board which will be dealt with at today's board meeting.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

MR. HISCOCK: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. HISCOCK: Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition on behalf of the residents of Norman Bay in Eastern Labrador. Norman Bay is a small community of eleven or twelve families, they do not have any roads, they do not have any mail delivery, they do not have any electricity.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. HISCOCK: They only have a one room school Mr. Speaker, with two teachers teaching in that one classroom. It is not even as large as the common room that the government has on their side. The prayer of the petition is: 'We the residents of Norman Bay ask the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to install diesel power in Norman Bay. Each of us now have to use our own small private gas generators.'

MR. HISCOCK: Mr. Speaker, I have presented this petition in the House before, I have appeared before the Public Utilities Board. The government subsidizes the Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro Corporation, something like \$20 million a year, and the final result is when Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro ask for a rate increase the Public Utilities Board approves it. But it must also be approved by Cabinet and any extra money going to Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro has to come from this government. So, the reason why I am presenting this petition here is because I am asking the government to find the necessary funds so that residents in Norman Bay and also the community near it, Pinsent Arm, can have electricity. These people, Mr. Speaker, are only asking for the basic necessities of life.

MR. HISCOCK: They are asking for electricity, they are asking for an extra classroom for their school, they are asking for mail delivery, and they are also asking that Norman Bay be made a port of call by CN.

This is the community about which, when I brought it up in the House in 1979, I got a note from the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development (Mr. Goudie) asking where Norman Bay was. This government not only did not know then, but they still do not know where Norman Bay is. I think that the way we are treating those people, those citizens of Newfoundland and Canada in that part of our Province, is a crime. It is a crime and it is a black mark, Mr. Speaker, on all of us in this House of Assembly, that we allow people to live with the same conditions as people did in the 17th and 18th century.

We are celebrating our 400th anniversary, Mr. Speaker, and you would not know that we progressed in four hundred years. Here we can talk about a \$63 million agreement for Gros Morne Park, or a Trans-Labrador highway, or a new Marine Institute being built here in St. John's, and yet we have people living in other parts of our Province who have two teachers in one classroom in a school that has no electricity. They had to close down the school early in the year because of the lack of heat and light.

In these schools I also must point out, there is a small heater in the middle of the classroom and if the fire marshal saw it - if there were over fifty students he would have to close the school but because there are less than fifty students he has no jurisdiction over it. It only has one exit. I have written the Fire Commissioner on this, and he had an investigation done, but there is nothing

MR. HISCOCK: that can be done under the fire regulations.

So I ask, Mr. Speaker, that this petition be tabled in this House of Assembly, given to the Premier, and also to the Minister of Energy (Mr. Dawe) with the direction that more money be allocated to Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro so that they can start installing electricity in the community of Norman Bay.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I was hoping that somebody on the benches there opposite would support this petition. I thought the Premier would leap to his feet, because this should be right up the Premier's alley, when he talks about 'Have not will be no more', when he talks about regional disparity in this Province. Here you have a group of people in Labrador, eleven people living in Norman Bay -

MR. WARREN: Eleven families.

MR. NEARY: Eleven families, rather, living in Norman Bay without electricity, who have to depend on their own little generators. In case hon. gentleman are not aware of where Norman Bay is located, it is located between Charlottetown and Mary's Harbour. They are a hard working race of Newfoundlanders, Mr. Speaker. They are fishermen. They do not depend on the government for very much. They are

MR. NEARY: not on welfare. They are hard-working, God fearing Newfoundlanders and just because Newfoundland Hydro says you have to have fifteen families in order to qualify for a community electrification programme, Mr. Speaker, just because Newfoundland Hydro, which is a creature of this government, says there has to be fifteen families and they only have eleven, they cannot get rural electrification, and that is shameful! Where now is the Premier, the champion of the downtrodden? Mr. Speaker, he sits in his seat. You do not hear him up now championing the cause of those who are downtrodden, the oppressed and the deprived - regional disparity.

DR. COLLINS: Where? Where are they oppressed?

MR. NEARY: Down in Labrador between Charlottetown and Mary's Harbour - in case the hon. gentleman does not know where Labrador is, I will try to pinpoint it for him a little bit.

MR. WARREN: He does not know about anything outside the Overpass.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, that policy should be changed. Eleven families should be quite sufficient to justify rural electrification. What the hon. gentleman is doing through the back door is forcing these people into resettlement. That is what the hon. gentleman is doing, trying to force these people to resettle, Mr. Speaker. And it is not right, it is not fair, and my hon. colleague should be commended for bringing in this petition on behalf of these eleven families, a very important petition. And I hope that hon. gentlemen there opposite, especially the Premier, who is always trying to portray the image of being a fighting Newfoundlander, fighting for the rights of the underdog, the downtrodden, the deprived, and talking about regional disparity, here is an example now, Mr. Speaker,



MR. NEARY: where the hon. gentleman can do something about it, the hon. gentleman can show his sincerity. Or is the hon. gentleman just bluffing the people of this Province? Mr. Speaker, I hope the hon. gentleman will now stand in his place and say, 'Yes, I am going to order cousin Vic to change that policy so that the people in Norman Bay can get rural electrification, something that everybody else in the Province takes for granted.' Mr. Speaker, in this day and age you can just take it for granted.

MR. WARREN: It is unreal.

MR. NEARY: It is unreal when you hear of petitions being brought in like the one brought in by my hon. colleague.

MR. HISCOCK: The champion of Churchill Falls.

MR. NEARY: That is right, all they can think about are the mega projects.

I had occasion this Winter to travel through Southern Labrador with my colleague, Mr. Speaker, and I met a lot of people in that area and I did some Ski-dooing while I was there and thoroughly enjoyed it. The outdoor Labrador grows on you, Mr. Speaker.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Paternalism.

MR. NEARY: Paternalism! Listen to the hon. gentleman! Let the hon. gentleman show his sincerity when he talks about regional disparity, the hon. gentleman is for the underdog. Here he is now, head of an administration where all he has to do is pick up his phone -

MR. NEARY: With a stroke of a pen the hon. gentleman can change this archaic policy. All he has to do is pick up the phone and say, 'cousin Vic, change that right away'. Then the hon. gentleman would be showing his sincerity. Let us find out if the hon. gentleman is bluffing.

MR. WARREN: The Norman Bay people want some help.

MR. NEARY: Is the hon. gentleman bluffing, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!  
The hon. member's time has elapsed.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a few words to the petition and say that we are very glad to receive this petition that was presented by the hon. member for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock) and I can assure the hon. member for Eagle River that this petition will get full consideration by Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, and the government of this Province will do its best to be able to respond to the petition itself. Of course, the capacity of the government to respond depends upon the money that is available. This Province has supported to a great degree the rural communities of this Province and has supported them in a very substantial way through the rural electrification programme and we will continue to do so. But this question, of course, as much as we can agree with the sentiments expressed by the hon. member, the immediacy of delivery and the realization of the prayer of this petition

MR. MARSHALL: is going to depend upon economics. I have to observe, though, it is a little bit ironic and a little bit sad that we have a petition of this nature coming from a community in Labrador, that very part of this Province that houses the great Churchill Falls River which generates electricity. And as the hon. gentleman knows and the members of the House know, this electricity has been taken, this cheap electricity, and is being sold to the Province of Quebec at the present time for a mere two mills, that the Province of Newfoundland only gets about \$6 million to \$10 million a year and the Province of Quebec extracts some \$600 million a year from this very resource which could satisfy the needs of the people of Norman's Cove. It could satisfy it in two ways, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WARREN: Norman's Cove is in Trinity Bay.

MR. MARSHALL: Norman Bay. The hon. gentleman can pick up his Glad bags, I know where Norman Bay is. Mr. Speaker, it is a tragedy that up there - Number one, we have this resource and these people are deprived of it, and the second point is that there is so much money going out that could well satisfy the means of bringing the electrification to the people of Norman Bay. So, having said that, Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the hon. member that this petition as well as any petitions of like nature will be given deep consideration by this government and we will do our best, but the hon. member must recognize that we are limited by financial constraints

MR. MARSHALL:

that have been brought upon us to a large extent, Mr. Speaker, by the actions of the hon. gentlemen there opposite when they gave the Upper Churchill away.

MR. SIMMS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: May I speak to the petition?

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Only the member introducing and one person from each side can speak on the petition.

Further petitions?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Is this a point of order?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, just to show how helpful we are and how co-operative we are we will grant the hon. gentleman leave if he wants to support the petition.

MR. SPEAKER: By leave, the hon. the hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: I want to support the petition, Mr. Speaker, and in so doing I want to inform the hon. Leader of the Opposition that I think his geography is a little bit off. I have travelled from Mary's Harbour North to Fox Harbour and then around the head into Williams Harbour and George's Cove and Port Hope Simpson and Sandy Hook and up into Charlottetown and Square Islands and, if I am not mistaken, Norman Bay is North of Charlottetown. Not by much, but it is North. It is not between Charlottetown and Mary's Harbour. I travelled two Summers there by boat in twenty-seven foot skiffs, I know my way around that coast and I would take the hon. member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan) down any time and bring him around that part of Labrador. I think Norman Bay is not between - So the Leader of the Opposition gets up with a great description trying

PREMIER PECKFORD: to pretend that he knew where Norman Bay is and when the chips fall, Mr. Speaker, he does not know where Norman Bay is. It is North of Charlottetown and Square Islands. But on the question of small communities and that is why I wanted to get up - it is only being picky, it is just a little bit North of Charlottetown. We have over the years, Mr. Speaker- I wish the member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Roberts) was here. Some years ago when I was Minister of Energy we looked at trying to help out a number of the small communities with rural electrification, like Williams Harbour and St. Carols, and I remember getting a very kind letter from the member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Roberts) who was very, very appreciative of the work that I had done personally, and Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro had done. Now, along that shore, Mr. Speaker, as everybody knows and as the Leader of the Opposition is learning, there are a lot of small communities and some of them do not fit tightly under the rules and regulations, as the hon. member mentioned to me when we were sitting down talking across the House, if you set the minimum at fifteen families or twenty families or ten families. That is one of the problems you have when you try to set it at fifteen families or twenty families, it does not always work. If you get ten or fifteen families and ten or twelve families and they settle someplace and they want to stay there twelve

PREMIER PECKFORD:

months of the year, then government has a responsibility to provide whatever services it can. And obviously Norman Bay is not getting the kind of service it should get. And there are other communities on the Labrador Coast.

MR. HISCOCK: Pinsent Arm.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Pinsent Arm is a good example, and others, which are not getting the kind of service that they deserve. I think it was in Question Period some of the hon. members opposite questioned the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe) about that road from Lodge Bay to Mary's Harbour. That is a very important road for Yours Truly here. We talked about it, the Minister of Transportation and myself, and we are the ones who have been pushing for that road. The Feds have not been pushing it. Only for us that road would never be built. It is like the Burgeo Road now, it is part of the new agreement. It would not be done if it were not for us. We are the ones who have been pushing it. And we will continue to push and try to get that road done before the agreement runs out, no question, and we will put in our share. I want to see that road completed. And the same thing with Norman Bay and the other communities. I am very, very receptive, as are the minister responsible for Energy (Mr. Dawe), and the Minister of Education (Ms. Verge), and other ministers here. We are doing what we can and we will definitely take a very serious look at the situation in Norman Bay for the hon. member, and if we can do anything, if we have to bend the rules to do it, or change the rules to help those people, well, then, we are only too happy to do it, Mr. Speaker, any day of the week.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. member for Burin-Placentia West.

MR. TOBIN: Mr. Speaker, I stand to present a petition on behalf of 272 people from Petit Forte, supported by the people of South East Bight and Little Paradise. This petition, Mr. Speaker, is in the form of a brief that has been submitted to the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe), and I believe that the concluding paragraph contains the prayer of the petition and I will read it, Mr. Speaker, for the record.

"The community of Petit Forte has been isolated for years. The people here resisted resettlement and are obviously determined to stay. We urge the provincial government to act on our request for what most of our communities in Newfoundland take for granted. We ask for an immediate commitment from the government that this project will receive priority in the government's planning for the next few years.

Mr. Speaker, "The provincial government has shared in the recent improvements and development of Petit Forte. We appreciate very much the support that you people have given us, and while we understand that many demands there are for financial resources, we trust you will see that our request to be made fully part of our Province and connected to the services is a fair and reasonable one. We would appreciate an early and favourable reply in this request and thank you for the consideration."

Now, Mr. Speaker, I obviously support this petition and I believe that the people of Petit Forte, are going nowhere, they are there to stay. The prayer of the petition, Mr. Speaker, states that they have resisted resettlement and I believe that that might be of some interest to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) because, Mr. Speaker, that great community destroyer, that brainchild

MR. TOBIN: of the Smallwood Government, the same government, Mr. Speaker, which the Leader of the Opposition was part of, the same programme which the Leader of the Opposition supported, was indeed Mr. Speaker, to resettle the people of Placentia Bay -

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

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



MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I know the hon. gentleman does not understand the rules of the House. He does not want to learn the rules, he just does not seem to want to conform to the rules of this House, he does not want to learn about the parliamentary process, Mr. Speaker. The hon. gentleman is completely out of order. And, Mr. Speaker, as hon. members know, in presenting a petition - this is basic, I should not have to say this, that under the Standing Orders, Mr. Speaker, page 31, Section 92, Your Honour might want to take a look at it, 'Every member offering a petition to the House shall confine himself to the statement of the parties from whom it comes, the number of signatures attached to it and the material allegations it contains. In no case shall such a member occupy more than five minutes in so doing, unless by permission of the House upon question put.'

Mr. Speaker, I would submit the hon. gentleman was completely out of order in his remarks. He was back in the Smallwood era, back in the days of resettlement, Mr. Speaker, and all these matters as Your Honour knows are the subject of debate and are completely out of order.

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

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman only has five minutes to present his petition. It is an obvious attempt by the hon. member to use up the member's time. It is an abuse of the rules of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: To that point of order, when the hon. member for Burin - Placentia West (Mr. Tobin) was presenting the prayer of the petition there was mention of resettlement in the prayer of the petition and the

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): hon. member was referring to it. But I do want to point out to all hon. members that Standing Order 92 does state that we should refer to the statement of the parties, which the hon. member was doing, the number of signatures and material allegations.

The hon. member for Burin -  
Placentia West.

MR. TOBIN: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I can certainly understand why the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) would try to stifle me in the presentation of this petition, as he was part of and supported such a programme that tried to deny the people of this Province the right to live where they belong, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I support the petition. I believe and this government believe that the people in Placentia Bay, as indeed the people in all other isolated parts of the Province, have the right to live where they want to live and have a right to the type of services that government can provide.

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

MR. TOBIN: Okay, I will get the opportunity to get back to it later.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Transportation.

MR. DAWE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to stand at this time and support the prayer of the petition so ably presented by my colleague from Burin - Placentia West (Mr. Tobin). As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, in connection with the three communities involved the member and myself visited the communities and had public meetings just a few short months ago when there was an indication that

MR. DAWE:

the organization, namely the federal government, who were supplying them with their only transportation link, through a coastal service, had disbanded that service without prior notification to the people and it subsequently subjected them to a much inferior type of operation. And it was through the efforts of the member and the efforts of my department that I think we finally convinced the federal government, and because of the support that the communities, and the efforts that the communities involved there put into it in preparing the necessary documentation to support their position. No problem, Mr. Speaker, in supporting the concept of a road network and I might put on record now that the department intends in this present year to do the necessary -

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

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

A point of order, the hon. the member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, the reason I raise a point of order is that we have been speaking on a petition which was presented by the member for Burin - Placentia West (Mr. Tobin) and the petition is out of order, Your Honour. The petition is a brief to the Department of Transportation of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador relating to the construction of a road to Petit Forte. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that a petition must be signed by at least three individuals.

MR. NEARY: It is not a petition? How sneaky can you get.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, this brief, dated February 24, 1983, is signed by two individuals. It is not a petition, there is nothing that says that it is a petition, Mr. Speaker. A petition is in a certain format to the people

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MR. HODDER: of the Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, this is a brief containing two signatures, the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Petit Forte Development Committee. So, Mr. Speaker, all of these -

MR. SIMMS: Sure it has not even been tabled yet.

MR. NEARY: Well he should have tabled it.

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

The hon. the member for Port au Port, on your point of order.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, the debate is totally out of order; the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe) is out of order, the member for Burin - Placentia West (Mr. Tobin) was out of order when he spoke.

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

MR. SPEAKER: To that point of order, the hon. the member for Burin - Placentia West.

MR. TOBIN: Mr. Speaker, I stood to present a petition, a brief. Mr. Speaker, I stated in opening that there were over 200 names on it - around 270 names. Here are the names, Mr. Speaker, ready to be put on the table of this House.

MR. NEARY: Put them on the table.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. TOBIN: As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, there is a brief, for some reason perhaps the page took the wrong part, but there is the brief, Mr. Speaker, ready to be laid on the table of his House with 272 names. The petition, look, there it is. What do they want? I can understand, Mr. Speaker, why the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) and his puppets over there are upset.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. TOBIN: Here is the petition, Mr. Speaker, to be laid on the table of the House, and I would like to table it.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!  
To that point of order, the hon. member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, the debate was totally out of order. Mr. Speaker, when the gentleman presented the petition he tabled it in the House of Assembly, he did not table a petition. So the debate that was going on here in this House of Assembly was totally out of order.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! To that point of order, the hon. President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: Look, the hon. gentleman is obstructing the legitimate aspirations of the constituents of the member for Burin-Placentia West (Mr. Tobin), that is what he is doing.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL: And, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman did not know what Budget Debate he was in, now he does not know what district he is in, he does not recognize a petition when he talks about it, and for his information, you do not debate a petition.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that the hon. gentleman should learn the rules of the House as Opposition House Leader (Mr. Hodder) rather than trying to obstruct members in bringing before this House the legitimate wishes of their constituents.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

To that point of order, I have heard enough argument on that point of order. There was a petition placed on the table of the House with 200 signatures.

This being Private Members' Day it is my duty to call the motion at 4:00 o'clock. According to Standing Order 53 (4) 'On Wednesdays the question period shall commence not later than 3:30 p.m. and the ordinary daily routine of business shall end not later than 4:00 p.m., and at that time the private member's motion shall be called by the Speaker.'

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): I have to now by duty call the Private Member's Motion, and yesterday, by agreement, it was agreed to call the motion by the hon. the member for Grand Bank (Mr. Matthews).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. HODDER: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: On a point of privilege, the hon. the member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, I feel that the privileges of this House have been breached, that the member for Burin - Placentia West (Mr. Tobin) not only tabled an incorrect petition when he rose to speak, but in reading the prayer of that petition, he made up the preamble.

MR. WARREN: That is right.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, the prayer of this petition is: "We, the people of Petit Forte, are signing this petition because we feel that we are entitled to a road connecting us to the main highway." Nothing about resettlement, Mr. Speaker, which you, yourself ruled on when the member stood up.

MR. TOBIN: You are only reading part of the petition, boy.

MR. HODDER: The petition says nothing else, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TOBIN: Do not be against the people of Petit Forte. Sit down.

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

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege of this House that when a member stands to speak in the house that he tell the truth, that when he stands in the House, Mr. Speaker, and presents a petition, what he is saying we understand and that he read from that petition. Now, Mr. Speaker, we sat here on this side of the House believing that the member read a petition - and the Hansard

MR. HODDER: will show that he said, "The prayer of the petition, Mr. Speaker, is" - and he talked about resettlement. I do not recall the exact words but, Mr. Speaker, there was nothing on that petition to say that. He fabricated the prayer of the petition and I say that the privileges of this House have been breached.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): To that point of privilege. The Chair will take it under advisement and rule on it when I view Hansard and the petition.

The hon. the member for Grand Bank.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MATTHEWS: Mr. Speaker, I rise in this House today to propose resolution number six on the Order Paper. I will begin, Mr. Speaker, by reading the resolution for all hon. members present:

WHEREAS our fishermen, mariners, and offshore rig workers have to work under some of the worst marine conditions in the world; and

WHEREAS there have been numerous sinkings off our shores and in particular last years tragic loss of the Ocean Ranger which have demonstrated that the Search and Rescue facilities located in this Province are totally inadequate; and

WHEREAS a local facility could save lives by shortening the response time in the event of an emergency at sea; and

WHEREAS the events of February 16 to the 19 of this year once again showed that without adequate search and rescue facilities, drilling operations off our coasts are totally unsafe during Winter conditions;



MR. MATTHEWS: NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House urge the Federal Government to establish adequate search and rescue facilities in this Province at the earliest possible date.

Mr. Speaker, I take great pleasure in introducing this resolution for debate by members of this hon. House. All hon. members present need not be reminded of the severity of the marine conditions that exist off our Shores and of the numerous sinkings and tragedies that have affected our lives in one way or another.

Mr. Speaker, having been born and raised in a fishing community, and having experienced the tragic sinking of two side trawlers, the Blue Wave and the Blue Mist with all crew members lost, I can readily identify with the need for improved search and rescue facilities for our Province.

Mr. Speaker, the continuing absence of adequate search and rescue facilities within our Province has been a source of growing concern to all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians during the past number of years. Petitions, representations and requests from those directly involved in previous marine emergencies to upgrade search and rescue operations in Newfoundland have gone unanswered. This blatant ignoring of a most critical need by the present Federal Government is nothing less than criminal. Last year's tragic loss of the Ocean Ranger and the events of this past February have reinforced the need for immediate positive action.

Mr. Speaker, since the resolution makes specific reference to the events of February 16, I will attempt to recap the events, to

MR. MATTHEWS: re-emphasize the present lack of facilities and to demonstrate the need for significant improvements: At the time period alluded to in the resolution, Mr. Speaker, there were 84 people on board the drilling unit West Venture with at least ten icebergs and bergy bits in the vicinity of the rig during a severe Winter storm which lasted for two and a half days; the icebergs could not be towed away because of rough seas, the vessel was moored with all of its ten anchors. The anchors could not be pulled because of rough seas and the last attempt to do so on the night of February 16 was unsuccessful. No personnel could be removed from the rig by helicopters or supply vessels during this period because the rig was also threatened due to weather conditions. Mr. Speaker, at 1:00 A.M. on Friday, February 18, a bergy bit was within seven nautical miles of the rig but flying conditions prevented Mobil from evacuating any personnel. Successfully shearing the anchor chains would have set the West Venture adrift as it has no means of propulsion and it would not have been possible to get a towline to a supply vessel because of the very rough seas. To complicate matters further, Mr. Speaker, successful abandonment by way of the rig's lifesaving equipment would have been unlikely due to high winds and rough seas. Mr. Speaker, the events of February clearly indicate how quickly conditions can deteriorate and with little notice given to present forecasting capabilities. Bergy bits often cannot be detected until they are in the vicinity of the rigs particularly during stormy conditions. It is quite obvious that the risks associated with drilling conditions off our Coast are very high. Mr. Speaker, I would

MR. MATTHEWS: suggest that it is absolutely mandatory that there be significant improvements in search and rescue capabilities within this Province.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of response time is of prime importance to an emergency at sea. We have all been made aware of the length of time it presently takes for search and rescue aircraft to respond

MR. MATTHEWS: to emergencies off our coast. My colleague who is missing today, or at present, the hon. member for Carbonear (Mr. Peach), telexed the Prime Minister in late February because of slow response by Search and Rescue to an emergency involving two individuals from his district. I would like to take this opportunity to disclose the reaction time factor involved in this incident. At 5:00 p.m. on February 22 Air Search and Rescue were advised by the RCMP that two men were missing or stranded on ice which had infested the Northeast coastal regions of our Province, and at 7:30 p.m. Search and Rescue advised that no helicopter could leave Gander because of adverse weather conditions and they could not leave St. John's because there were no stand-by crews available. At 7:24 p.m. the Emergency Measures Organization and the RCMP, following several calls to the Rescue Co-ordination Centre at Halifax, were informed that no ships or planes were available to undertake a search for the missing men. At 7:00 p.m. Mr. John Greer of the Emergency Measures Organization became personally involved and arranged, Mr. Speaker, for the provincial government air service to secure the assistance of a helicopter and at 8:18 p.m. this craft was in the air. Shortly after the Emergency Measures Organization was advised, after 8:18 p.m., that a Buffalo aircraft had been dispatched from Summerside P.E.I. The first flare was dropped from this aircraft at 11:36 p.m., so it was five hours after assistance was requested.

Mr. Speaker, I think this incident very clearly demonstrates, and it is just one of many examples the inadequacy of the system as it presently exists.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Mr. Speaker, it is far too long to have to wait, four to five hours for helicopters from P.E.I. to reach St. John's, and six to eight hours to reach the rigs, and, of course, then only if weather permits. Weather conditions can change so drastically, Mr. Speaker, in four to six hours that it just might be impossible to even attempt a rescue. This is one of the most important reasons why this government has pushed so hard and why aircraft should be located in close proximity to the oil fields. Storm conditions combined with icebergs, freezing spray, and many times low visibility dictate the requirement for the most modern search and rescue facility and equipment to be immediately located within Newfoundland.

Mr. Speaker, I ask how can anyone with common

MR. MATTHEWS:

sense and after reviewing the data and facts available, be impassive to such a requirement? To be impassive to such a matter of utmost importance is only demonstrating negligence of the highest degree.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the member for Carbonear (Mr. Peach), received a response on March 16th, 1983, to his aforementioned telex not from the Prime Minister, however, Mr. Speaker, but from a Mr. D.N. Mainguy, Vice Admiral of the Defense Staff of the Canadian Armed Forces. Mr. Mainguy wrote that he could not share the opinion of my colleague and the opinion of all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians that search and rescue coverage is now inadequate. He did not share that opinion, Mr. Speaker, I re-emphasize. Of course, that does not surprise me either, Mr. Speaker, because once again we are seeing an opinion, we are being dictated to by an individual who is so far removed from the actual scene that it is impossible for him to be totally cognizant of our needs here in Newfoundland.

It is quite obvious that Mr. Mainguy is not aware of the weather conditions off our coast and is certainly not aware that conditions have and can change more rapidly than he can envisage. I can only say, Mr. Speaker, that it is my sincerest wish that this gentleman will not be the main guy in making decisions about future search and rescue facilities for our Province. If so, Mr. Speaker, I am sure, once again, we will be left out.

MR. CALLAN:

I think Joe Clark should have been the main guy.

MR. MATTHEWS: Mr. Speaker, I have tried to continue even though the member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan) is continuously trying to interrupt me. And I would suggest to the member for Bellevue that since we are talking about search and rescue today, Mr. Speaker, I take notice that the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) is missing, and I would say for the information of those in the galleries that I am speaking today because the member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Roberts) is not present. And I would suggest that the member for Bellevue should join with the Leader of the Opposition and maybe put out a search for the member for the Strait of Belle then maybe, you know, someone will not have to take up the slack for members of the Opposition who are, once again, absent.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. MATTHEWS: And I would also say, Mr. Speaker, that I can understand to some degree why Mr. Lamontagne has not seen fit to give us this facility that we so badly need, because it is my understanding from reports from across the country that he has got all his personnel and he is spending lots of defense money these days, especially after the last gallop poll, going across the country searching for Liberal supporters. And I do not know, Mr. Speaker, if he does find any, whether there will be any chance of rescue or not.

Mr. Speaker, I say categorically about this Mr. Mainguy - and I make no apologies - that I sincerely hope that he is not involved in future decisions for search and rescue for this Province. I say this Mr. Speaker, because as I read further into the letter from the vice-admiral to my colleague from Carbonear I found the following statements and points: (a) Search and Rescue resources on the East Coast are in optimum locations, (b) the resources available on the East Coast can effectively meet the demonstrated need of the area, and (c) if more resources were available they would be used more effectively in areas other than Newfoundland. Now, Mr. Speaker, what a statement for the an individual to put from a pen, to put out of his head. I mean, it is just totally blatant and totally irresponsible.

MR. MARSHALL: Who made that statement?

MR. MATTHEWS: Mr. Mainguy, the Vice-Admiral of the Defense Staff.

Now, can you imagine? Is it any wonder, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I find those remarks and statements completely appalling and I am sure all hon. members present feel the same.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to reflect for awhile back to a few years ago when a similar response



MR. MATTHEWS: was given by the then Minister of Defense, James Richardson, in answer to a question by the MP for St. John's East, the hon. James McGrath. Now, Mr. Speaker, when you look at the response and so on that was given by Mr. Richardson and you view the statements that were made by Mr. Mainguy, you would almost think, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Mainguy went and dug out the correspondence of Mr. Richardson, his letter, and copied it off and sent the same thing to my colleague, the member for Carbonear (Mr. Peach). Because I would just like to refer hon. gentlemen to this release and the contents of this letter that was written to the MP for St. John's East and it reads: 'Defense Minister James Richardson; in which the minister says he believes that Search and Rescue resources at Summerside P.E.I. and Halifax adequately meet D and D - at that time it was a department - assigned responsibilities for search and rescue in the Atlantic Search and Rescuing region. 'Further, I believe the resources are in' - now take note, Mr. Speaker, and I ask all hon. members to take note of the wording - 'the resources are in the optimum location to respond

MR. MATTHEWS: to incidents occurring in the various areas of this region', Mr. Richardson said. Identical wording to Mr. Mainguy who just a few short weeks ago responded to my colleague, the hon. member for Carbonear (Mr. Peach).

'For these reasons' he continues, Mr. Speaker, 'it would not be in the best interest of the overall Atlantic search and rescue system to establish or relocate a search and rescue facility in the Eastern region of Newfoundland'.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if you did not know the difference or if you were a little bit evil minded, you would think that -

MR. SIMMS: Which you are not.

MR. MATTHEWS: Which I am not, correct. - Mr. Mainguy merely copied the letter or took the content of the letter of Mr. Richardson and sent the response to my colleague for Carbonear, Mr. Speaker, that is just what anyone would think if they were evil minded like some members opposite.

MR. SIMMS: Over there!

MR. MATTHEWS: Yes. There is no question, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMMS:: You should be ashamed of yourselves. Shocking.

MR. MATTHEWS: Mr. Speaker, just a few short weeks ago we were delighted to hear that the present federal Minister of National Defence, the hon. Giles Lamontagne, would be visiting our Province. All Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, Mr. Speaker, were delighted to hear that, and they were delighted because everyone was expecting a positive announcement regarding search and rescue in our Province. Mr. Speaker, all I have to say is what a disappointment. What a disappointment!

MR. SIMMS: Shocking!

MR. MATTHEWS: I remember very well, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Lamontagne's visit to this Province and also his visit to this hon. House on May 3. On May 3, Mr. Speaker, we were delighted and honoured to have Mr. Lamontagne visit with us in this House of Assembly. I can only say -

MR. SIMMS: No, no, no. Do not go that far.

MR. MATTHEWS: - if I can continue, Mr. Speaker - that it is too bad that the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) is not in his seat at present, so that he could listen to my remarks and react accordingly.

MR. SIMMS: These councillors are here from Port aux Basques too, you would think he would be here to see them. It is shocking! Shocking!

MR. MATTHEWS: You would think he would, yes. But, of course, I am sure the people of his district—they only elected him last time by some forty-one votes, I am sure the next time he will be defeated by in excess of 400.

MR. SIMMS: His Worship, the Mayor.

MR. MATTHEWS: Mr. Speaker, I do not remember the visit because of any positive announcement for our Province from Mr. Lamontagne, but I remember it very well, Mr. Speaker, because of the Leader of the Opposition who was so delighted to see his buddy from Ottawa, absolutely delighted, and of course he showed it very well in this House.

MR. SIMMS: Yes, elated.

MR. MATTHEWS: Of course he took great pain Mr. Speaker, to lackey and to impress upon the federal minister his loyalty and support for the federal Liberals and their position on issues of great importance to this Province, such as this very important issue of search and rescue facilities for this Province.

MR. SIMMS: You know what Lamontagne said  
in Gander, do you not?

MR. MATTHEWS: No , I do not.

MR. SIMMS: He said, 'He was not a Santa  
Claus'. He was not there to play Santa Claus.

MR. MATTHEWS: He was not a Santa Claus. Okay.

But, Mr. Speaker, out of

curocity I got a copy of Hansard for May 3, and

MR. MATTHEWS: I would like to read some excerpts from this May 3rd answer, the reaction of the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) to Mr. Lamontagne as he sat in the guest gallery here on that particular day.

Mr. Speaker, after the hon. the federal minister was welcomed to this House by the Speaker, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition rose in this House and said: "I have to say this to my honourable and dear and beloved colleague from the federal Liberal Party, that no matter what he told the Jaycees today - and no doubt the hon. gentleman picked and chose his words, he was careful in what he was saying and no doubt he was well received by the Jaycees who, last year, if hon. members will recall, circulated a petition, I believe" - he was not sure, he believed - "and took it to Ottawa to have improvements made in the Air-Sea Rescue services in this Province." And he goes on to say, "But no matter how hard the hon. gentleman tried today, how carefully he picked his words, tomorrow or the next day we will hear hon. gentlemen there opposite condemn and criticize the federal government for lack of Air-Sea Rescue services in this Province." I would just like to say, Mr. Speaker, that yes, the Jaycees did go to Ottawa with the petition and that petition had in excess of 100,000 signatures on it, and all people in this Province were very much aware of it. They did not believe, they knew that that was the case.

MR. SIMMS: Give us that part again about 'dear and beloved.'

MR. MATTHEWS: No, I will not repeat that because, you know, I do not want to belittle the hon. the Leader of the Opposition too much and since he is not in his seat to defend himself, I will take a little pity on him.

MR. MATTHEWS: Mr. Speaker, I will just go on a bit further in the Hansard. Once again, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) said: "Mr. Speaker, I have to say this in the presence of my colleague from Ottawa, that we deeply appreciate his interest in this Province. It is too bad that we could not invite the hon. gentleman to come in on the floor of the House to address the Legislature. I suppose we could do it by mutual agreement. These things probably would have to be - or the hon. the minister may be embarrassed, maybe he would not want to come in, but it would be very interesting to have the minister come in and tell us about the improvements in Air-Sea Rescue in this Province and tell us the plans that they have on the table to improve the system, Mr. Speaker, in this Province." Now, I can categorically say, Mr. Speaker, that we all know about the improvements that this Province has received over the past number of years in Search and Rescue facilities and equipment in this Province. Now, if the hon. the Leader of the Opposition can stand in this House on May 3rd or today and defend the Minister of Defence (Mr. Lamontagne) or his department, then I would say, Mr. Speaker, that next time he will not be elected by forty-one votes, he will get quite a thrashing, particularly if he returns to the district of LaPoile.

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. McNicholas): Order, please!

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas): Order, please! The hon. member's time has elapsed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: By leave.

MR. MATTHEWS: Mr. Speaker, I will get a chance to finish when I close the debate.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, I had hoped that the hon. member was going to get up and put some meat on the resolution. I had hoped that the hon. member was going to specify and identify the inadequacies of our search and rescue system and was then going to suggest some meaningful improvements, was going to point out where the search and rescue facilities should be located and what kind of system we needed. But the hon. member did not do that, Mr. Speaker, it was just a continuation of the message that hon. members had been trying to portray for the last four or five years, it was just a continuation of a tirade against the federal government. That is all it was, Mr. Speaker. And I do not stand here today to defend anybody in the federal government, to defend any defence minister or anybody else, what we intend to do here -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. LUSH: - Mr. Speaker, on this side of the House is to build a case. And I will say from the beginning it is not our intention to oppose this resolution, but Mr. Speaker, I had hoped that by the time the hon. member was through I could have gotten up and supported the thing whole-heartedly because the hon. member would have done such a good job in pointing out the inadequacies of our present search and rescue system, and would have advocated such an effective system

MR. LUSH: that I would have known precisely where I stand. But that is left to us. We on this side must do that. We on this side must give meat, Mr. Speaker, we on this side must put clothes on this naked resolution and fill in where the member failed so miserably.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are no points to be gained in condemning the federal government and flogging the federal government. Certainly we want our system improved and it is certainly up to us to build up a case, to point out what is inadequate, what is ineffective, what is insufficient about this system, and then to advocate what we want.

Even in the whereases I think the hon. member includes some inaccuracies. In the second whereas, for example, he says, "AND WHEREAS there have been numerous sinkings off our shores and in particular last year's tragic loss of the Ocean Ranger which have demonstrated that Search and Rescue facilities located in this Province are totally inadequate."

Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not think anybody would use the example of the Ocean Ranger to point out the inadequacies of search and rescue in this Province. It is a very delicate issue, Mr. Speaker, a very sensitive one,



MR. LUSH: and there are no experts, Mr. Speaker, in the field that would suggest that regardless of the kind of Search and Rescue facilities that we had on that particular night that we could have done something to have saved these lives. So, Mr. Speaker, none of the experts would ever support this view. I think the hon. member uses a poor case to try and support his view or his opinion and his suggestion that the Search and Rescue facilities in this Province are inadequate, because I do not think that we could have done anything about that that night. Regardless of the kinds of facilities that we had, there is just nothing we could have done about it, Mr. Speaker. But he uses a very poor case, he tries to use an emotional issue here, Mr. Speaker, to try to develop his political points. This is what he has been trying to do. Now, Mr. Speaker, this is not a new idea, this is not a novel idea. We in Newfoundland who have experienced tragedy after tragedy as a result of living by the sea, we know the necessity of having improved facilities, I do not know about adequate, Mr. Speaker, because no one knows what is adequate. If the hon. member thinks that we are going to prevent the loss of life, we all know we are not going to do that. So, what is an adequate system? The hon. member did not allude to it, he did not come up with what he thought should be an adequate system. He did not talk about whether we should have equipment, facilities for spotting, for doing the surveillance on the ocean to try and find those in trouble, he did not say anything about that; where it should be located, whether it should be in Gander, whether it should be in St. John's, whether it should be in Stephenville, or in Port aux Basques. He did not talk about the kind of retrieval equipment that would be necessary in ships and planes and where they should be located. He did not talk about any of that, Mr. Speaker, he just let go a tirade at

MR. LUSH: the federal government, talking about past ministers, what they had said in response to the member from St. John's East, he talked about Mr. Lamontagne when he came to the Province here and his speech and what the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) said. All of that, Mr. Speaker, is complete nonsense. Now, if that is the way hon. members are going to address this resolution, Mr. Speaker, it certainly shows their motivation and intent for putting this resolution before this House. If hon. members are sincere and genuine they will get up and they will talk about what is weak in the system, what is inadequate, what they envisage to be a reasonable, adequate system. As I have said, Mr. Speaker, this is not a new idea. This feeling that we have in the Province of a renewed interest in Search and Rescue facilities came as a result naturally of the tragic event of the Ocean Ranger and subsequent events that followed.

MR. LUSH:

The subsequent events were these: It was found out that the government, Mr. Speaker, were slack with respect to their safety regulations on these rigs. They were very slack on the safety regulations and, of course, they then tried to get on the bandwagon of being concerned with safety when up to that point in time they had no effective safety regulations in place. So, Mr. Speaker, as a result of all of that, when we saw that there were some inadequacies, that there were some deficiencies with respect to safety regulations on these rigs, people got concerned and tried to blame it on the lack of search and rescue facilities. But, Mr. Speaker, then we saw the Jay Cees getting concerned, then we saw the member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall) trying to jump on the bandwagon and try to grab a few political points, and here today we have the member for Grand Bank (Mr. Matthews), Mr. Speaker, carrying on the battle of the member for St. John's East in an effort to, it would appear from his speech today, gain some political points.

That is all, Mr. Speaker, because otherwise the member would have demonstrated more sincerely, rather than just flogging the federal government.

We know the federal government have to improve this system, Mr. Speaker, we know that, all Newfoundland realizes that, but it is up to us here today to justify the case or to present the case, it is up to us today to suggest to the federal government exactly the kind of sea and air rescue system that we want to see in this Province. And that is what we should be doing.

Where do we want these facilities located? Do we want them located here in St. John's? Do we want some of them located in Gander? Do we want some of them located in Stephenville? Do we want some of them located

MR. LUSH: in Port aux Basques to make it more effective? The hon. gentleman talks about the spotting time being very, very important. Well, if the spotting time is very, very important, then we are going to have to have some of that equipment strategically located in Newfoundland. It does not necessarily all have to be in St. John's. Is that what the hon. member is saying, that everything should be here in St. John's - the spotting facilities and the ships to go and pick up the people in trouble or whatever? Is that what he is saying? Or is he suggesting that we should have, to make it more effective, these facilities spread throughout Newfoundland? He did not say, Mr. Speaker, he did not get into that at all. Well, it is my view that these facilities should be spread throughout the Province, that we need some facilities here in St. John's, that we need some facilities in

MR.LUSH:

Central Newfoundland and Western Newfoundland and in Northern Newfoundland. We need, Mr. Speaker, to cover the whole Province to make it as satisfactory as we can. I hesitate to use the words making it accurate because I am not sure that any of us know what an adequate system is. We only know that we need a much better system than we now have, that we need a much more improved system than we now have. We know that. And I am not sure that any of us know exactly the kind of system that we should be advocating. But we do know we need an improved system and a system that covers the whole of the Province as much as possible. Because, Mr. Speaker, regardless of where the facilities are located, we are not always going to be on the scene of a marine tragedy. It could be in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Mr. Speaker, and if we have something in St. John's that is not going to be adequate. We could have something on the South Coast, we could have something in Northern Labrador or on the Northeast Coast, so we need to have the facilities distributed and distributed in a way that will make our system very, very efficient and effective. So, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman made no allusions to the kind of system that he was advocating and, as I said before, it was just a matter of flogging the federal government, simple and straightforward. And that, Mr. Speaker, saddens me because I had hoped that the member would have certainly suggested to all hon. members the kind of - he would have identified the weaknesses, whether it was in the equipment used, the airplanes and the ships - weaknesses in the system and what he envisaged for improving the system. But none of that came out and it is our job over here now

MR. LUSH: to be able to point out the kind of system that we would see. And we are genuinely interested, Mr. Speaker, naturally, in seeing our search and rescue capabilities improved and improved substantially. There is no Newfoundlander but would believe otherwise. All of us, whether we live on the coast or whether we live in the interior, realize that we would like to see a much improved search and rescue facility here in this Province. And, Mr. Speaker, it is here we need it, in this land where we have been forever witnessing and plagued with ocean tragedies, marine tragedies, and there are no people in the Western world, there are no people on earth who know any better than we do the tragedies from the ocean and from the sea. And we have to do everything we can

MR. LUSH: to minimize and diminish the loss of lives. We have to do everything we can to make the offshore oil and gas a safe operation. We have to do everything we can to make the fisheries a safe operation. We have to do everything we can to make hunting a safe operation, hunting on the sea. We have to have in place an effective system, a system that will minimize and diminish, Mr. Speaker, the loss of life and undue suffering, we have to do that. And I hope that we can convince the powers that be that we want to see an improved system, a system that is much better than we now have. Of course for any of us to suggest that we are going to come up with a system that will prevent the loss of lives at sea is certainly not a realistic one. I do not think that we can say that that is the situation we will ever come to, but certainly, Mr. Speaker, we can make the high seas a safer place in which to operate, or we can give everybody the confidence that it is a safer place to operate by using the technology that is available to us today. And I hope that we can take advantage of the most sophisticated technology to ensure the safety of our people who work on the seas, be it in the fisheries or be it connected with the offshore oil and gas.

But, Mr. Speaker, there is no point is posturing, there is no point in giving lip service. This is too big an issue to try and collect political Brownie points, this is too big an issue for this, too big an issue, Mr. Speaker, and I think it behooves us all to be very sincere and very genuine about this matter and to be very responsible and to present a case that shows the inadequacies and shows the kind of search and rescue system that we want in this Province. And we should have one second to none, Mr. Speaker, second to none. We should have the best search and rescue facility, we should have the best search and rescue system. In all of the world, we should have the best. And we should not

MR. LUSH: settle for less. And we on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, will not settle for less, we will continue to press. We will continue to do what we can to try and impress upon the federal government and the powers that be that we in this Province will not settle for an inferior rescue and search facility. We will not settle for something, Mr. Speaker, that is not the best. We will not settle for something that we do not feel confident about, that we do not feel right about. We want the best, we should have the best, we should have the best that technology can produce for us. And there is no question that in the next few years, with the technological progress in the world, that we will be coming up with better systems,



MR. LUSH: better detection systems, better spotting systems and better systems for rescue. We will be coming up with these systems and whatever the future progress is we want to take advantage of that, whatever the technological developments will be, we want to have it in this Province and particularly now, Mr. Speaker, when we are going to witness great activity with respect to offshore oil and gas. It certainly makes a strong case. Mr. Speaker, to try and build a case on the sinking of the Ocean Ranger I believe is not the right thing to do, Mr. Speaker, because, as I said when I started, most experts will agree that the most efficient search and rescue system in the world could not have avoided the tragedy of that particular night. And to use that, Mr. Speaker, I think is just a matter of trying to take advantage of emotionalism and certainly not to build a case around logic and rationality. And that is what we must be concerned about in this issue, because naturally it is a very emotional issue and one that gets us all uptight and one that get us all going. But we must approach this very important matter with some degree of rationality, Mr. Speaker, and with some degree of logic and, I hope, as the debate progresses, that by next Wednesday we will have developed, we will have conceptualized the kind of system that we think would be satisfactory for our marine activity in this Province. I would hope that when the debate is over we would have certainly developed and conceptualized for all hon. members and for the people of this Province the kind of search and rescue facility that we would like to see in this Province. And none of this political nonsense, Mr. Speaker, let us get down to business, let us identify

MR. LUSH:                   the weaknesses, let us clearly show where the weaknesses lie and let us develop a system that all Newfoundland will be proud of, everybody in Newfoundland, the fishermen, all of those people involved in the offshore oil and gas, because that is why we are doing it, that is our concern. All of the people who have to make their living on the high seas surrounding this Province, that is our concern.

MR. LUSH: So, Mr. Speaker, I hope that when all hon. members get up to speak that they speak in that perspective, that they see it in this perspective and that we develop a system that we put in place, philosophically, the kind of system that we believe will improve what is an inferior system, a system now that has weaknesses. So I hope that as the debate progresses, we will have developed the kind of system that we all believe will be the kind of system to protect the lives of all of those people who have to work on the high seas, in fishing or in the offshore or whatever. And that is what the debate should be about, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. McNicholas): Order, please!

The hon. member's time has expired.

MR. LUSH: And, as I said when I started, Mr. Speaker, we certainly have no intention of objecting to this resolution and I hope by the time we are finished that hon. members will have developed meat around this resolution where we can all say that we all support it whole-heartedly.

MR. ANDREWS: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. ANDREWS: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this resolution. Most certainly, I support it. It is a very serious and important resolution and, as the member for Terra Nova (Mr. Lush) said, without being emotional about it, I will try to say a few words.

I think the member who just spoke nailed it on the head, that the present system is an inferior system. I think most Newfoundlanders, all politics aside, agree that the system can be improved. I will also say that however much you improve the system, there will always

MR. ANDREWS: be people who say it can be improved even more, but I think what we should zero in on here now in this debate are the essential needs of Search and Rescue in Newfoundland and Labrador.

MR. TULK: It will never be totally adequate, right?

MR. ANDREWS: Nothing is ever totally adequate. You could pave the highways with gold and people would want them paved with silver. I am sure that would happen too. But, Mr. Speaker, there is a need for substantial improvement, not just improvement by having one fixed wing plane stationed here or a couple of helicopters stationed there, I think the whole approach, even the co-ordination of the system that is in place right now leaves a lot to be desired.

One thing that I must comment upon - the mover of this motion, the member for Grand Bank (Mr. Matthews) commented upon a recent episode in the district of Carbonear, where two gentlemen were lost on the ice and the fact that Search and Rescue in Gander had a very difficult time, an impossible time, to arrive at the scene of the disaster, if you could call it that. And what that episode came down to, Mr. Speaker, was the fact that the military designed aircraft in Newfoundland today, when they are available, are not capable of doing the job. That rescue was carried out by civilian aircraft which were more capable of going in

MR. ANDREWS:

the nighttime in bad weather and fulfilling that rescue, and that was by a locally owned company, I think Sealand helicopters performed that rescue.

That points up another very important issue, that we can have as many helicopters around Newfoundland and Labrador as we want but if they are not equipped to fly at night and to hoist people out of the water, they are absolutely useless, Mr. Speaker. They are probably as useless as what was proposed a few weeks ago or a couple of weeks ago by Mr. Lamontagne, when he suggested that we use our water bombers, that we might buy in three or four years time, for search and rescue in the Wintertime, Winter months off the coast of Labrador and Newfoundland. Things that are designed for Summer use, for three or four months work in the Summer, to go as search and rescue aircraft. How ridiculous! How stupid and how ridiculous, Mr. Speaker! Not to get emotional the man should resign, the man who would say that. The man who is responsible for search and rescue, that is the same man who is providing inadequate helicopters in Newfoundland right now and not enough Fixed wing aircraft, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TULK: Is the member saying that the large Chinooks are not equipped for nighttime flying? I am just asking a question.

MR. ANDREWS: That helicopter that was requested at that time could not fly.

MR. TULK: What about the large Chinooks can they?

MR. ANDREWS: That is the point, that the machine could not fly. The quality of the equipment here, Mr. Speaker, is very important. And I would also like to refer our military, our navy. A lot has been said about our Armed Forces in Canada or not enough has been said. We have without a doubt the



MR. ANDREWS: I think, Mr. Speaker, in that light it is very encouraging to see that the policy of the next Government of Canada which will probably, most likely and hopefully be led by Mr. Crosbie, who has promised to increase the military might of this nation, and hopefully, Mr. Speaker, some of that military might will be stationed here in Newfoundland.

The navy people that I talk to in Halifax over the years tell me - I asked them one time why they did not have any naval vessels stationed in Newfoundland and the answer was it would cost too much to station a vessel in St. John's, we will say.

MR. WARREN: Why St. John's?

MR. ANDREWS: I said St. John's because it has a dockyard capable of looking after and dealing with some of those naval ships, it would also be a center where the recreational activities and the onshore training facilities would be readily available for a crew and so on, and messing as Halifax has become the only major East Coast naval city.

MR. TULK: Should we not have a base, with them out around everywhere?

MR. ANDREWS: So I asked the navy people why we could not have one, two or three out of our twenty-odd naval ships based in Newfoundland, say in St. John's? They said it would cost too much money because you would have to be moving troops, sailors back and forth. But they do not realize that a quarter of all the seamen in the Canadian Navy are Newfoundlanders, at this present time. Mr. Speaker, if that is the reason we do not have any naval ships in St. John's, how come we are moving them now to Quebec City? I am sure it is no cheaper to move a naval station to Halifax or a squadron to Quebec City than it would be to St. John's or Goose Bay.

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Tape No. 2310

MJ - 2

MR. ANDREWS: anywhere else, or Burgeo, or Bay  
d'Espoir.

MR. HODDER: Or Clarenville, Seldom, or Wesleyville.

MR. ANDREWS: Mr. Speaker, I certainly look forward  
to the next federal government, PC Government, led by Mr.  
Crosbie, when we will get an improvement in our Armed Forces  
and more equipment and warships that will be stationed in St.  
John's with helicopter capability on those warships, that  
can be at sea patrolling the North Atlantic with helicopters  
on those warships. This is what we need, and warships  
capable of working in ice conditions, and capable of working  
on the Labrador Coast. We do not have one warship that is  
capable of going to Fogo Island in the Wintertime. If there  
is any slob ice around Fogo Island now you will not see a  
navy ship going in there, she cannot make it.

MR. TULK: The first part of your statement  
was wishful thinking, the rest I agree with.

MR. ANDREWS: Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not want  
to dwell too long on the great tragedy that we had last  
year in Newfoundland with the oil rig



MR. ANDREWS:           Ocean Ranger, but I think a couple of things should be pointed out. It has been well noted, I think, that our climate has been changing by a lot of people, some say it is for the better, some say it is for the worse, but obviously some of the past few Winters have been bad. This Winter has been bad at sea, it has been good on land. Last Winter was bad on land and not too bad at sea in some places. But reading from the report done by the Petroleum Directorate, and these would be statistical data that I would be quoting on the analysis of operating at Hibernia on February 12 to 20, 1983:

"Conditions on the Grand Banks during February '83 can be termed abnormal mainly due to a significant increase in the number of icebergs in the drilling area. The International Ice Patrol has reported approximately 120 ice-berg sightings South of 48 degrees North. The average since 1900 is 9 for the month of February."

So something is quite different here, Mr. Speaker, things are changing.

"Additionally, weather patterns have caused a larger than normal number to drift Westward into the vicinity of well locations rather than through the Flemmish Pass," which apparently is the main route of the icebergs.

Now I have made some enquiries since this report has been published and at that time the number was 120 bergs South of 48 degrees North. The number has now exceeded well over 600 icebergs for 1983, and that was, I think, up to the end of ten days ago or something like that. So it is in the vicinity of 600-plus. So obviously 1983 has been quite an abnormal year.

Unrelated to drilling at all, and I would not like to comment on the drilling aspect of this because that is not exactly what we are talking about here in this resolution, but

MR. ANDREWS:                   the third of this report's three major conclusions says there must be a significant improvement in search and rescue capability in the Province.

I certainly support that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, without going into detail, this report, which was tabled in the House by the hon. the Minister responsible for the Petroleum Directorate (Mr. Marshall), says that the time lapse between getting aircraft and helicopters from Gaspé and from Prince Edward Island here is just too great, too great indeed. And the argument can be made that if the weather conditions are bad in the St. John's or the Northeast Coast area, or the Grand Banks area off Newfoundland where most of our shipping and fishing activities take place, what good would it be for a

MR. ANDREWS:

helicopter to come to St. John's from, say, Gander or a fixed wing from somewhere else, assuming that that machine could not land at St. John's. If it is quite possible that the machine could not land in St. John's and highly probable that the machine could not land in St. John's. But if she were in St. John's, it is quite possible, and most likely, I would say, that she could take off and get up in the air and be of some assistance. So that would be the necessity of having her based here, because all marine disasters, Mr. Speaker, are not caused by bad weather. The important thing here is to have a very close jump-off point, as close as possible, to the Grand Bank's area and to the Northeast Coast and to the Hibernia field. You need the close jump-off point. There may be good weather out there may be bad weather in here so, you have to think about those things, Mr. Speaker.

I did

mention that, of course, what Mr. Lamontagne suggested we do for our search and rescue is use these water bombers that are going to cost the Newfoundland Government and the Canadian Government quite a bit of money, of course, they are not built yet and it will take several years to help bail out a company that looks like it is going bankrupt anyway. But, Mr. Speaker, if this is the mentality of the federal government's and the Armed Forces' thinking about Newfoundland as an isolated outpost and we can get there - you stay where you are until we come where you are at - if that is the mentality of the system that has been created by this left-wing government that denies us a proper and decent Armed Forces - we are the laughingstock of NATO, we are the laughingstock of the Western World when it comes to our contribution to NATO - and this is reflected, Mr. Speaker, in our capability

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Tape No. 2312

SD - 2

MR. ANDREWS: to have aircraft that can fly  
at night, that can search at night.

MR. NEARY: You are the laughingstock of  
Burgeo.

MR. ANDREWS: You are the laughingstock. You  
only won by twenty-one votes in LaPoile district.

So, Mr. Speaker, maybe Mr.  
Lamontagne is correct, maybe he is right, that these water  
bombers that we are going to build to douse the forest, maybe  
these would be better than the planes and the helicopters  
that are available or will be available in four years from  
now. Maybe he is right. And if he is, what we have

MR. ANDREWS:

to do then we will have to do it, like we offered to take over the operation of the Shoe Cove tracking station. There is an advanced, scientific, Western, civilized, government philosophy for you -close down one of the few tracking stations in Canada, certainly the only one on the East Coast of the nation, close it down, we do not need it. And what was needed there was improvement, Mr. Speaker, more technology, more equipment.

MR. DOYLE:

We are going to build on in Thailand.

MR. ANDREWS:

Yes, we are going to build one in Thailand. We would be a lot better sending them over a new improved strain of rice instead of a satellite station. Tear it down and scrap it. I think it would have cost, if my figures are correct - I could be off - in the range of less than \$1 million to put some of the most sophisticated equipment in there. As a matter of fact, if the equipment that was there was permitted to stay there, I believe we could have used additional equipment that will be coming on stream by the latest American space shuttle machine.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think this is a problem of the psychology of how we spend money in this country. Obviously we are not going to spend any money on the military and we have not spent any money on the military. This government in Ottawa has no intention of spending any money on the military and that is reflected in the equipment that we have available in this country. I will tell you how much money we spend on the military. I was in Halifax the Summer before last and I saw eighty tanks for the Canadian Army rolling off a German built ship.

MR. ANDREWS: The tanks were built in Germany and were being sent out to some military base on the prairies for the Canadian army. There is foresight and there is dedication and there is commitment for you - a nation that does not have enough troops now to stop a riot on Yonge Street.

MR. NEARY: They were NATO tanks, boy. Do not be so stupid.

MR. ANDREWS: They were bought by the Canadian government for the Canadian Armed Forces, Mr. Speaker. Now, Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to endorse the remarks made by my colleague, the President of the Council, the Minister responsible for Energy (Mr. Marshall) when Mr. Lamontagne was here. He said Mr. Lamontagne's visit was for nothing more than to maintain the status quo. I differ with my colleague

MR. ANDREWS:

that he was here to maintain the status quo, Mr. Speaker. I would say if he did that he bluffed most Newfoundlanders. He was not even attempting to do that. Without an improvement in this Search and Rescue service that we have, not only in Newfoundland, in all of Atlantic Canada, we are downgrading ourselves, we are downgrading Canadians, we are downgrading the fishermen and the mariners of Canada.

There have been so many inquiries, so many reports written, the last one being this one, March, 1983 by the Petroleum Directorate. The reports into the Arctic Explorer - the Arctic Explorer sank in the Strait of Belle Isle off Belle Isle - I believe the commission on that inquiry indicated that an improved Search and Rescue would have been of great assistance in possibly saving some lives there.

Mr. Speaker, my time is just about up. I do not think I have been emotional; I have tried not to be emotional, I have tried to be just as unemotional as the member for Terra Nova (Mr. Lush), but I do not think that you can really talk about this without being emotional. I think it is in the Canadian psyche or this government's psyche certainly.

When the Second World War broke out, if I remember, this country of ours which was called Canada - we were not a member at that time - had a total number of six commissioned fighting ships. When the war ended, Canada had the fourth largest navy in the world and we built that navy during the period of the war. It was built by Canadians with Canadian technology. Canadians who had built tractors and trucks and automobiles were put in the business of making ships and tanks and guns

MR. ANDREWS: for the war effort. We have let that pride slip, Mr. Speaker. That pride has slipped out of our hands as Canadians. We had no armed forces. That pride that we lost is reflected in the ability of our Search and Rescue, which is a military operation, a paramilitary operation. It has been proven over and over and over again. I do not think that any Maritime country with such a long coastline, with such adverse weather conditions that prevail from time to time, would permit this to happen.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!



MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. member for Baie Verte -  
White Bay.

MR. RIDEOUT: Mr. Speaker, with agreement  
from the other side, I would like to provide the information  
to the House on behalf of the Premier regarding questions  
asked by the hon. member for Fogo (Mr. Tulk) and the hon.  
Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary), I believe, on  
Fishery Products.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it agreed to grant leave to the member?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Is this in the form of a Ministerial Statement?

MR. RIDEOUT: No, Mr. Speaker, I just have  
the information. I will table it, and it can be distributed  
to the hon. gentlemen, if that is okay?

MR. NEARY: That is fine.

MR. SPEAKER: By leave.

MR. RIDEOUT: I have a couple of extra copies  
here.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Bellevue.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, as the member for  
Terra Nova (Mr. Lush), who spoke from our side of the House  
earlier in the afternoon said, we on this side of  
the House do not intend to oppose this resolution. It is  
not our intention to oppose this resolution. There are  
several reasons for that, Mr. Speaker. One obvious reason,  
and I dare say the reason why the member for Grand Bank  
(Mr. Matthews) put the resolution the Order Paper in the  
first place is, it is a motherhood issue. Asking for  
newer or improved or better facilities for air search  
and rescue off the coast of this Province is a motherhood  
issue. And obviously, Mr. Speaker, we on this side of  
the House support the resolution for that reason.

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Tape No. 2315

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MR. CALLAN: Another obvious reason, Mr. Speaker, why the member for Grand Bank (Mr. Matthews) had this resolution placed on the Order Paper in his name - whether he wrote it and so on or not is immaterial.

MR. CALLAN: He did not seem to know too much about it in his comments that he made. He did read it before he started and I think perhaps that is the first time that he read it - but, anyway, the obvious reason why he put it on the Order Paper under his name, or he agreed to have it there, is a second obvious reason, that the member for Grand Bank (Mr. Matthews), like most members of the administration, Mr. Speaker - there is nothing original about this resolution and the thought behind it, and the hope for action behind it - what the member for Grand Bank was doing, Mr. Speaker, was jumping on a bandwagon. He was jumping on the bandwagon of the federal member for St. John's East, Jim McGrath.

MR. BAIRD: You are supporting it really.

MR. CALLAN: He has been an advocate of this for years, Mr. Speaker. And, of course, a fair question to ask while we are talking about the hon. James McGrath, the federal member for St. John's East, a fair question to ask is now that he is so vocal as an Opposition member, why did he not have something done about it when he was the Minister of Fisheries, when his colleague, John Crosbie, was the Minister of Finance, the man who held on to the purse strings, when they were both Cabinet ministers in the Joe Clark Administration?

MR. BAIRD: They did not have time.

MR. CALLAN: After nine months, Mr. Speaker? The member for Humber - I do not know if it is East or West - the member for Humber West (Mr. Baird), Mr. Speaker, is speaking not from his own seat and therefore should not be speaking at all. He is joined now by a gentleman who is well used to doing that, but, anyway, I think that they decided, Mr. Speaker, before I stood that when I did stand today I think they made a decision outside of the Legislature that when I did stand to speak they would sit directly across from me so that they could heckle and laugh and try to throw me off the track.

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Tape No. 2316

NM - 2

MR. BAIRD:

I will not even go look at you, boy.

MR. CALLAN:

Okay, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY:

Go out, boy, and try to straighten

Bowater's out.

MR. BAIRD:

I will straighten you out.

MR. CALLAN:

The member for Humber West

(Mr. Baird), Mr. Speaker, says they did not have time. They did not have time. Well, the member for Grand Bank

(Mr. Matthews) talked about the loss of fishing vessels, and I am sure he went back probably fifty years,

MR. CALLAN: certainly goodness in the last fifty years we have not had all Liberal governments at Ottawa. Certainly John Diefenbaker was Prime Minister in Ottawa for some length of time. Certainly he could have done something to improve the facility for air search and rescue, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TOBIN: He brought in the shipbuilding policy.

MR. CALLAN: He tried to take away Term 29 too, did he not? But, Mr. Speaker, I will not be sidetracked by the member who speaks from somebody else's seat all of the time.

Mr. Speaker, certainly if Joe Clark and John Crosbie and Jim McGrath did not have time to improve search and rescue facilities the obvious question is did they have time for anything? There were no agreements signed with this Province, Mr. Speaker. There were no agreements signed.

MR. WARREN: They lived in Arnold's Cove.

MR. CALLAN: I would appreciate it if the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) would go over and sit down beside the other gentleman.

MR. TOBIN: No, I do not want him.

MR. CALLAN: You do not want to sit beside the member for St. John's North (Mr. Carter) either, because you are never sitting next to him, which is your proper seat.

MR TOBIN: The member for St. John's North sits right down there, look!

MR. CALLAN: I should have said Bonavista North (Mr. Cross).

Mr. Speaker, after nine months of Joe Clark's government, John Crosbie, Finance Minister, Jim McGrath, Fisheries Minister, after nine months, what did

MR. CALLAN: they give birth too? Did they give birth to anything, Mr. Speaker?

DR. COLLINS: Are you on these sexist jokes again?

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, did they give birth to anything? There were no agreements signed, like the one that we saw signed this morning, \$63 million, 100 per cent Ottawa money, \$63 million, and the day before that we had \$45 million.

MR. WARREN: Ottawa money.

MR. CALLAN: Some of it was 75/25, some was 85/15, it worked out to 77/23.

MR. STAGG: They can throw all the money they got at the Province but they are still doomed.

MR. CALLAN: I am not talking about that. The Stagg at Eve should have drunk his fill before he came into the Legislature, he would be better off, would the member for Stephenville (Mr. Stagg). The question I am asking is if they did not have enough

MR. CALLAN: time to give us better improved air search and rescue facilities, they did not have time for anything. What did they give birth to? I do not know of anything that they have birth to after nine months of government, Mr. Speaker.

DR. COLLINS: They gave birth to a good budget.

MR. CALLAN: They gave birth to a good budget, yes, that brought down the government, mukluks and all.

DR. COLLINS: It would have saved Canada.

MR. WARREN: Yes, like yours is going to save Newfoundland.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) is going to cross, I hope.

MR. STAGG: Time has stood still since 1979.

MR. CALLAN: Yes, yes. In Gros Morne this morning, did time stand still? Mr. Speaker, the member for Grand Bank (Mr. Matthews) when he introduced his resolution talked about some reasons for improved air search and rescue. Mr. Speaker, there are numerous reasons for improved air search and rescue, we agree. Nobody disagrees with it. But, Mr. Speaker, the kind of things that he talked about, the Ocean Ranger he dwelt on that particular aspect, on that particular reason, for a long period of time, but, Mr. Speaker, we are gradually, day by day, finding out that, number one, Mr. Speaker, no matter what kind of air search and rescue facilities we had in this Province in February of 1982, Mr. Speaker, no matter what kind of facilities we had, it could not and would not have made any difference to the fact that 84 lives were lost on the Ocean Ranger.

The member for Grand Bank in introducing this resolution, Mr. Speaker, did not in any way, shape or form talk about the sort of facilities that he thought we should have, he did not mention any. He talked

MR. CALLAN: politics for practically the whole twenty minutes.

MR. MATTHEWS: I will have another chance.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, he will have another chance. I hope that when he closes the debate, whether it is today - by the way, I think we are prepared, if government members are prepared to move this resolution -

MR. NEARY: To vote on it today.

MR. CALLAN: - to vote on this resolution today, We are satisfied to vote on it today. It is urgent, let us vote on it today. Let us not drag it into another week, another Wednesday which will probably never come, because I daresay the Legislature will be closed before next Wednesday. Mr. Speaker, will the House be closed before next Wednesday? Will we get a chance to talk about this again next Wednesday?



MR. CALLAN: I rather doubt it. It is common knowledge, Mr. Speaker, that the Premier and some of his colleagues are very, very anxious to get this House of Assembly shut down. Why? Is it because they want to get out around doing the Province's business, trying to bring home some bacon for this Province in the way of new money, aluminum smelters and what have you? Is that the reason? Does the Premier want to shut this House down because that will give him more time to be the Premier that he should be, play less politics and do more to bring in outside money, new money? No, Mr. Speaker, the reason that the Premier and some of his colleagues want the House of Assembly closed, Mr. Speaker, as soon as possible is so that they can go out and do some campaigning on behalf of their colleague, John Crosbie.

MR. RIDEOUT: There is nothing wrong with that.

MR. CALLAN: Here is what is wrong with it: If this Province, Mr. Speaker, had full employment and if we were not budgeting a \$28 million deficit in our budget, and if this Province were prospering, I think the Premier would be forgiven for going and trying to help his colleague, Mr. Crosbie, to become the new leader of the PC Party.

MR. BAIRD: Party Leader? Prime Minister?

MR. CALLAN: Well, that is another step. We will talk about that when it comes. He has to get over step one first, he has to become the Leader first.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday when I was speaking I mentioned that the two best speakers, the two best orators on the government benches were the Premier and the member for Baie Verte - White Bay (Mr. Rideout), two former Liberals up until the time they thought it very expedient to become Tory. And I am surprised, by the way

MR. CALLAN: it is amazing how easy it is to get into the PC Party. The Premier found it very easy and the member for Baie Verte - White Bay (Mr. Rideout) and, of course, Mr. Speaker, in talking about John Crosbie, we have two things in common -

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, what has this got to do with Search and Rescue?

MR. CALLAN: I was sidetracked.

MR. MARSHALL: Probably it has indirectly something to do with Search and Rescue, very much to do with another kind of Search and Rescue, Mr. Speaker, but not the subject that is before the House. The hon. gentleman cannot be wasting the time of this House. He is wasting the time of the House.

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

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

MR. NEARY: You know, there is none so deaf as those who will not hear. The hon. gentleman should just think back. The member for Stephenville (Mr. Stagg) and various other members were interrupting my colleague, they were baiting him, they were intimidating him and he was answering questions and remarks that were made by the other side, Mr. Speaker. So if the hon. the President of the Council (Mr. Marshall) wants the rules enforced, Mr. Speaker, he should ask the member for Stephenville to restrain himself and let my colleague carry on with his remarks.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): To that point of order, I rule that there is a point of order. The hon. member's last few remarks were not quite to the topic of Search and Rescue.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. CALLAN: I plead guilty, Mr. Speaker.

I was baited and I was sidetracked by members opposite.

Mr. Speaker, another reason why I find it easy to support this resolution is because there is nothing in the resolution that talks about the new or the better facilities, whatever it is, we do not know what they are. You know, the member for Grand Bank (Mr. Matthews) who introduced the resolution, did not specify what sort of better and improved search and rescue facility he was talking about, but whatever it is, we will give him, Mr. Speaker, the benefit of the doubt. Whatever it is that he is talking about, he did not specify that it should be located, for example, in St. John's. He did not specify that. So, in other words, Mr. Speaker, the member for Grand Bank seems to be open-minded enough to let the powers that be decide, well, perhaps Gander is more appropriately placed

MR. CALLAN: geographically for these facilities  
to be located.

MR. WARREN: Or Goobies.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, the member for  
Torngat Mountains is baiting me again.

So, Mr. Speaker, that is another  
reason: There is nothing in this resolution, Mr. Speaker,  
that talks about where the better facilities should be  
located. But, Mr. Speaker, it is a fair question, and the  
member for Grand Bank (Mr. Matthews) spent, I would say,  
fifteen minutes of his speech

MR. CALLAN: talking politics, criticizing the federal government and talking about Mr. Mainguy, rather than the secretary guy, Mr. Speaker. But, Mr. Speaker, as I said we have no difficulty in supporting this resolution. We hope that the government will see fit to call it today, then we can vote on it today and then it will not be caught lying over all Summer and not being dealt with, if we do not happen to come back next Wednesday, which I rather doubt. But, Mr. Speaker, the question is why did not John Crosbie when he was in the federal Cabinet three or four years ago why did he not have monies allocated? He held onto the purse strings, why did he not have money allocated to improve the Search and Rescue facilities? It is a good question.

Now, Mr. Speaker, another question perhaps is, assuming of course that Mr. Crosbie does become the new Leader with the help of the Premier and some of his other colleagues, assuming that John Crosbie does become the new Leader of the PC Party and perhaps the new Prime Minister at some time in the future, assuming all of that, we hope that he will be looking at Newfoundland in a lot better light as Prime Minister than he was as Finance Minister, which is second in command really. I was going to say, Mr. Speaker, that I am proud of Mr. Crosbie as a Newfoundlander, I am glad he is doing well in his fight to become Leader of the PC Party, I hope he never becomes Prime Minister because I hope that when the next election rolls around we will have re-elected another Liberal Government in Ottawa because we know, Mr. Speaker, that Tory times are hard times. But, Mr. Speaker, I like John Crosbie. He was here in the House of Assembly as Finance Minister when I was first elected in 1975 and we see the state of the finances in this Province, Mr. Speaker, after eleven years of Tory Government. We can imagine

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Tape No. 2321

MJ - 2

MR. CALLAN:                    what it is going to be like  
if he becomes Prime Minister. We saw an example of that.  
But we do have two things in common, myself and Mr.  
Crosbie. He like me was a Liberal Reformer and, of course,  
he was a Liberal. I still am

MR. CALLAN: I was trying to draw the analogy just now two of the best speakers on the government benches are the Premier and the member for Baie Verte-White Bay (Mr. Rideout), two former Liberals, and now quite possibly the man who will become the new leader of the P.C. Party federally is again a former Liberal and a former Liberal Reformer. It makes you wonder how hard P.C. supporters and workers work to try and attract new blood.

Mr. Speaker, in the thirty seconds I have left, let me refer to the loss of the Arctic Explorer. You see, Mr. Speaker, what we are into here in reality is this, that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. What we are talking about here is a cure in the event something drastic happens. The Arctic Explorer, Mr. Speaker, studies have shown that the Arctic Explorer should never have gone down.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CALLAN: Now, Mr. Speaker, I am talking about an ounce of prevention being worth a pound of cure. The Arctic Explorer should have never gone down. And, more importantly, and more to the point, and the minister who is a part of this administration knows like well that the Ocean Ranger should never have gone down either and probably would never have gone down if that one ounce of prevention had been put in place by this government, and I have made reference to it before, Mr. Speaker -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CALLAN: - why did they press so early in the game, why this government press for unskilled people to work on that oil rig and others?

MR. CALLAN: Sure, let Newfoundlanders play their role when they have been in the job for a while and they have the qualifications and so on. And another point that I have made, Mr. Speaker, where were all of the inspectors and where were all of the good regulations that this government bragged about that they had in place? We saw them come up with a new set after the Ocean Ranger went down. Why were they not in place before?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas): Order, please!

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, that is where an ounce of prevention.

MR. TOBIN: You time is up.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The hon. member's time has elapsed.

MR. CALLAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that this resolution carries because we need better facilities.



MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. member for Stephenville.

MR. STAGG: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. STAGG: Now, Mr. Speaker, there are two points being debated here this afternoon, first is the very salient and serious point concerning search and rescue, and I will address myself to that briefly, but there is also a certain amount of straight, ordinary, partisan politics being spoken about here this afternoon.

Now I will deal briefly with the search and rescue argument. There is no doubt that that particular set of circumstances, and that particular policy which has been in vogue with our federal colleagues in Ottawa for some nineteen years, since 1964, is really sowing the seeds of destruction for the Liberal Party both federally and provincially. Hon. members opposite who slavishly adhere to the party line of supporting the Liberal Party, be it provincial or federal, in whatever they do or say, are living by the sword and hon. members opposite will die by the sword as well, at least die a political death. Hopefully, none of them will be at sea when they need to be rescued.

The difficulties experienced offshore were exemplified in February of this year. It is quite remarkable, Mr. Speaker, that almost a year to the day from the sinking of the Ocean Ranger a similar set of circumstances existed on the Grand Banks that could have resulted in a similar loss of life. The provincial government, led on this particular issue quite admirably by the Minister responsible for the Petroleum Directorate (Mr. Marshall) ordered that the rigs remove themselves from danger and really the minister came under some pretty harsh criticism from certain quarters. Hon. members



MR. STAGG:

that is a word that the member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Roberts) would use - the alarum which was raised by the Government of Newfoundland -

MR. TULK: Why is it you do not attack us anymore?

MR. STAGG: I am dealing with the serious issues first, then I am going to deal with the trivial issues, and hon. gentlemen opposite are high on the list of trivialities that I am going to deal with, let me tell you. But I am going to get the serious matters out of the way first.

MR. TULK: We are going to get to you.

MR. STAGG: Oh, yes, you will get to me. I mean, it is inevitable that if you shout at a person long enough you will evoke some sort of a reply and if you insult him enough you will get some sort of a reply.

Anyway, the alarum which was raised by the Province and by the Minister responsible for the Petroleum Directorate (Mr. Marshall) was proven to be absolutely and utterly correct. In as discreet a time as possible, Mr. Chretien and his cohorts beat a hasty retreat. They allowed, in fact probably ordered the rigs to get out of danger as quickly as possible. And, Mr. Speaker, it would have been poetic justice if we had evacuated these rigs and then the ice had come in and taken them away and they would be sunken reminders -

MR. HODDER: Would you like to see that?

MR. STAGG: I would not mind if it happened, indeed not - they would be sunken reminders of the danger that comes about when you have amateurs, when you have political opportunists playing with people's lives. Purely crass political opportunism is what motivated Mr. Chretien and his people in February of this year.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. STAGG: It is among the basest actions that that gentleman has ever taken.

MR. SIMMS: Right on!

MR. STAGG: It is likened only to his actions of two or three weeks previous to that when he hypocritically entered into negotiations with our hon. colleague and then had a curious lapse of memory and that sort of thing.

So when it comes to dealing with Liberals, Mr. Speaker, there is

MR. STAGG: nothing too base for them to be involved in. Now, the Search and Rescue effort that hon. members opposite are going to be involved in - as a matter of fact after the next election there will be a Search and Rescue effort; we are going to be searching for Liberals because there will be no Liberals left in this Province after the next election. I do have a kind spot in my heart for a couple of Liberals. The member for Port au Port (Mr. Hodder), even though he regularly attempts to politically assassinate me and he is completely untrustworthy in all matters, you cannot trust him, but still, as he said, he saved my life one time in 1964. He claims that he did. I have saved his twenty or thirty times since that and I realize I should not have done it. So, I might put out a rescue effort for him with his good friend John Crosbie, for whom he campaigned in 1969. I can remember him now, traversing the West Coast, going up against the great Liberal machine of that day, the intrepid warrior from Port au Port.

MR. SIMMS: He was under a lot of pressure.

MR. STAGG: Yes, indeed he was under a lot of pressure. He had just taken over the amalgamated school in Stephenville and as I recall there was nothing that he would not do for his great mentor, Mr. Crosbie.

What happened to him since that time? Well, he has taken a turn for the worse. In June, 1971, he took a faithful trip to Roaches Line. I recall it well, Mr. Speaker, we came in here to play golf. The election was not until October, 1971. We came in here to play in the July invitational - I was a fairly good golfer and I still am relatively good, the hon. member was no good then and he is no good now not as far as golf is concerned - and the hon. member went out to Roaches Line and was entertained royally, I understand, he regaled me with stories, and he lost

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MR. STAGG:

what he could have had.

MR. SIMMS:

What did he want him for?

MR. STAGG:

Mr. Smallwood wanted him to  
organize the West Coast because he had the reputation of

MR. STAGG: being a great organizer. And, of course, being susceptible to flattery and also being susceptible to all of the things that Liberals are susceptible to, he believed that victory was imminent. As I recall, at the time Mr. Smallwood said, 'We are going to out poster them, we are going to out pave them, we are going to out everything them.'

MR. HODDER: We will leave them standing by the road.

MR. STAGG: And we will leave them standing by the road and all that sort of thing. So my hon. colleague, who has been asking for this for years -

MR. SIMMS: How was his organizational effort?

MR. STAGG: I will have to get into his organizational effort, yes, his organizational effort. There was an election in October of 1971. I, of course, followed Mr. Crosbie, as many of us did, and became a candidate in the district of Port au Port, which I represented as a result of that election. Well, let us see what happened down in Burgeo - LaPoile. The hon. member's considerable organizational techniques fell awanting there because Mr. Allen Evans searched and rescued the great district of LaPoile from the Liberal fold. And what happened in the great district of St. George's? Mr. Alexander Dunphy beat a man who was conscripted to the Liberal cause at that time, Magistrate Horan, a fine man, and wiped him out.

I now must modestly come to the district of Port of Port.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. STAGG: As a mere stripling at the time I went up against a person who has gone on since that time to publish a tabloid. As a matter of fact, at the time

MR. STAGG: the hon. member and I owned a tabloid together. We owned (The) Georgian.

MR. HODDER: You still have not paid your advertising bill from the 1971 election.

MR. STAGG: That is not so. It is too late now. So, anyway, in that election, as I recall, I had a real problem. During that election I got a call from Robinson, Blackmore who said the Liberals are putting thirty pages of advertising in your paper, what are you going to do?

MR. TULK: Charge them the highest price possible.

MR. STAGG: Charge them the highest price possible, which I did, and I said, well, let it go because I feel like I am on a roll -

MR. ANDREWS: Comic books and everything.

MR. STAGG: Comic books and you name it, it was in there. I put in two or three pages of my own, I must say, spread them across the bottom and so on. Anyway, let me tell you about the election in Port au Port in 1971. Pavement! I will tell you that the hon. member has not seen anything when it comes to pavement. Election night the paving machines were rolling through Campbell's Creek in the dark of night, they paved throughout the whole night. I won the poll handily, of course. The final vote in Port au Port, which then included Stephenville, was 4,100 for Yours Truly, 2,700 for Mr. Callan.



MR. STAGG: 4,100 for Yours Truly, and 2,700  
for Mr. Callahan.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. STAGG: 4,100 to 2,700, yes. It was  
an astounding victory.

MR. SIMMS: How many seats is that so far on the  
West Coast?

MR. STAGG: Well, he has not won any yet.  
We will leave Port au Port  
and get us go into Humber West. Well, you know,  
Premier Smallwood had represented Humber West. As I recall  
the Leader of the Opposition, who did not have a seat at the  
time, Mr. Moores, he ran in Humber West, and he managed to  
eke out a modest victory, something like 4,000 to 1,000, I  
am not sure who ran against him in Humber West. In Humber West where  
Dr. Tom Farrell, a local legend, ran, Dr. Tom Farrell  
managed to eke out a similar victory. Now we have not had any  
Liberals elected on the West Coast yet. And this is in the  
tie election, this is when the hon. member for Port au Port  
Port (Mr. Hodder) was brought in to win the election on the  
West Coast.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. STAGG: So he has been shut out so far.

Okay, so he has been shut  
out-Burgeo-LaPoike, St. George's Post au Port, Humber East,  
Humber West - well let us go on up the Coast, the coast is  
always clear. There is no way the Liberals can lose the coast,  
until we get into St. Barbe South.

St. Barbe South: What happened  
in St. Barbe South? Fortunately a lady in Sally's Cove  
hung up proceedings for a brief period of time, I do not know  
if she was under instructions from the hon. member or not, but



MR. STAGG:

I will tell you something about St. Barbe North, the hon. member did not appear in St. Barbe North. He was in St. Barbe North once and that was years before.

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

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas): A point of order, the hon. member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER: I just cannot let that go by. The member is reading into the record facts which are absolutely not true. In the 1971 and 1972 election I did not work in Stephenville, I did not work in the district of Port au Port, I did not work in the St. George's district, I did not organize in these districts, I did not organize Humber East or Humber West, I did not organize in St. Barbe.

MR. SIMMS: You were supposed to.

MR. HODDER: No, I was not supposed to. Where I did organize and where I lost, very sadly, was in my father's district. He lost by 97 votes in a landslide election. That is where I did organize. And the hon. member, had he not been my friend, had he been an enemy such as he is now, would never have won the Port au Port district had I gone out there and organized.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: To that point of order, the Speaker a few minutes ago ruled that one should confine one's self to the debate that is on today. The hon. member is straying but both sides are enjoying it so much that I am allowing a certain amount of laxity.

The hon. member for Stephenville.

MR. STAGG: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.  
I was provoked, as is obvious, by hon. members opposite who have been known to provoke me over the years. Anyway I will just finish up by saying that in St. Barbe North, I believe it was Mr. McGrath - was that who it was? - who won St. Barbe North.

MR. TULK: Fred Rowe.

MR. STAGG: Then Mr. Rowe, yes, Mr. Fred Rowe, Jr., he scurried up to St. Barbe North.

MR. SIMMS: Did Smallwood call the member for Port au Port (Mr. Hodder) back in after the tremendous job he did in the 1971 election?

MR. STAGG: No. As a matter of fact, I think the hon. member went into eclipse as far as being a political organizer is concerned. He did get elected in 1975, and it just goes to show that if there is such a thing as unqualified success in political life, that hon. member is a classic example of unqualified success.

I understand he tried to work his magic on my friend from Exploits (Dr. Twomey) in a by-election in 1976. He went down there and succeeded in getting Dr. Twomey elected

MR. STAGG: in 1976. So we are eternally grateful to the hon. the member for Port au Port (Mr. Hodder) for his activities in organizing for the Liberal Party in this Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. STAGG: I think that I have exhausted that topic of lambasting hon. members opposite. You noted that when I started they were like two peas in a pod over there. They were cheek to cheek and jowl to jowl and you name it. I thought there was mouth to mouth resuscitation going on. But now you will see that they have rapidly drifted apart and the member for Fogo (Mr. Tulk) wants nothing to do with the member for Port au Port. And I can well understand why he wants nothing to do with him because his ability to organize political campaigns just might rub off on the member for Fogo, who has been quite successful helicoptering around the district of Fogo during his election.

So, Mr. Speaker, I do say that I will vote for this resolution.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. STAGG: And I certainly hope that an amendment is posed so that hon. members opposite can provoke me into more revelations about the organizing ability of hon. members opposite.

Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. McNicholas): The hon. the member for Port au Port.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, you know, sometimes in this House you have to sit and listen to things, and

MR. HODDER: being a person who follows the rules of this House, I try not to interrupt the hon. member when he is speaking.

But, Mr. Speaker, I speak to the resolution first of all, which I think is the important thing here, not my political career as seen by the member for Stephenville (Mr. Stagg).

Mr. Speaker, I do not have a lot to say on this particular resolution except for the fact that I think that it is one of the resolutions placed on the Order Paper, coming from that side of the House this year, which is eminently reasonable. It is the only one we have seen this year that we have no problem with.

The Newfoundland people are a seafaring people. The majority of the employment across the Province, up until recently with the layoffs and everything else, comes from the sea, and we are now embarking on a new course in our Province's history -

Do not go away! I am very sorry to see the member for Stephenville leave. It is no fun when

MR. TULK: He has to get a different version of history now.

MR. HODDER: But, Mr. Speaker,

MR. HODDER: the question is a very serious one. I suppose there is never enough. We will never - under whichever political party forms the government in Ottawa, whether it be this one or that one or the third one - we will never be satisfied totally with the level of Search and Rescue in this Province. However, Mr. Speaker, I believe that there can be improvements. Now, I do not agree with members opposite in their all out attacks sometimes and sometimes with the issues they use. I do when I am told by the people in Ottawa that as far as the positioning of a ship is concerned, I would believe that the satellites and the new Loren equipment that is being installed in the Province at the present time, in some areas of the Province, I believe that that will help us pinpoint the ships at sea and to locate a disaster when it happens. Mr. Speaker, we do have a rough climate and we do have a lot of shipping passing through the Strait of Belle Isle, through the Gulf of St. Lawrence, which is I understand one of the more heavily travelled routes in Eastern Canada and as well we have the offshore explorations off the East Coast and the fishery on the Northeast Coast. I feel, Mr. Speaker, and I have expressed this feeling before that we should have Search and Rescue stationed around the Province as close as possible to these disasters. I do not speak for my area, I think it is eminently reasonable that fixed-wing aircrafts be stationed in Stephenville. If the government said Deer Lake, that would not bother me but of course I would prefer Stephenville. I believe that the Coast Guard Ships around our Province, I think there should be one stationed in Port aux Basques. I think that the areas that are closest to possible scenes of disaster should have ships, fixed wing aircraft and helicopters available to go as quickly as possible. I am concerned about the situation which we find ourselves in

MR. HODDER: in St. John's. I listened to the member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Andrews) and he said that he thought that even if helicopters were on the ground here in St. John's and it were foggy they could get off. Well, that just is not so, Mr. Speaker. I have some experience, as the member for Stephenville (Mr. Stagg) in my wide history of organizing and everything else, I did manage and schedule and look after all helicopters and fixed wing aircrafts on the Churchill Falls project for a period of eight months.

MR. TULK: And besides that in 1975 you scared away the member for Stephenville.

MR. HODDER: No, no. I did not have to scare away the member for Stephenville, he ran.

MR. TULK: He ran.

MR. HODDER: But I do have some experience with



MR. HODDER:                   helicopters and fixed wing aircraft, particularly of that particular type, and I think it is too much to put all of our eggs in one basket. I believe that the St. John's airport, while it is the centre of the media, the centre of communications, I believe that St. John's leaves something to be desired to be the only place where Search and Rescue originates from. I believe that we should have Search and Rescue all around the Province. I know there are a couple of aircrafts in Gander. But nevertheless, I feel that we should have the best rescue capability possible.

I suppose every member of this House of Assembly knows of someone who has died at sea or who has been lost and it is part of our history, part of our way of life, but it is something that we would like to overcome. And I do not think there is any Newfoundlander who would not agree with this resolution as put forward by my friend and colleague from Grand Bank (Mr. Matthews).

MR. STAGG:                   Tell us about your organizing ability.

MR. TULK:                   No, no! He is very serious now.

MR. HODDER:                 My organizing ability - well!

MR. SIMMS:                 What about Churchill Falls, you organized up there and we lost that too.

MR. STAGG:                 When he was up there, he chaired both meetings in Churchill Falls in 1968, so he could not lose.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:         Hear, hear!

MR. TULK:                 Well, well! I have to get a copy of all this!

MR. HODDER:                 The truth of the matter is during my stint in Churchill Falls - and, you know, the gentleman is now a person of some renown in this Province,

MR. HODDER: being the Ombudsman. But he came in to Churchill Falls and I picked him up at the airport. And he could not find his way to Churchill Falls. Now, there are only two roads, there was one going to Twin Falls and one going to Churchill Falls.

MR. STAGG: You picked him up at Twin Falls.

MR. HODDER: No, I picked him up at the airport in Churchill Falls. He wanted to go to Twin Falls and I took him back to Churchill Falls. But anyhow, he arrived there and since I had had the pleasure of his company in the car going from the airport -

MR. SIMMS: How come you picked him up?

MR. TULK: He is a gentleman.

MR. HODDER: Because I was with Transportation, I was in logistics.

MR. STAGG: He was there for three months before he knew how to get around.

MR. SIMMS: For who? All of Churchill Falls?

MR. TULK: Now, now!

MR. HODDER: Yes, that is not called for. I worked with Acres Canadian Bechtel, I say to my hon. friend opposite. As a matter of fact, the hon. member, the job that he had in Churchill Falls, I got for him.

MR. TULK: Did you?

MR. HODDER: Well, I mean, through my good offices.

MR. TULK: You got him a job, you brought him into politics.

MR. SIMMS: You saved his life and then you got him a job.

MR. STAGG: Tell them about how our jobs came about.

MR. HODDER: Well, I mean -

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MR. TULK: Never mind that, you got him a  
job, you brought him into politics -

MR. HODDER: That is right. I saved his life

MR. TULK: You saved his life. It is time for you to quit looking out for that fellow and let him look out for himself.

MR. HODDER: In 1969 when he was just a young budding law student -

MR. STAGG: A mere stripling.

MR. HODDER: - a mere stripling who had just received two speeding tickets on his way home and on his way back his first day as a lawyer in Stephenville. I called him along and said, 'I am involved in this movement, it is the Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador.' I had met Mr. Crosbie and Mr. Wells through the good offices of Cabot Martin in Corner Brook one night and sort of drifted into a meeting in Humber East where I saw political action first hand, and I thought, This is very good. "Mr. Crosbie I can do this for you in Stephenville." So from that point on I went out to Stephenville. And remember this. I would like for the member for Stephenville (Mr. Stagg) to hear this:

We had a Liberal meeting where we elected an executive for Mr. Crosbie and from then on, we went to St. George's.

MR. TULK: Slates?

MR. HODDER: Oh, no, no. This was before the slates. We were more highly organized than that. We did not -

MR. TULK: You had the slates in your mind.

MR. HODDER: This was six months before when we were organizing the District Association.

So I might say that the hon. the Premier and myself and two other gentlemen were travelling the Province, crisscrossing the Province, and it was the first time I met the Premier, as a fellow-worker for

MR. HODDER: Mr. Crosbie. But remember, we were Liberals.

We were so successful in Bay St. George that we brought seventy delegates in from Bay St. George, and we were so successful that not only did we get the delegates but we got the alternates too and if we did not think an alternate was right up to scratch, we substituted and made sure we got one up to scratch right in the middle of the meeting. We were highly organized and we were highly financed too.

MR. STAGG: What kind of a transportation seu-up did you have?

MR. HODDER: Well myself and the member for Stephenville (Mr. Stagg) -

MR. STAGG: Get back to the resolution.

MR. HODDER: - but, Mr. Speaker, the point I want to make is that we were Liberals, so that at the convention when - and I might say, I take credit for bringing more delegates in for my hopeful, for the Leader of the Liberal Party, than anyone else, more than the Premier did, more than the other two hon. gentlemen who are not in this House, so I will not mention.

MR. TULK: He was one of them, was he?  
Was he one of your delegates?

MR. HODDER: I do not know if - yes, I believe he was, I am not sure.

MR. STAGG: I was not a delegate, you must be thinking of somebody else.

MR. TULK: You could not get him elected?

MR. HODDER: No, no, I have to put matters straight.

MR. TULK: Never mind them listen to me.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. HODDER: Will you shut up so I can get my point out.

MR. TULK: But they are not interrupting you.

MR. HODDER: No, I do not mind them, I mind you.

MR. TULK: You could not get him elected?

MR. HODDER: Could not get him elected?

MR. HODDER: I cannot remember exactly what happened in that but at that particular time I was his mentor, he followed along and did what I told him, sort of thing.

MR. TULK: A fledgling.

MR. HODDER: He was a fledgling.

MR. HODDER: So then at the convention in 1969 I decided that I would run - because we were all Liberals - I would run for the Western Vice-Presidency of the Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador. And lo and behold, the only Crosbie person to be elected with his Crosbie badges on, as a Liberal, was myself.

MR. TULK: Is that right?

MR. HODDER: So a little while later, I got a call from Mr. Crosbie, who said, 'I am going to join the P.C. Party.'

MR. HODDER: I said, 'But that is not what you told me all along. You said we had a reformed Liberal party, we were going back to the Liberal Party, we were going to keep the Liberal Party.'

MR. STAGG: That was afterwards.

MR. HODDER: Well, I had worked with Mr. Crosbie up until the time that he called me and said that he was joining the P.C. Party. And then shortly afterward, the hon. member came along to me and he said he wanted me to run in Stephenville in the Port au Port area. And I said, 'But I cannot do that. I mean, you are a turncoat, you have gone with the Tory Party.'

AN HON. MEMBER: He saw the light.

MR. HODDER: No, Mr. Speaker, the worst thing you can do is leave your party. You cannot leave your party. I mean, if the party is going down the drain, you do not leave like rats and run away.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

I would just like to remind the hon. member of the rule of relevancy. I fail to see the pertinence of the last several minutes of his statement as it has to do with Search and Rescue.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, I realize that you are right. The problem, Mr. Speaker, was that I had to

MR. HODDER: sit and was subjugated to the member for Stephenville (Mr. Stagg) reading things into the record, Mr. Speaker, which were totally and absolutely untrue.

MR. PATTERSON: Do not blackout now, they were true.

MR. HODDER: Well, you know, Mr. Speaker, the sequence of events may have been true but the interpretations were not true.

But, Mr. Speaker, on the motion to which I am speaking, I would say again to the member for Grand Bank (Mr. Matthews) who introduced it, that it is a reasonable motion. It is one that we on this side of the House can support. It is one that all Newfoundlanders can support and, Mr. Speaker, we as the official Opposition will support that particular motion but, Mr. Speaker, not in the interest of members on the other side of the House, not for political purpose, but just because we, as all Newfoundlanders, feel that our people who are working on the Offshore, our people who are working on the trawlers on the South coast of this Province and our people who are fishing on the Northeast coast and around the Province and in the Labrador portion of our Province should have the best protection possible. And who is to say, Mr. Speaker, what is good protection? Mr. Speaker, there are many things about the search and rescue facilities that we have in this Province now which are admirable, and I would say that the people who man those boats and the people who fly those aircraft are to be commended for the jobs that they have done. But they work in a very difficult and hostile environment



MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, if the House Leader opposite (Mr. Marshall) were willing to put this motion today, we would be quite willing to put the motion. If hon. members want to debate it for another day, that is fine with us, we certainly would debate it. But I would say, Mr. Speaker, that all Newfoundlanders would always search - we will never find an alternate and perfect search and rescue system throughout the Province. But what we must strive for is as close to perfection as we can possibly get. And in that event, I would think that if hon. members were over here and we were over there, that we would be in exactly the same circumstances, or if the hon. members' friends in Ottawa were in power and we were over here, we would be doing exactly the same thing. It goes beyond politics when we talk about the search and rescue capabilities of this Province. And, of course, if this resolution will help the Government of Canada or will help the people of Newfoundland to make moves which will be more practical and which will save the lives of Newfoundlanders, then we are all for it.

Mr. Speaker, I think we only have a couple of minutes left. I adjourn the debate.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Is it agreed to call it 6:00 p.m.?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

On motion, the House at its rising adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, May 19, 1983 at 3:00 p.m.

Index

Answers to questions

tabled

May 18, 1983

*Tabled by Hon. Minister  
of Labour & Manpower  
18 May '83*

QUESTION NO. 112 ON ORDER PAPER NO. 24 DATED 21 APRIL,  
1983.

Mr. Lush (Terra Nova) - To ask the Honourable the  
Minister of Labour and Manpower to lay upon the Table  
of the House the following information:

A list of the number of complaints waiting  
to be processed before the Labour Relations  
Board.

ANSWER:

There are two complaints before the Labour Relations Board  
which will be dealt with at the next Board meeting  
scheduled for 18 May, 1983.

THE OFFICE OF



THE PREMIER

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE  
OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

*Tabled by Paul;  
Secretary to the  
Premier in reply  
to oral questions,  
18 May '83*

In response to questions asked today regarding lay-off notices given to employees of Fisheries Products, I table the following information:

Right now the plants in question are working two shifts. Lower fish thruput is expected for June and in order to lay off the 2nd. shift in June the collective agreement requires notice of lay-off now.

This has occurred previously and the lay-off notices have been avoided by the Union agreeing to waive the contract clauses in question. This enabled the company to keep the workers on and only do lay-offs on a more immediate basis. However, as of yesterday, the Union had not agreed to a waiver, so the company gave notice to the second shift as per the collective agreement.