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TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY  
FOR THE PERIOD:  
10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.  
FRIDAY, MAY 20, 1983

The House met at 10:00 A.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

ORAL QUESTIONS

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, since this is the anniversary of the Premier's infamous Day of Mourning, and his economic strategies look just as bad today as they did a year ago when he threw a tantrum, Mr. Speaker, that cost the Province about \$80 million, I wonder if the hon. gentleman could tell us now what strategies the administration have; what plans they have to deal with the horrible state of the Newfoundland economy?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, we have brought down a Throne Speech and we brought down a budget and we have outlined what we are going to try to do this year. We have worked hard on various sectors of the economy to try to help. Let us start with the fishing industry, Mr. Speaker. Last year we guaranteed close to \$30 million to fish processors around the Province, and most of them had a very good year and we did not have to have our guarantees called, but they would not have been able to own a business without the guarantees. We are continuing a number of support programmes to those processors this year who continue to need some support. The Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) has been successful in having a number of fish processing plants on the Great Northern Peninsula get open in the last few weeks. We are now engaged in extensive negotiations with the federal government on the offshore fishery and they are continuing and we are hopeful that within the next couple of weeks we can finalize an arrangement which is satisfactory to the Province and satisfactory to the federal government and satisfactory to the banks. And that is ongoing

PREMIER PECKFORD: and very, very current. So in the inshore sector, as I said, primarily we have put close to \$30 million in place last year. Some of them are continuing on this year with that support. And we are negotiating in the offshore fishery right now, to try to bring that to successful conclusion.

Number two, in the mining industry, Mr. Speaker, over the last year and a half, two years, and up into this year, we were successful in persuading the federal government to get involved with

PREMIER PECKFORD:

us in the Baie Verte mining operation which, as everybody knows, has become a real success story. We are now engaged in negotiations with the owners of Rambler Mines Ltd. who are talking to other developers to try to reactivate the Rambler operation. We were very, very successful. And I have to congratulate the minister behind me, the Minister of Mines (Mr. Dawe) in getting the Flintkote operation at Flat Bay back into full production.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD:

We were negotiating with a number of other interested companies to take over that operation if Flintkote kept on its course of closure, and we were very close to having another operator go into Flat Bay, so that is open and going full blast, which I think is a very, very successful operation now, and looks to have a good future. We are in the process of putting in place and this last week or so, quite a few, I guess there would be a few hundred now new jobs in the forestry sector through our silviculture programme, I know in my own constituency about thirty or forty people went to work this past week on reforestation and silviculture programmes. We are monitoring the forestry industry very closely because of the downturn worldwide. I do not think that you will see a significant improvement in that industry as it relates to the mills and so on until 1984, but in the meantime, we are trying to speed up the Federal/Provincial agreement in forestry to put more reforestation and more silviculture in place on the ground. That is going to help the Glenwood area which has been hit, it is

PREMIER PECKFORD: helping my own area which has been hit very badly, because the number of loggers who will now go to work will be down from last year. So we are doing all we can there and, as I said, a few more jobs are being created, last week, next week and this week, to help that sector. The minister responsible for tourism (Mr. Windsor) has done an incredible job. He has not been in the House all that much this session primarily because he has been out promoting the Province around Canada and the United States, and we are going to see a very, very substantial improvement in the tourism industry in this Province. And there is a very positive feeling out there among all the people who are involved in the tourism industry that not only this year because of Sir Humphrey Gilbert but on into the future we are putting in place good infrastructure to ensure that we have a very viable tourist industry. This past week the minister was involved in negotiations with Mr. Lumley and Mr. Rompkey to try to get in to another tourism agreement. We have done some pretty good work over the last few years on infrastructure facilities around the Province. The money has been all used up. When the agreement was signed the money would be gone in about six months. So we are trying in these various sectors. We want another rural development agreement which we are working on. We got the present one extended and we want a new one in that. I just finished negotiations on the industrial development agreement, we should be

PREMIER PECKFORD: be ready to sign that in two weeks, which will see a maximum infusion of money into Port aux Basques, in the Leader of the Opposition's (Mr. Neary) district. In Pasadena we will see a few million dollars spent, in Windsor we will see \$2 million to \$3 million spent, in Gander we will see \$4 million to \$7 million spent, we will see money spent for a study on the Octagon Pond Industrial Park. That agreement is just about ready.

We have just done a roads agreement which I was very pleased with, because the federal government wanted a 50/50 on Trans-Labrador highway, we got an 85/15. We got an 85/15, up from 50/50.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: We are going to help build the road with the federal government in Mr. Rompkey's district, to L'Anse -au-Meadows, worth \$7 million. I said to Mr. Rompkey, that is just not good enough, we have other roads that have to be done. He agreed after we put it on the table, that we have to do the road to the Industrial Park in Gander 75/25. That will go ahead.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: I said we have to do Conception Bay South bypass, we have to do it. I went to Ottawa in January and I said to them up there, I will take everything off the table on roads but two to start the negotiations, to show my seriousness in negotiations, the Trans-Labrador highway on a special deal of 85/15 -

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible).

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

PREMIER PECKFORD: - the rest at 75/25.

Conception Bay bypass road:  
\$12 million will be spent getting that thing going. And then,

PREMIER PECKFORD: of course, I said to Mr. Rompkey, but we cannot leave out the Burgeo highway.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: That was not part of their deal at all. Burgeo highway was not on the table. And I said I cannot sign an agreement even though I want the Trans-Labrador highway to go ahead, even though I want the road to L'Anse-au-Meadows to go ahead, even though I want the Conception Bay bypass road to go ahead, even though I want the road to the Industrial Park in Gander to go ahead unless I get a start with you on the road to Burgeo, because that is a very important part of our Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: And after some very heavy negotiations, after the initial set of negotiations over the phone I was able to persuade them that we have to have that Burgeo road started so that will be going as well.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think we are doing a pretty good job on trying to economically stimulate a depressed economy, and as the recovery starts in the United States and the Mainland and so on over the next twelve months, we are going to see a real turnaround in this Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask some questions to the Minister of Education (Ms. Verge) re the cost of textbooks, a measure announced in the Budget which said, 'effective September 1983 the government subsidy on high school textbooks will be 50 per cent of cost rather than the 75 per cent subsidy now in effect.'

MR. LUSH: I wonder if the minister can first of all clarify to all hon. members whether below that level, below Grade IX, that the subsidy remains the same as it now is at 75 per cent?

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

MS VERGE: Mr. Speaker, government totally subsidizes textbooks for kindergarten through Grade VIII. Government buys the textbooks and supplies them free of charge to students.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MS VERGE: The books are actually administered by the schools and rotated among students with replacement coming every four or five years. In other words, after the initial inventory of books is purchased by the Department of Education and distributed among primary and elementary and junior high schools across the Province, the schools receive one-quarter or one-fifth of the total required every year thereafter so that there is ongoing replacement, but to answer the hon. member's question, government totally subsidizes textbooks for kindergarten through Grade VIII. These books are supplied to school children free of charge. The only kinds of books that students in the lower grades have to pay for, or that their parents have to pay for are what are called workbooks or consumable materials, materials that the students write in and that can be used only once.

MR. LUSH: What do they pay for those, 75 per cent?

MS VERGE: In the case of consumables, Mr. Speaker, students and their parents pay the total cost but, of course, that is a small fraction of the cost of all the materials that students use. The expensive textbooks, the regular textbooks, are supplied by government



MS VERGE: free of charge to students from kindergarten through Grade VIII.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, I am just wondering whether the minister is aware of the impact of this particular change? It looks very innocent that parents will be just paying 25 per cent more. Because, whereas they are now paying one-quarter of the cost because the government subsidizes 75 per cent, and parents therefore pay 25 per cent of the cost of the book, now with the new plan it is 50/50, government

MR. LUSH:

will be paying 50 per cent and the parents paying 50 per cent. So I am wondering on that basis whether the minister can indicate what kind of an impact that is going to have on the sharing of this burden, on the paying of the cost of textbooks to parents next year. And just to give an example, I wonder if the minister can indicate what she thinks a book costing three dollars this year will cost a student, therefore cost the parent, next year to indicate the kind of impact that this innocent looking policy change will have.

MS. VERGE: Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. VERGE: Mr. Speaker, I think I made it clear in my first answer that government is totally subsidizing textbooks for students from kindergarten to Grade VIII.

MR. LUSH: I am talking about high school now. Let us talk about high school.

MR. VERGE: Mr. Speaker, for high school from Grades IX through XII, as of September 1983, government will continue to subsidize the cost of textbooks but at a lower rate. Instead of providing a 75 per cent subsidy, effective in the 1983-84 school year government subsidy will be reduced to 50 per cent and, of course, that was announced to in the Budget Speech. It is a measure that government does not like to take, but given the options available to us in very difficult times, when we have forecast have a hefty deficit on our current account, it was felt better than a lot of other options for trying to cut down on continuing increases in spending for education. The effect of that decrease in the government subsidy for textbooks for Grades IX through XII will mean, as I am sure the member opposite realizes, that a book which formerly cost

MS. VERGE: the student three dollars will  
now cost the student six dollars.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. LUSH: There we have it, Mr. Speaker.  
It looked like a very innocent change but what will happen  
is parents will be paying double for the books and that  
was the simple example that I used, a book that cost the  
parents three dollars this year will cost the parents  
six dollars next year. In some cases that is a  
increase to the parents.

MR. LUSH: 100 per cent increase to the parents, in some cases it will go to a high of 120 per cent. I wonder if the minister is aware what that kind of increase will mean in total to a student in Grade IX and to parents? Has the minister got her department to work that out in terms of what extra monies that will cost one student in Grade IX next year?

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

MS. VERGE: Mr. Speaker, yes, of course, my officials and I and government have carefully looked at the impact of the change in the government's subsidy on high school books. I reiterate we have decided to continue total subsidization of books for students in the lower grades, from Kindergarten up to Grade VIII. For students in high school, from Grades IX through XII, who have been paying an average of about \$35 a year for their books, with the reduction in the subsidy from 75 per cent to 50 per cent the cost will grow to \$70.

Mr. Speaker, I reiterate that this is not a measure that government likes to have to take but perhaps one positive side effect will be the encouragement of purchase of second-hand books so that there is better conservation of textbooks which will continue to be subsidized by government with more than one student in more than one year using and enjoying the textbooks.

MR. LUSH: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, the hon. member for Terra Nova.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, we can now see the tremendous shift in this government's philosophy of education when we look at what has happened with student aid and now the extra cost of books to parents and to students.

Mr. Speaker, does the minister

MR. LUSH: not realize that this will place a tremendous financial burden on the parents of this Province where we have books alone to be increased from 100 per cent to 120 per cent, and one student having to pay \$70 more and if we have parents with two or three students in high school we could be talking about \$150 to well over \$200 more? Is the minister not aware or does the minister not realize the kind of financial burden that this is going to place on many of the parents next Fall, parents who will be unemployed, no means of income? Does the minister not realize the impact and the burden that this new policy is going to place on the students and parents of this Province.

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

MS. VERGE: Mr. Speaker, high school students with parents with no means of an income will be able to have their text books paid for through social assistance from the Provincial Government Department of Social Services, as they always have.

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. LUSH: Fine, Mr. Speaker. That is a noble measure, where we can have books paid for for people who are receiving social assistance, but did the minister not hear of the working poor, the people who do not qualify for social assistance, Mr. Speaker, low income people? And to force this financial burden on a very vital area in education, where students will be paying, parents will be paying up to 100 per cent and 120 per cent increases overall, in view of this financial burden will the minister not take it upon herself to see if we cannot change the policy?

MS. VERGE: Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. VERGE: Mr. Speaker, the subsidy will continue at the rate of 50 per cent for high school books. I do not know where the member opposite is coming up with the figure of 120 per cent increase. I would say, Mr. Speaker, that schools will be encouraging students taking part in high school in the next school year to purchase second-hand books, books which are now in use by students a year or two ahead of them. That is a practical measure for students to cut down on the cost of their books. I am sure most of us can reflect back on our high school

M.S. VERGE: years when a provincial administration of a different stripe did not offer as generous a subsidy for books and materials and most of us economized by purchasing second-hand books. And that is a realistic measure which I would encourage students to take for next year.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier in connection with the distasteful behaviour of the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) at the Fisheries Council of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, would the Premier tell the House what disciplinary action, what instructions were given to the Minister of Fisheries in connection with this matter that has so badly damaged the credibility of the minister and of the administration, a situation that may be seething beneath the surface for an indefinite period of time, that may do Newfoundland untold damage, that places the Minister of Fisheries in the embarrassing position where he can no longer represent the administration at any of these conferences that are coming up involving marketing and international conferences on the fisheries and so on because the hon. gentleman's credibility has been

MR. NEARY: battered and bruised? Could the hon. gentleman tell the House what action is being taken by him or the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) to deal with this matter?

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

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I gave my position on that some time ago.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman is probably still under the illusion that this matter is going to blow over, when yesterday we had a call from the Globe and Mail dealing with this matter, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, they can try to laugh it off all they want. Now, would the hon. the Premier tell the House if he instructed the Minister of Fisheries to call a number of representatives who attended that conference to offer an apology? Would the hon. gentleman tell the House if the Minister of Fisheries did indeed call some of the people who attended that conference to offer his own private, personal apology?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated I have dealt with that matter.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: I can understand, Mr. Speaker, why the Premier is so ashamed to deal with this matter. This is the fourth time now the Premier has defended the Minister of Fisheries



MR. NEARY: and we wonder why, Mr. Speaker. We are all wondering why.

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: The hon. gentleman is making a speech, the hon. gentleman refers to 'fourth time', I point out to the hon. gentleman there is a procedure on Thursday for anyone who is dissatisfied with an answer received, that he can debate it. It has not been used for the past eight Thursdays I believe by the hon. gentleman so presumedly if he has asked it four times, this is the fourth time, he must have been satisfied the first three times.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: To that point of order I would ask the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) if he could direct his question.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, let it be recorded that the hon. the Premier is refusing to answer the questions. These are very important questions, high-quality, high-calibre questions, Mr. Speaker, and the hon. gentleman is refusing to deal with this matter, is refusing to answer the question.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

MR. NEARY: Now let me ask the hon. gentleman, Mr. Speaker, if in fact his Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) did call certain representatives who attended that conference to offer his apology?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

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

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I have indicated to the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) on a number of occasions that I have dealt with that matter. I mean, if the Leader of the Opposition gets a phone call from the Globe and Mail and wants to brag about it in this House, the first time he has gotten a call from a paper on the mainland, that is fine with me. I cannot help what phone calls the Leader of the Opposition might get from time to time. I think it is very interesting to note though, Mr. Speaker, that the lead-off question in Question Period today was on the economy and the Leader of the Opposition attempted to ask a serious, important question but once the answer was given, the Leader of the Opposition slouched back in his chair, not able to follow up with another good question on the economy and now he is going on about small matters again. I would really encourage the Leader of the Opposition to stay on matters of substance so that the Opposition will perform the role that they are elected to perform.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: We will deal with the economy when the hon. gentleman lays his plans on the House and tells the people of this Province what he intends to do to deal with the crisis in the Newfoundland economy.

Now, the hon. gentleman said that he had dealt with the situation. Would the hon. gentleman tell the House how he has dealt with the situation?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I have answered questions on this subject to the extent that I think is necessary

PREMIER PECKFORD: and I have no more comment on the matter.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, obviously the hon. gentleman is stonewalling so I will have to ask the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan), Mr. Speaker, what action he took to deal with this situation. Did he indeed call a number of representatives who attended that conference? And, if so, who did he call and what was the reaction?

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, I have no further comment to make other than what has been made on that topic, but I find it rather astounding, to say the least, Mr. Speaker, that with such major issues as we have today in the fishing industry, and all the important meetings I have been attending over the last four or five days trying to save the jobs of approximately 16,000 Newfoundlanders -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MORGAN: - that we get questions on a joke!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

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

MR. NEARY: Would the hon. gentleman inform  
the House if he did indeed call a number of representatives  
who attended that conference to offer his apology and, if so,  
would the hon. gentleman tell the House if his apology was  
accepted?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Same question.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is  
going to stonewall like the Premier, he is acting under  
instructions. Perhaps the Premier could tell the House  
if the hon. minister has on his instructions called a  
number of representatives -

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

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

MR. MARSHALL: I refer Your Honour to page  
129 of Beauchesne, "A question oral or written must not:  
multiply, with slight variations, a similar question on  
the same point." And (d) "repeat in substance a question  
already answered". Now, Mr. Speaker, I think it is  
quite obvious that the hon. gentleman has posed questions,  
responses have been given and he is just repeating in  
substance the same question again.

MR. SPEAKER: To that point of order, I have  
to rule that there is a point of order. The hon. the  
Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) has asked that question  
several times here today and he received some answers, if  
they are not satisfactory, he has a procedure to turn to on Thursday.

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

MR. NEARY: Well, Mr. Speaker, they certainly  
are unsatisfactory. Obviously the hon. gentleman for the  
fourth time is going to attempt to defend the Minister of  
Fisheries (Mr. Morgan). Now, a question to the Premier,  
Mr. Speaker, a simple yes or no answer would be in order,  
does the hon. gentleman -

MR. ANDREWS: You asked the question before.

MR. WARREN: Never mind you.

MR. CALLAN: Are you drunk this early in the  
morning?

MR. ANDREWS: Who are you talking about?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

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

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

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

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

MR. ANDREWS: I ask the gentleman to withdraw -

MR. MORGAN: Yes, indeed. Indeed withdraw.

MR. ANDREWS: - the member for Bellevue.

MR. NEARY: That is terrible.

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

MR. SPEAKER: To that point of order, the hon.  
the member for Bellevue.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, I do not know what  
the member is talking about.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. ANDREWS: Oh, boy! I ask for this to be recorded.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!  
I will check Hansard to see what statements were made.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

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

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order -

MR. HICKEY: Whatever the hon. gentleman said,  
I do not believe -

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

MR. HICKEY: - Hansard will record it anyway.  
That is the usual tactics of the Opposition.

MR. SPEAKER: To the point of order, there is  
no point of order.  
The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier  
just requires a simple yes or no answer. Would the hon. gentleman -

MR. ANDREWS: (Inaudible) by Christ.

MR. HICKEY: Meet him outside.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, what is wrong with the  
member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Andrews)? Has he gone  
off his rocker or what.  
Would the hon. gentleman tell  
the House, yes or no, if it is his intention -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: - to apologize for the behaviour  
of the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan), to make a public -

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

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, this is not only  
a point of order, it is also a point of privilege. Look,

MR. MARSHALL: whether the hon. gentleman likes it or not, there are rules that govern conduct in this House. I rose on a point of order a moment ago and Your Honour ruled the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) out of order. Now the fact of the matter is what the Leader of the Opposition is doing now - whether he likes the answer or does not that is beside the question - he is flagrantly violating the ruling of Your Honour. Now there is only one course of action, Mr. Speaker, if the hon. gentleman persists in that Your Honour, I would suggest, might see fit to direct the Leader of the Opposition to take his seat and recognize another hon. member.

MR. SIMMS: Hear, hear.

MR. MARSHALL: And if he refuses to do that, there are certain recourses that have to be taken. We would all regret seeing this taken, but the hon. Leader of the Opposition, once again, has to know that these rules have been set down not by this government but by the British parliamentary system. And when a ruling is made by Your Honour it is to be obeyed.

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

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, that is something you would expect to hear in Russia or from Mussolini, you would not expect to hear that sort of thing in this hon. House. The question that I put to the Premier was the first time that question was asked this morning, and the hon. gentleman can try all he wants to smooth over this situation, to cover it up. They are not going to succeed, Mr. Speaker. The matter is seething beneath the surface, it has to be dealt with and, Mr. Speaker, it was the first time I put that question to the hon. gentleman today. And

MR. NEARY: the question is in order, Mr. Speaker, and no points of order on behalf of the hon. gentleman are going to stop us. Let it be recorded, Mr. Speaker, that the government are refusing to answer the question.

MR. SIMMS: Not true. Not true.

MR. NEARY: What we need, Mr. Speaker, is a change of rules in this House to force the Premier and the ministers to answer questions.



MR. NEARY: The quality of the questions are good, it is the quality of the answers that people should be concerned about.

MR. SPEAKER(Aylward): Order, please!  
To that point of order, I will remind the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) again that it is not permissible to repeat in substance a question that has already been answered or for which the answer has been refused.

The time for Question Period has now expired.

Before continuing with the business of the House , it gives me great -

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: I think Question Period is one thing, and the cut and thrust of debate is one thing, but I am a little bit concerned as one member of this House about what is happening here today and what has been happening over the last while. The member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan) has made a statement; he was sitting in his seat, he knows he made the statement. It is not good for the decorum and for politics - cut and thrust is one thing between the Leader of the Opposition and myself, that is fair game. But we cannot have members sitting in their seats making accusations and character assassination in the way that the member for Bellevue just did. We as a House cannot allow this to occur on this side of the House , any member on this side of the House or the other side of the House. That is not fair ball, Mr. Speaker, And I think we are masters of our own House. And I think it is time for us when we are sitting in our seats , now and then we are going to be doing things back and forth across the House

PREMIER PECKFORD: but let us not go down into the depths of, you know, of what has happened here this morning. That is not good for this House. That is not good for this Province.

And I would ask the member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan) , Mr. Speaker, in a display of good taste, to stand in his place; he knows he said it, it was not nice - to get up and just apologize or withdraw the remark so that we do not have this kind of a thing snowballing now - one member can get away with it and then another member under the heat of debate and start saying it. Let us keep it at a certain level. And let the member for Bellevue stand up in his place now and withdraw his remark.

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

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. Leader of the Opposition to that point of order.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I do not know what point the Premier was trying to make, because I believe Your Honour took the matter under advisement -

PREMIER PECKFORD: But I did stand up there.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, really what the Premier is doing is questioning the competence of the Chair.

PREMIER PECKFORD: I am asking him to withdraw altogether.

MR. NEARY: The Speaker will deal with this matter in due course, as he will with the swear words. I heard the hon. member for Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Andrews) swear twice. Twice he swore. It may have been in reaction, in the heat of debate the hon. gentleman may have -

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

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward):           The hon. Minister of  
Environment, on a point of privilege.

MR. ANDREWS:                    If I did utter any words of  
sacrilege, I withdraw them and apologize to the House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:            Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:                    Order, please!

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. CALLAN: May I speak to the point of order that was raised by the Premier?

MR. SPEAKER: To the point of order.

MR. CALLAN: The Speaker has indicated that he is going to investigate the matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!  
The hon. the member for Bellevue.

MR. CALLAN: When the Speaker asked me to -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CALLAN: When he wants to deal with it I will deal with it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please!  
The hon. the Minister of the Environment (Andrews) rose on a point of privilege. I rule now that the point of privilege has been taken care of through his explanation. The point of order raised by the Premier, I will check Hansard to see what statements were made and if they were unparliamentary or derogatory I will ask the member to withdraw them.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: It will not be in Hansard because the microphone was not on.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please!  
Before we continue with the business of the House, it gives me great pleasure to welcome from North West River, Naskaupie District, Mayor Bernice Watts, Councillor Catherine Baikie-Pottle, and Miss Sue Gavern.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward):

A point of order, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, the government, obviously their strategy is to press as hard as they can to get the House closed. Mr. Speaker, we heard this morning from the Government House Leader they may keep the House open for another little while, and we are glad that they bowed to our pressure to do that. But to keep the House open until Regetta Day, we should have something positive, something concrete on the table of this House that we can discuss.

Now, what about Answers to Questions on the Order Paper, Mr. Speaker? The batting average of the administration is less than 40 per cent, so I want to ask the the hon. the Premier if he intends to instruct his ministers to bring in answers to written questions placed on the Order Paper, and if the hon. gentleman intends to deal with the question that he refused to answer, that I put on the Order Paper.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

PREMIER PECKFORD:

To that point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

To the point of order the hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Mr. Speaker, obviously the hon. the Leader of the Opposition is hurting because of the action of one of his members there earlier.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): To that point of order,  
the hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: To that point of order,  
Mr. Speaker, obviously the Leader of the Opposition  
(Mr. Neary) is hurting because of the actions of one of  
his members earlier, and his refusal to be an honourable  
man and to get up and apologize, and now he is trying to recoup  
this morning.

MR. NEARY: The Speaker is going to rule on  
it.

PREMIER PECKFORD: To the point of order,  
Mr. Speaker. We are not trying to close the House down.  
The Leader of the Opposition has been making these accusations  
now for a couple of weeks and the House is still open. How  
about, number 2, Orders of the Day? "An Act To Establish  
An Economic Council For Newfoundland" is now being debated,  
order 9, "An Act To Amend The Pharmaceutical Association Act", that  
act is now before the House, the one on the Economic Council is through  
second reading. Number 13, "An Act To Amend The Criminal  
Injuries Compensation Act", that will be done. Number 22,  
"An Act To Amend The Pippy Park Commission Act". Number 31,  
"An Act To Provide For The Portability Of Pensionable Service  
Between Certain Pension Plans Guaranteed By The Province".

MR. NEARY: Answer the question.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Number 32, number 33, number  
35, number 37, number 38, number 39, number 41, number 43,  
number 44, number 45, number 46, and motions 1, 2, and 5. Who  
is closing the House down, Mr. Speaker?

MR. NEARY: We are on Answers to Questions.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Now number 2, on the Answers to Questions, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) asked two questions; he said we are closing the House down. I was answering that one first. The Leader of the Opposition now, if he wants his answers, just keep quiet. Number 2, on Answers to Questions over the last week or so the ministers on almost every day are answering questions. And the press knows it, Mr. Speaker. And we will continue.

MR. NEARY: We do not know it and we are the ones who asked the questions.

PREMIER PECKFORD: And I can guarantee the Leader of the Opposition that not only is this Legislature number three in Canada in being open the longest number of days, only the Parliaments of Canada and Ontario are ahead of us for the number of days open, this Legislature, one of the smallest provinces in Canada and yet we are number three in the days we have the Legislature open, and we will have a record on answering questions that are on the Order Paper better than any province or jurisdiction in Canada before this House closes down.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please! To that point of order I rule there is no point of order.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

MR. MARSHALL: Order 10, The Pharmaceutical Association Act, the adjourned debate.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order 10, Bill No. 9, "An Act To Amend The Pharmaceutical Association Act," the hon. Leader of the Opposition spoke for nine minutes before closing the debate.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Yesterday I asked the hon. gentleman a few questions about this bill, I will just refresh the hon. member's memory, I asked the hon. gentleman if there had been prior consultation with the Pharmaceutical Association and I think the hon. gentleman indicated that there had been. Now, one of



MR. NEARY: the main points of this Bill has to do with conflict of interest. Mr. Speaker, I wish the hon. gentleman well and I wish the association well in trying to deal with this matter of conflict of interest. Hon. gentlemen will recall, last year I believe it was, that we passed another Bill in this House, the optometrist Bill, a bill to set up an optometrist association, and in the process of passing that Bill one of the items that we raised at the time had to do with conflict of interest. Mr. Speaker, the question that we asked as your hon. may well be aware, and the question I am going to ask again is, under that Act optometrists can not only prescribe but they can also sell eyeglasses. Now, Mr. Speaker, somehow or other we feel that principle is wrong, people who prescribe drugs or who prescribe eyeglasses or prescribe anything else, in our opinion are in conflict of interest, if they operate the premises and the businesses that sell these drugs and that sell these eyeglasses. Mr. Speaker, how can we deal with this situation? Mr. Speaker, am I right or am I wrong when I say that this could develop into a bit of a racket? It is a kind of a conflict of interest situation that can be abused. You have the optometrists now covered under MCP, being paid by the taxpayers to examine people's eyes and they are the very ones who also sell the eyeglasses. I am going to ask the minister to be straight with me on this, Mr. Speaker. I feel myself as many of my colleagues do, that this principle is wrong and should be changed. There is the conflict of interest. Now we have the same situation in the drugstores;

MR. NEARY: we have doctors, both individually and groups of medical men, who also own the drugstores they are prescribing the drugs; you have to take a prescription, nine chances out of ten, to a drugstore that is owned by a doctor or a group of doctors. Now, Mr. Speaker, will this bill cure that wrong? Will it? I have grave doubts whether it will or not, it certainly did not in the case of the optometrists. It certainly did not cure that situation. As a matter of fact, all it did, Mr. Speaker, was give them a bonanza, did it not? It gave them

MR. NEARY: a bonanza. Before, they could not qualify for payments under MCP, now they do. They are covered under MCP. They get paid for examining people's eyes and then they issue a prescription and nine chances out of ten, that prescription is taken to a store that is owned by the optometrist. There is something wrong with that, Mr. Speaker. In my view, there is something wrong with it. I am not saying it is crooked but the principle is wrong. The principle is wrong and should be remedied, should be rectified. I, myself, do not like it, I think it should be changed.

We have the same situation now under the Pharmaceutical Association Act. The minister mentioned in his introductory remarks about dealing with the matter of conflict of interest. Mr. Speaker, I wish the association well, but I can tell you that they are up against a hard nut, it is a hard nut to crack, the principle of whether medical practitioners, doctors, should own drug-stores. That is really what we are debating here; that is really what the hon. gentleman referred to when he said that one of the principal items in this bill - and I wrote them down; change of name, reorganizing of the by-laws and the disciplinary clause, these were the three principal items, and under the organizing of the by-laws would be an item to deal with conflict of interest.

If we cannot deal with it with the optometrists, how will the Pharmaceutical Association

MR. NEARY:

deal with this matter? Obviously, the hon. gentleman has had some discussion about this. It has been a matter of some concern for a good many years now. I do not expect the association or the hon. gentleman to say that doctors who own drugstores either individually or collectively have to sell their interests. I do not believe the hon. gentleman intends to do anything as drastic as that, but there must be some way to phase this out, to get rid of this bad policy and it is a wrong policy. You can argue all you like about the private enterprise system and that anybody can set up a business and that anybody can operate a business, but I believe there definitely is a conflict of interest.

MR. DAWE: You cannot operate a business  
(inaudible) once in a while.

MR. NEARY: You cannot operate a business - what? What is the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe) muttering under his breath? I do not know, maybe the Minister of Transportation agrees with this principle of optometrists -

MR. DAWE: You would still have the optometrists.

MR. NEARY: No, but it is the same principle. I am using that as a comparison. We have not been able to do anything about that situation and how does the minister expect to deal with this situation of doctors owning drugstores and issuing the prescriptions, which nine chances out of ten are taken to their own store? I know we are getting more drugstores in Newfoundland, I understand that, and maybe, Mr. Speaker, the ratio now is not as bad as it used to be. And the minister say, 'No, it is not,' but I would like to hear the hon. gentleman's views on this matter. I would like to hear whether or not the department and the hon. gentleman agree with this principle,

MR. NEARY: disagree with it, how the  
Pharmaceutical Association intends to deal with it. Now,  
Mr. Speaker, these are the only points that I wish to raise.  
Maybe my colleagues might have some other views that they  
want to put forward on this bill. I am still not clear  
on the procedure when a member of the association is  
aggrieved. I am not quite certain on that.

MR. NEARY: It seems to me that this is some kind of a special arrangement. Well, Mr. Speaker, perhaps the hon. gentleman can clear that up for me. I know there is a judge of the Trial Division of the Newfoundland courts who would be involved. But, then, that decision of the judge of the Trial Division is that final or can the aggrieved member of the Pharmaceutical Association appeal the matter to the Supreme Court? Can he go all the way? Is that his right and privilege, to go all the way, to take the matter to the Supreme Court of Canada if he deems it necessary? I would like for the hon. gentleman to - because the wording here is a bit confusing, especially to a layman like myself.

MR. MARSHALL: We will deal with it, you know, when -

MR. NEARY: Well, it is legal phraseology. But it is not clear to me. It says, 'The appellant shall within fourteen days after service of the notice of appeal under this Section, apply to the judge for the appointment of a day for the hearing of the appeal'. It looks to me like it is some kind of a special arrangement that is made for members of the Pharmaceutical Association. I do not know if it is in the other acts - the Nurses' Association, the Newfoundland Medical Association - but I do not understand it. I mean, is that the final step the judge of the Trial Division of the Newfoundland court? Once the application is made to the Registrar of the Supreme Court then the aggrieved persons asks the judge to set aside a day so they can have a hearing, is that final or can the aggrieved person go all the way and appeal the matter to the Supreme Court of Canada? These are the only questions I have to ask him on this matter, Mr. Speaker, and I hope the hon. gentleman will give us some answers.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas): The hon. Minister of Health.  
If he speaks now he closes  
the debate.

MR. HOUSE:

Mr. Speaker, I just want to address some of the questions posed. The first one was, of course, had the Pharmaceutical Association been involved and consulted on this particular bill. And I state yes, Mr. Speaker. That is standard policy when you are dealing with bills that are affecting health care professionals. I guess it is initiated by and large by the

MR. HOUSE:

particular group with our policy director. So there has been close consultation with the President and, of course, the Secretary-Registrar. That name title, that is the first full-time registrar that they have had, in other years, by the way, that was a job that one of the professionals, themselves, did.

With regard to the conflict of interest. Mr. Speaker, what we have stated here is the fact that we are requesting by-laws and they will have the capacity to develop by-laws that will address the conflict of interest. Now, there are a number of problems I want to point out and it could be very difficult to make a hard and fast statement about conflict of interest. Let me give you an example; A drugstore that has an office for rent, you know, is that conflict of interest for that drugstore to have an office which it leases to a doctor, and possibly leases at a pretty good rate, because when a person gets the prescription from the doctor he may go right downstairs to the drugstore and get it filled.

So these are the kinds of problems you have. It is not all ownership, a person owning a drugstore and employing a pharmacist. There are so many things to look at. But these things I can assure the hon. gentlemen are being addressed.

I will just make a reference to the optometry, and I can tell the hon. gentleman that is a very topical issue right now, discussing that kind of thing. But it is very difficult to say to an optometrist you cannot dispense glasses, for the simple reason that a lot of them are not in close proximity to dispensers. You take outside, say, of St. John's, Corner Brook, Grand Falls, Gander possibly, you do



MR. HOUSE: not have many people dispensing glasses and the optometrists have to do it. So it is convenient for the public of Newfoundland. So you could not put a hard and fast regulation in saying that they could not prescribe and dispense. I will assure the hon. gentleman that these kinds of things are being addressed. It was only a couple of weeks ago I met with the Optometry Association on this very matter.

MR. NEARY: What are their views on that? Do they accept it?

MR. HOUSE: Oh, yes, to change it as much as we possibly can. They cannot put in a foolproof system, but certainly there is a lot of policy going on by their own association.

MR. HOUSE: With regard, Mr. Speaker, to the suspension and cancellation of licences of pharmacists and disciplinary action, this is fairly standard within the profession. They set up a board to, I guess, assess any infraction that they deem worthy of assessment. And heretofore a number of years ago, we used to have situations where the board's decision was final, but we are now bringing in an amendment that will give all health professionals recourse to the courts.

MR. NEARY: To the courts or to a judge?

MR. HOUSE: To the courts, they take it to the courts. And when it gets into the court and that judge makes a decision, of course, if you want to appeal it, then you know it is just the normal process, I suppose, that everybody has. I guess anybody could go right to the Supreme Court of Canada for anything.

MR. NEARY: Can you state that categorically?

MR. HOUSE: I am assuming this, I never questioned it. I am assuming this; it is a right to appeal to the court and I guess then, the court takes its course from there.

So, Mr. Speaker, the comments the hon. gentleman made are well taken and I have addressed them as best I can. I am concerned too about conflict of interest, there is no question about it; all the professionals are, and a large part of their meetings address that. Because you have a situation in the Province now where, for instance, you have providers, pharmacists, the people are users and then you have third party payers. All of this creates problems and there are a lot of meetings going on about these kinds of problems. And the conflict of interest

MR. HOUSE:                   legislation - this is enabling legislation, that is probably what it is, giving the associations the capability to do it. And we certainly aid and abet them in doing that.

Mr. Speaker, with these few remarks, I wish to move second reading.

On motion, a bill, "An Act To Amend The Pharmaceutical Association Act," read a second time, ordered referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow.

MR. MARSHALL:               Let us do a few first readings first and then we will go to the Co-operative Societies Act.

MR. SPEAKER(Aylward): Motion 6, Bill No. 58.  
Motion, the hon. the  
Minister of Finance to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend  
The Liquor Control Act, 1973". carried. (Bill No. 58).

On motion, Bill No. 58  
read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

MR. MARSHALL: Motion 7, Bill No. (42).  
Motion, the hon. the  
Minister of Education to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend  
The Education (Teacher Training) Act", carried. (Bill No.42).

On motion, Bill No. 42  
read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

MR. MARSHALL: Motion 8, Bill No. 57.  
Motion, the hon. the  
Minister of Justice to introduce a bill, "An Act To Remove  
Anomalies And Errors In The Statute Law", carried. (Bill No.57).

On motion, Bill No. 57 read  
a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

MR. MARSHALL: Motion 9, Bill No. 59.  
Motion, the hon. the  
Minister of Labour and Manpower to introduce a bill, "An  
Act To Amend The Public Service (Collective Bargaining) Act,  
1973", carried. (Bill No. 59).

On motion, Bill No. 59 read  
a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

MR. MARSHALL: Order 13, Bill No. 24.  
Motion, second reading of  
a bill, "An Act To Amend The Co-Operatives Societies Act".  
(Bill No. 24).

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

MR. GOUDIE: Mr. Speaker, hon. members may recall that in 1980 the Co-operative Division of the then Consumer Affairs Department was moved into my department and since that time I have had ministerial responsibility for that division. There have been a number of, I think, fairly significant if not major steps taken over the last couple of years or a little better than a couple of years, in relation to the co-operative development in the Province, especially as it relates to credit unions and what we wish to do here with this Bill No. 24 is - I do not particularly like the term housekeeping Mr. Speaker. Some of the clauses are or can be classified in that division I think, but one of the anomalies that existed prior to this legislation being introduced was the possibility of one person, for instance, attending meetings who was a director of a particular Co-operative, and that person could possibly have more than one vote. We are suggesting that be changed so that one person - and this is Clause 2 - one person has one vote which seems to be a fairly democratic system and one which the Co-operative Society itself has requested. We want to deal with overdraft protection in this particular piece of legislation, the auditing of the books and accounts of Co-operatives, credit unions and so on as they exist today, having to do with external auditors. The stabilization fund which government was pleased to assist the credit union movement create, a little over a year ago was when it first began, is dealt with as well in relation to dividends and the suggestion is that dividends in excess of 9 per cent be now allowed to be paid. This was a difficulty that existed in the past. When one is restricted to a dividend of 9 per cent, then that created certain difficulties within the credit union movement itself as well. We would like to see that changed so that dividends in excess of 9 per cent, especially with the merger which took place between the Newfoundland Public

MR. GOUDIE: Credit Union and the Newfoundland Teachers' Association Credit Union. The NTA had the most successful credit union in this Province in recent history and now we have a Public Credit Union which will be reaching out to various parts of the Province, expanding and offering its services to other locations of Newfoundland and Labrador. This, in a nutshell, Mr. Speaker, other than

MR. GOUDIE: the provision to deal with surplus funds in terms of co-operative development, are the items that we would like to see dealt with. And the final amendment, clause (10), would provide that extra-provincial co-operatives - co-operatives from outside the Province-wishing to carry on business in this Province must do so on such terms and conditions as the Registrar of Co-operatives may require that particular co-operative to enter into.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: We do not intend on this side of the House to delay the passage of this bill. I presume the hon. gentleman had prior consultation with the Co-op Society before the amendments were brought into the House. My colleague, the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) may have something to say about it because I believe something very significant is about to, or has happened, in my hon. colleague's district in Northern Labrador.

Now, Mr. Speaker, first of all let me deal with the last point that the hon. gentleman made about co-ops outside the Province operating within the Province. I would like to ask the hon. gentleman if that is a serious matter, if it is a problem? Are co-ops from across Canada, from other parts of Canada attempting to move into Newfoundland to compete with the local co-operative movement? Perhaps the hon. gentleman can tell us how many instances he knows of where this has happened.

And as far as the registrar is concerned, Mr. Speaker, is the co-op movement now - and I know it is thriving in the Province, In bad times people turn more to the co-operative movement to help them cope with the cost of living

MR. NEARY: and to help them cope with their borrowing and that sort of thing. You have more co-op unions, especially within the trade union movement. But I understand that the co-op, for instance, down here on Topsail Road is thriving and I believe they are either in the process of, or planning on building another co-op in the East end here of St. John's.

The history of co-ops in Newfoundland, by the way, has not been all that good for the simple reason, Mr. Speaker, that I sometimes wonder if people understand what co-ops are all about. I would say that the failures that we have had over the years



MR. NEARY: have more to do with lack of knowledge and education of the co-op movement. It seems now to be improving. In the past they lacked people with knowledge of business and banking and so forth, I believe that was probably the reason that the co-op movement over the years had failed. But that seems to be changing now with more enlightened people taking over the co-ops, with probably a better standard of education and a better grasp of the situation. Personally, myself, I would like to see the co-op movement thrive in the Province. I think it would be to the benefit of the ordinary people to participate more in the co-op movement. I think it could be of tremendous benefit and help to ordinary people, people with low incomes and people in the middle income bracket, it could be of tremendous help. So I do not know if we have reached the stage where the Registrar in the minister's department has a full-time job - is he a full-time Registrar? - if his duties are sufficient and the co-op activity in the Province is sufficient to warrant a full-time Registrar. I hope it is and I hope that that gentleman is quite busy dealing with various matters and various problems that come up throughout the Province.

I would like for the hon. gentleman to tell us, give us a thumbnail sketch of the co-op movement in the Province at the present time. Is it growing, expanding, what he perceives may happen in, say, the next five years with regard to the co-op movement throughout the Province?

MR. TULK: How does the Co-operative on Fogo Island fit into all of this?

MR. NEARY: I am not sure if the Fogo Island Co-op fits into the hon. gentleman's department - no, it does not. I do not think. I presume that is a producers' co-op which is a different thing altogether. What we are talking

MR. NEARY: about here are co-op unions, co-op societies running supermarkets and stores and that sort of thing, which is a good thing, Mr. Speaker. My hon. colleague may wish to have a few words on it because we in this Party certainly subscribe whole-heartedly to the co-operative movement and encourage it. And we would like to see more people become involved in the co-op movement. I know that private enterprise would

MR. NEARY: not like to hear me say that. I know that Dominion Stores and Sobey's would not like to hear that, Mr. Speaker, but I would say that is tough, that does not concern me in the slightest. I think if people want to get a break, they want to stretch their dollar, I think the Co-op movement is the way to go. I would like for the hon. gentleman to give us a - some of my colleagues may wish to comment on it - give us a rundown on what has happened to the Co-op movement in this Province in the last three or four or five years and if he expects it to take off in the next three or four or five years. I hear an awful lot of praise, Mr. Speaker, for the Co-op stores and rightly so, because it gives people a break. You have your specials and you have different prices than you have in the other supermarkets.

MR. WARREN: They are building a new Co-op store, are they not.

MR. NEARY: I just mentioned that. My hon. colleague may not have been in the House but now that he is, they are expanding and building a new Co-op in the East End of St. John's. I regret to have to say that I am not a member of the Co-op myself. I do not know if the hon. minister is, but I certainly wish I was, but I understand that anybody can go to the Co-op and shop. I do not know what rates and privileges the members of the Co-op Society get over and above the ordinary customer who goes in there. They get rebates and dividends I presume, the hon. gentleman covered that in his oration. But it is a good movement, I completely agree with the philosophy behind it. I encourage more people to get involved in the Co-op movement. I was surprised to hear, by the way, that members who

MR. NEARY:

attended conferences and conventions had more than one vote. Was the hon. gentleman serious about that that they did have -

MR. GOUDIE:

What I said was it was possible for them to vote more than once.

MR. NEARY:

It was possible for them to vote more than once, well, I do not think anyone will argue about changing that, Mr. Speaker.

We are glad to have the opportunity to say a few words on this Bill, perhaps my colleagues who are more familiar with the Co-op movement than I am may wish to say something about it, But I certainly look forward to hearing what the

MR. NEARY: gentleman has to say with regard to the expansion, the performance since the hon. gentleman became involved in it, what we expect to see in the future, in this Province, in the way of co-operatives. It seems to me like it is a growing thing and, as I say, rightly so. We are pleased about that and we hope that more people will become involved for their own protection and for their own benefit, Mr. Speaker, become involved in the co-operative movement.

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

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, I do not profess to have a lot of knowledge about the co-ops, but I am the past President of the Co-op in Happy Valley - Goose Bay and I was a member of the Board of Directors of Newfoundland Co-op Services, so I do have a little bit of inside knowledge of how co-ops work.

However, Mr. Minister, probably when you are closing the debate in addition to the questions that the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) asked, could you also indicate the number of co-ops that are in the Province at the present time? It is fine and dandy to let us know about the successful ones, but what about the ones that are not successful? I think there are several in the Province that are having a little bit of difficulty. Maybe the minister could advise if his department has given any loans or grants to the various co-ops, and the amounts of these loans and grants. What has happened to the co-ops that have closed their doors? I think they might have been before the minister's time. But what happened to the assets and the liabilities involved? I am just wondering if the minister's department has taken a lien on co-ops that have fallen by the wayside in the past.

Meanwhile, in speaking about the success of the co-ops, Mr. Speaker, in all due respect to the City Consumers Co-op on Topsail Road, I remember in 1979 I

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MR. WARREN:        went into the Co-op Store on Topsail Road, I wanted to get my membership transferred from Happy Valley-Goose Bay to the Co-op on Topsail Road, and I was advised by the then manager, and it was most unusual, but he said, 'Boy, I suggest you leave your membership where it is, because if you put it into this co-op you will lose your shirt'. He said, 'The co-op out here is losing'. In fact, at that time they were about \$80,000 in the red, or an X number of thousands of dollars in the red, in 1979.

MR. WARREN:

However, Mr. Speaker, since that time they have hired new management and the City Consumer's Co-Op has been the most progressive business in the whole Province. In fact, Mr. Speaker, last year I think it paid a 5 per cent or 6 per cent dividend to its customers. I think there are something like 13,000 members - is it? - somewhere in the vicinity of 13,000 members in the City Consumer's Co-Op.

As the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) said, we need good management. I think the hon. the member for Naskaupie (Mr. Goudie) can vouch for this, that Tarrington Co-Op in Happy Valley/Goose Bay with management under Red McEachern, who has now gone to greener pastures, since last year, it was his management and his staff which took the Co-Op in Goose Bay out of the red and in a matter of three or four years it was made into a viable society and a viable business. I think, Mr. Speaker, the minister can back this up, the Co-Op in Goose Bay is the largest retailer of produce in the whole area of Happy Valley/Goose Bay.

I do not think the Torngat Fisheries Co-Op comes under the minister's department, but in talking about the Co-Op I could see that the Nain store that the minister's department is now managing - I really believe that of the two government stores on the coast, with a change in management and a change in direction, Nain and Makkovik in particular could be viable Co-ops. But I believe there are many things that the government turn over for the sake of a dollar, a dollar transaction for this, a dollar transaction for that.

I think the Co-Ops in Nain and Makkovik, if the minister's department would say, Okay, boy, here they are lock, stock and barrel, however, you will have to pay for the inventory that is there over a period of time, you could have a good Co-Op working along the Labrador coast.

MR. TULK:

What about the Torngat

Co-Op there?

MR. WARREN:

The Torngat Co-Op does not come under the minister's department.

In fact, I think the Torngat Co-Op - this is off the record - last year did have a very difficult year and I do not think that is any secret. It is hoped that this year it will get a boost from CN Marine bringing the people up North. Because I think the Torngat Co-Op lost badly in the Northern section of their fishery last year.



MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, I notice that the co-ops in Newfoundland are tied in with the Atlantic Co-op and I think there is a warehouse either already constructed or pretty well completed in either Grand Falls or Gander, Gander I think it is. This is a warehouse to take the bulk of goods brought in and to use it for a distribution centre for the Province. Is this single warehouse concept that has been generated by the Co-Op - I think it is in Grand Falls or Gander, one of those places - is this going to benefit the co-ops or would it not be better to have the goods coming in as they are now? Take for example the Tarrington Co-op. I fell, just generally speaking, that with a Tarrington Co-op it would pay us probably to purchase goods from Gander than from there as they are purchasing now through Halifax. I think there is a cheaper rate for buying out of Halifax than it would be coming from Gander to Goose Bay. But I am just wondering if all co-ops would benefit or would it be just the co-ops on the Island portion of the Province?

Mr. Speaker, I have to say that since the minister's department has taken over the co-ops the co-ops have progressed, in my opinion, very, very favourably. However, sometime ago, I think it was two years ago now, I brought a resolution into this House of Assembly asking that some kind of banking service be established along the Labrador Coast from Mary's Harbour to Nain. At that time there were many, many banks interested, so I approached Mr. Strong, of West Co-op Credit Union, and I think there are studies being done. What I find unusual is that a report has been compiled for quite some time now, and unless it happened within the last week or so - the minister's department still has this report, or it has not been finalized or has not met with his approval - it has not gone

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NM - 2

MR. WARREN: back to the Credit Union. Could the minister tell me the status of this report? I think, Mr. Speaker, that we are going to probably see some kind of a co-op banking service established along the Labrador Coast, hopefully this Summer, if the response from the minister's officials is favourable to the Co-op Credit Union.

MR. WARREN: We have the facilities in Nain. All you need to do is partition off part of a government-owned store and we could have a Co-Op credit union opened in Nain. This has been my aim since 1971. I have circulated letters, I have met with bank officials and the minister's department officials and I believe it is coming to a head. I am hoping that the minister also - it may not be really covered in this bill, Mr. Speaker, but it does tie in with the whole Co-Op system - I was hoping that the minister could come in today, or before the House closes, with a statement announcing that there will be a Co-Op Credit Union office opening up in Nain or in another place along the Labrador Coast.

Mr. Speaker, in the auditing of the Co-Op societies, I think the minister said Clause 4 provided "that the annual audit that co-operative societies are required to perform be done by qualified external auditors." I would think, Mr. Speaker, that unless there are Co-Ops in this Province which do not already comply with this regulation, it is most unusual if auditors who audit such a large business are not qualified. Surely, the minister's department when they took over the running of the Co-Op Society several years ago, should first have made sure that there was an up-to-date, accurate and qualified audit done.

Clause number seven says, "This amendment would remove the requirement that an officer of a Co-Operative Society be bonded. I think, Mr. Speaker, that is a good move. That is an excellent move. I remember being President of the Co-Op in Happy Valley - Goose Bay and this was one of the sore points with me, I do not see the necessity. If that is the case, then anybody who looked for employment, for example, in the Dominion stores, the first thing he would have to do is post a bond. I think it is not necessary and

MR. WARREN: the removal of that, I would think, would assist the management of the various Co-Ops to pick the most qualified person and probably a person who could perform his duties better knowing he did not have to be under bond while he is there performing a service to customers.

All in all, Mr. Speaker, I think that this bill is a welcome addition to the Co-Op Society and, in fact, I think that before I do sit down, there is one person to whom I would like to throw a bouquet and that is

MR. WARREN: George Lawrence. I think hon. members may know George Lawrence. I have known George Lawrence since I was on the Newfoundland Board of Directors in 1978.

MR. NEARY: The father of co-ops.

MR. WARREN: And as far as I am concerned, as the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) just said, he is the father of co-ops and he will continue to give the co-ops 120 per cent of his time until he is ready to go six feet under. I know George Lawrence that well. In fact, it is very interesting, and probably the minister already knows and probably the hon. the Leader of the Opposition already knows that there is a move underway now by the City Consumer's Co-op tht there will be - if they can get the necessary permits from Council and from Metro Board and so on - an automatic service station attached to the Co-op on Topsail Road.

MR. NEARY: I hope they get a Petro Canada station.

MR. WARREN: And, Mr. Speaker, I would not want to let the cat out of the bag, but there could be a well-known service station and it is going to be automatic.

MR. NEARY: You will have Craig Dobbin in the Co-op.

MR. WARREN: All you will have to do is pull up to the service station, take your card and put it into the slot, put your hose into the car and sit back while it fills up and when it is filled just check in your card and the next day your gas is charged to your account. So, it is going to be automatic. In fact, it is going to be the first one in Canada. That is right. In fact, there is only one other and that is down in Illinois or Idaho or somewhere down there. This will be the first automatic service station in Canada. It will be a service station that you operate by

MR. WARREN: card instead of by money and, therefore, you do not need any staff.

MR. TULK: What kind of services will it have?

MR. WARREN: Gasoline for cars and diesel fuel. But there is no staff required.

MR. TULK: Oh, I see. An automatic oil station.

MR. WARREN: There is only one established in all of North America and that is down in Illinois somewhere. Meanwhile, they are running into some problems but I hope that this does become a reality and I am sure people are looking forward to it.

MR. TULK: The sad part about that is you are taking away a job from somebody.

MR. WARREN: No, not really. I think this is a good co-operative move and, in fact, you would increase the dividends for the individuals. Maybe the minister in his closing remarks could also, for a little bit of information name or outline the various co-ops in the Province. Maybe it would be very difficult.

If it is that is okay, I understand. Which of the co-ops have been registered in the past two or three years? Could the minister tell us that? I understand that one of the co-ops that was formed recently, other than the Torngat Co-op, is having some difficulty.

MR. WARREN: Finally, I think there should be one other thing added to this bill. I do not know if it is possible to make an amendment to it, maybe it is outside the jurisdiction of the minister's department. But is it possible to make it mandatory for a producer's co-op in this Province to come under this act? I understand there is one producers' co-op in this Province -

MR. TULK: The Torngat Co-op?

MR. WARREN: No, the Torngat Co-op is a fishery co-op.

MR. TULK: That is a different kind of co-op.

MR. WARREN: Yes.

We will take the co-op, for example, in Lewisporte or the co-op in Gander. For some time the Gander Co-op was not part of the Co-op Society of Newfoundland.

MR. TULK: Is it part of the society now?

MR. WARREN: No, this is the question I am going to ask the minister. Is the Gander Co-op a part of the Newfoundland Co-op Society now?

MR. TULK: That is the Gander one?

MR. WARREN: I am just wondering, is it possible that we can have an act - if we are going to have a co-op movement in the Province I am wondering if it is possible to have all co-ops come under this act? Maybe it would be a disadvantage, but I think it is very unfair to the patrons.

Secondly, I would like to ask the minister if it would be possible under the act, I do not know if it is possible or not, but, say, if I am a member, or the hon. minister is a member of the Tarrington Co-op, is it possible that I, as a member, can go to the City Consumer's Co-op or the Gander Co-op or the Clarenville Co-op, for example, and produce my co-op card and be given

MR. WARREN: the same privileges as a person who has a card for that particular co-op? Could the one co-op card be used at all the co-ops in Newfoundland. You know, these are some of the questions that many co-op members are asking. Like now, this Summer, they are going to be on vacation, a lot of co-op members are going to be travelling throughout the Province and maybe some will want to go into the Grand Falls Co-op - I think it is closed, by the way - or the Gander Co-op and purchase some goods, I wonder if they can get the same privileges? Is it possible that the minister can look into this? Maybe it is possible.

And with those few remarks, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say again that I am quite pleased the minister has seen fit to make some progress with the co-op movement. And I only wish that the minister would see fit to continue to improve the co-op movement and look at the possibility of opening up co-op stores along the Labrador Coast, look at the possibility of having a Co-op Credit Union established along the Labrador Coast. And with those few remarks I would like to say that I support the moves in this bill.



MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas): The hon. member for Fogo.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, I want to start off the couple of questions that I have for the minister and the couple of points that I would like to make to him by pointing out that I know that strictly speaking in this bill we are not talking about producers' co-operatives, we are talking about consumers' co-operatives and credit societies. But I guess, under the principle of the bill, if you want to you could say that we are talking about the co-operative movement in Newfoundland and I would like to pose a couple of questions to him. As the minister I am sure is well aware, in Fogo district, in the district that I happen to represent in this House, we have one of the most productive producers' co-operatives and one of the best managed and one of the best economically viable units in Newfoundland. I say that in a business sense, almost in a private enterprise sense as well as I do say in the co-operative movement sense. It is a society that was born, a group that was born out of desperation, when the people of Fogo Island were given several choices, either to move, stay a very depressed economic area, as they were, or, indeed, to develop themselves economically.

Now they chose to develop themselves economically, to build one of the best producers' co-operative movements in this Province. It came about, as I said before, was born out of desperation and has proven to be one of the most productive fish-producing co-operatives in the Province, and indeed one of the best fish businesses, perhaps you could call it almost private enterprise. It has developed using the model of private enterprise, but in a co-operative sense in that the people on Fogo Island own the company, the group, the Fogo Island Co-Operative of which they are a part, so it is co-operative in that sense.

Last year, for example, I think it is fair to say, and I said this many times in this House, that you could say and indeed you can say and nobody can refute your

MR. TULK: argument that the Fogo Island Co-Operative produced something like 30 million new dollars for the Canadian economy. That is pretty impressive. If you look at the fact that there are only 5,000 people, that is the maximum number on Fogo Island, and you say, all right, what is the per capita number of new dollars coming in to the Canadian economy and to the Newfoundland economy as a result of the work of these 5,000 people - and we are not talking about 5,000 fishermen, we are talking about 5,000 men, women and children - if you look at that, Mr. Speaker, and ask what have they produced for the Canadian economy in terms of new dollars, I think it works out to something like \$6,000 per person - not per fisherman, not per plant worker, but per person, something like 6,000 new dollars for the Canadian economy. That is pretty impressive.

As I said in this House many times, if we had that kind of production everywhere in the fishing industry, and if we had that kind of production in every outport in Newfoundland, or every eleven outports - as happens to be the case on Fogo Island - then we certainly would not be concerned about the development of Hibernia. We would probably say let that stay in the ground because through a blowout or a ship puncturing something we might destroy what is basically a renewable resource, namely the fishery. We could almost say keep that in the ground if we had that kind of production of new dollars everywhere in the Province. The minister who introduced this bill is also responsible for rural development in the Province. He has a very unique department, in that he

MR. TULK: is responsible for the co-operative movement and the rural development movement generally in the Province.

There has been some concern expressed in the last little while, and I am sure the minister is aware of this, about what is happening to the rural development movement, if indeed his department is fulfilling its mandate and is developing rural Newfoundland, and developing a better standard of living for our people in rural Newfoundland in the way that it was meant to and I know in the way that the minister means it to do. That is not a criticism of the minister. I am not standing here this morning to criticize the minister and in some way say that the minister is not doing his job, but I want him to consider this, that if you look at the co-operative movement in Newfoundland and you look at, I would say, the primary purpose of his department, which is, namely, the development of rural Newfoundland, the development of outport Newfoundland, I would like for him to perhaps think about and perhaps give us his thoughts today on how he sees the co-operative movement developing as a form of delivery system for the rural development concepts that his department holds. In other words, what relationship does the minister see for the co-operative movement in his department in relation to the other component in his department, namely rural development. I think, by the way, if you look at the whole concept of co-operatives, then I think it is one of the best methods we could use in this Province to deliver the concepts that are espoused by the term 'rural development', by the term 'development of rural Newfoundland'. I would like for the minister to tell us that.

I would also like for him to tell us, since

MR. TULK: we seem to have consumers' co-operatives that are totally outside of the Newfoundland Co-operative Society, we have a group that are in the Co-operative Society and we have a group of producers' co-operatives, like the Torngat and Fogo Island Producers' Coperatives, does he see at any point in time where all of those groups come under the umbrella of his department and does he see introducing in this House any piece of legislation to bring all those groups under one and perhaps to aid them in some form or other?

Mr. Speaker, I want to point out to the minister, and I am sure he is aware of this, that I think the success of the Fogo Island Co-op has been due to the fact that it has been run on private enterprise rules and regulations, if you like, private enterprise principles and it has had a good managerial staff in the last number of years. I would also like for him to tell us, perhaps in closing the debate on this bill, how he sees his department developing the kind of training and so on that is needed to show people who are interested in the co-operative movement how they can combine private enterprise principles along with a feeling for the co-operative movement.

MR. BUTT: You are always moving to the right.

MR. TULK: I do not know whether the hon. gentleman from Conception Bay South (Mr. Butt) understands that if you talk about co-operatives then you are certainly moving to the left, and if you are talking about private enterprise then are moving somewhat to the right. Now that is a good Liberal stand to take, because that leaves you somewhere in the middle of the road where you have an open mind and that is somewhat unlike those people who are to the right, such as the member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Butt).

MR. NEARY: A private enterpriser.

MR. TULK: Totally private enterprise. We believe, on this side of the House, that in some cases private enterprise works, and we believe that in some other cases the co-operative movement works. I can tell you that I believe you would not have the eleven prosperous settlements you have on Fogo Island today but for the co-op movement. Unfortunately the government has not seen fit to give them the services that they need and so on, the back-up to do the job that they want to do. And again, I am not pointing at the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development (Mr. Goudie) because I understand full well that the minister's department is not a line department. That is something else that is wrong with his department, it is not a line department. In many cases he can only produce studies, whereas the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan), for example, say, 'Yes, we will do this'. I recognize that that is a structural weakness in his department which has nothing to do with the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development himself.

MR. NEARY: It should be corrected.

MR. TULK: It should be corrected. I have been of the opinion for a number of years that perhaps we should take a look at the Department of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development as the line department, in many cases, for fisheries, forestry and so on because that is the department that seems to be out there in the field and knows exactly what is happening. I think it should be the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development telling the Minister of Fisheries what is required and saying to him, we need this much money rather than the Minister of Fisheries saying to the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development, 'I am sorry I cannot give it to you', or, 'I want to use it for something else'. I believe that that is a change that should be seriously considered by government.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, as I said at the beginning, I know full well that in this particular bill we are not talking about producers' co-operatives, we are talking about consumer credit co-operatives, and the bill has something to do with credit societies, I believe, but I would like for the minister, in his closing remarks - he has a few minutes in which to close - and we may not get a chance to discuss this concept again, to address the questions and ideas that I have put forward to him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. GOUDIE: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER(Aylward): If the hon. minister speaks now he will close debate.

The hon. Minister of Rural,  
Agricultural and Northern Development.

MR. GOUDIE: Mr. Speaker, I thank hon. members opposite for their comments, their notes of appreciation to the staff in my department for some of the work they are doing, and to some individuals in the Province who are directly involved and have been directly involved for a great number of years in the direct development of the co-operative movement throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.

As I mentioned in my opening remarks, I assumed responsibility for co-operatives, if you will, in 1980, when that division was moved into my department, and there have been some significant steps since that time.

I am going to have a little bit of a problem this morning though, Mr. Speaker. I have three pages of notes, some dealing with policy, some dealing with statistics, etc., etc., and I am going to be quite frank with the hon. gentlemen opposite, I do not remember all the information they want, but I will deal

MR. GOUDIE: with whatever I can in terms of statistics and so on. I did have some information here, Mr. Speaker, that may be worthwhile putting forth, having to do solely with the credit union movement, not just throughout our Province but some figures on the credit union movement as it exists across Canada in terms of the assets that it has, if I can read one note, through affiliation with other provincial credit unions centrals, and the Canadian Co-operative Credit Society, credit unions are a part of a national credit union system with assets of about \$18 billion at year end 1982, and they are part of a group of 4,000 in Canada. That is pretty significant, I think, Mr. Speaker, and, as a matter of fact, in 1982 if one were to take a rating system in terms of the total assets and where it would fit on the graph of one to ten, the Credit Union Societies in terms of their assets would have been listed number six on the corporation list, if you will, across the Country. So, obviously, just the Credit Union movement itself has played a very significant role in the development of Canada and especially in terms of development in this particular province.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary), when he stood to ask questions and direct his remarks, if I understood his comments correctly, asked first of all if there is a noticeable effort on the part of co-operatives located outside of Newfoundland and Labrador to move into our Province en masse. I do not remember if that was the term he used, but I think that may have been the implication. As I understand it, no, there is no evidence of that type

MR. GOUDIE: of movement taking place. But in this particular legislation and amendments to it, we want to not necessarily prevent that type of thing happening, but if co-operatives outside the Province wish to move in to Newfoundland and Labrador, then they should at least be subject to the rules and regulations, if you will, that apply to other co-operatives already located in the Province so that at least there is the ability to compete equally. But in terms of groups moving en masse, or even to any significant degree from outside the Province, no, there is no evidence of that at this point in time.

Other hon. gentlemen raised questions about failures of co-operatives in the Province over the years and whether or not the credit unions and the Co-operatives have become more stable. I think it is fair to say that they have over the last number of years.

MR. TULK: Yes, in the last three or four years.

MR. GOUDIE: I would say within the last three or four years, yes.

I think that is precisely



MR. GOUDIE: the reason - the gentleman for Fogo (Mr. Tulk) put his finger right on it. In hard times people start to pull together and pool their assets a little more, and together they come out with success written all over them. As the gentleman for Fogo mentioned, I cannot really address myself, as he pointed out, to producer co-operatives in this Province since they do not come under this particular legislation. Whether or not they should is a different matter. Obviously it is a policy matter that government would have to address itself to, but it certainly is a suggestion I will take under consideration and deal with in a meaningful way and will keep the hon. gentleman informed as to what progress we make. But in terms of successes, the gentleman for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) referred to a co-operative in my district, in Goose Bay, the Terrington Consumers' Co-operative, of which I am a founding member, and as a matter of fact suffered great pain unloading trucks of goods and storing them in the warehouse etc., etc., etc., which did have tremendous difficulties in its first years of formation, as did other co-operatives, in some instances, throughout the Province. But perhaps the downturn in the economy over the last number of years has been an extremely strong factor. I think in the case of the Terrington Consumers' Co-operative that he referred to, the Board of Directors, the gentleman whom they hired to manage that particular business, all played a key role and, of course, support from the communities in the area all added up to a successful effort, and I am certainly pleased that that has taken place.

The Leader of the Opposition  
(Mr. Neary) wanted to know if the registrar is full-time. Yes, that registrar is full-time now. Sam Kean is the gentleman's name and, I am trying to remember, I think there

MR. GOUDIE: are eight people in that particular division who are involved in co-operative development, co-operative education. We have consulted with co-operatives and credit unions throughout the Province in terms of this particular legislation. That was another question raised by the Leader of the Opposition. Yes, they were fully consulted on proposed changes and, if I remember correctly, some of the proposed changes in here were actually suggested by them.

MR. NEARY: They made the changes?

MR. GOUDIE: Yes, not only did they approve but they actually made the suggestions themselves. I was thinking specifically of the one vote per delegate sort of thing. So obviously there is a direct input into the legislation by co-operatives and credit unions throughout the Province.

I will just deal briefly with some comments made by the gentleman representing Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren).

MR. GOUDIE: Again I have to apologize, I suppose I should have the information right here with me or right in here, but I do not know the number of co-operatives in the Province who were not successful in any given year, including this year. I do know, for instance, in relation to loans and grants, the point raised by the hon. gentleman, that there are no loans and grants as such other than a guarantee which was put forth a little over a year ago by the Province in terms of creating the stabilization fund for the credit union movement. The intent of that fund is to put \$1 million in place, put in place, by the way, by the credit unions themselves, not by government, whereby the \$1 million fund will be built up over a five year period to protect -

MR. NEARY: Emergency funds.

MR. GOUDIE: Well, what it would do is protect the member of any given credit union if the credit union got in some kind of financial difficulty and had to go bankrupt, so the investments by the members are protected. The same fund is set up for commercial banking but I cannot remember the term they use for that. In credit unions, they use the stabilization fund concept.

But in terms of loans and grants, no. What we have been doing in the past, and, as a matter of fact, just yesterday I signed another one, we have been issuing authorities to consumer co-operatives to extend their borrowing authority, if you will. And these extensions are only granted, Mr. Speaker, when the assets of that particular co-operative are proven to be able to support the amount of money requested. So, rather than loans and grants, that is the system that is in place to deal with that sort of financial matter.

Torngat Fisheries and the coast of Labrador and the asperitions not only of the hon. gentleman

MR. GOUDIE: for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) but on my part as well, just let me relate for Your Honour one little incident that occurred to me in 1973 when I first started visiting the South Coast of Labrador, where there are or were no banking facilities, and there are no banking services on the North Coast: I went into a shop and I happened to have a \$50 bill in my pocket, which did not happen that often to me personally, Mr. Speaker -

MR. NEARY: I have not seen one for years.

MR. GOUDIE: - gave it to the clerk for a purchase of a package of cigarettes or something or other, and what I received back for change was a cheque that had been issued by social assistance to a recipient in the community, this was the change that came back to me, and there were actually twenty-six signatures -

MR. NEARY: Were you afraid it was going to bounce?

MR. GOUDIE: - on that cheque, Mr. Speaker, it had been used by twenty-six people as a form of currency, so there was no banking service. Obviously there is an interest on our part, as a division of government, in a banking service,

MR. GOUDIE: if you will, on the Coast of Labrador, and our staff, through Mr. Kean, have been addressing ourselves to that. A study such as the hon. gentleman has suggested has been completed. We have an interest in establishing credit unions on the Coast of Labrador, but obviously the credit union movement has to be brought into this and people residing on the Coast of Labrador have to have their input as well. So once all that can be co-ordinated, and providing there is a good basis for it, no problem, a credit union facility can be established on the coast and hopefully in the Goose Bay area of Labrador as well.

MR. WARREN: Is this report in your office?

MR. GOUDIE: The report is in the office and it is being dealt with right now. As a matter of fact, we will be getting reaction from the public credit union, if you will, now that we have one, because that is the only system we can use. I understand teachers on the Coast of Labrador were members of the NTA Credit Union, anyway this type of thing, but we obviously have to deal with a public credit union and that was only created about a year ago. So we are making progressively more steps, Mr. Speaker, and moving, we think, in the right direction.

MR. WARREN: Do you think it is going to come in the near future?

MR. GOUDIE: It is quite possible that could happen this Summer.

The hon. member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren), in relation to auditing of societies made a point of referring to qualified auditors. Qualified auditors have been used in the past. It is only a term, and I would have to bow to my colleague, the President of the Council (Mr. Marshall), the member for St. John's East.

MR. GOUDIE: for legal jargon. I believe that 'qualified' has to enter into this type of legislation when referring to auditors in any event. It does not imply that auditors in the past were not qualified. At least that is the way it was explained to me.

MR. WARREN: Legal jargon.

MR. GOUDIE: Yes, that is all, legal jargon as opposed to anything else.

MR. WARREN: Name the names of all the co-operatives -

MR. GOUDIE: I cannot name all the co-operatives in the Province, Mr. Speaker. I can get the information for the hon. gentleman, but I just cannot remember them all. There are very few co-operatives, as I understand it, which are having any particular type of difficulty. As I mentioned, we have issued borrowing authorities, if you will, to various co-operatives; that does not indicate difficulties, it just indicates that they have certain requirements and they are taking these steps to meet these requirements.

MR. GOUDIE: Generally, the co-operative society and the credit union movement throughout the Province is alive, healthy, well, moving in a continuously upward position. If we are to hypothesize that the success over the last three or four years has been a result of recession, it is unfair to say that we hope the recession continues. But we do wish the co-operative societies and the credit union movement throughout the Province continued success and we will be working with them.

And, finally, to try to address myself to some points raised by the gentleman representing Fogo (Mr. Tulk), the idea of producer co-operatives, such as the one in his district and the Torngat Fish Producer's Co-operative and so on, all coming under one legislation, if the hon. gentleman does not mind I would prefer to take that under advisement. I do not think personally that they should because they perform different functions.

MR. TULK: What I am talking about is Torngat has a different system.

MR. GOUDIE: I think that should certainly be accomplished and perhaps it is something we should be addressing ourselves to. I will certainly take it under advisement and deal with my staff and the co-operative society in that particular -

MR. NEARY: That is going to have to be a decision of government.

MR. GOUDIE: Yes. That is the whole problem. It is a large policy change and one that I cannot -

MR. TULK: How about turning your department into a line department as well?

MR. GOUDIE: Yes. I was just going to address myself to that. I have expressed frustration, Mr. Speaker, in the past that in Labrador we should have a Department of Northern Development, Labrador Development, whatever, as a mechanism of delivering all government programmes,

MR. GOUDIE: and I suspect that is the same theory that is being suggested by the member representing Fogo district (Mr. Tulk) in terms of my department, I think he mentioned fisheries and there were others.

MR. TULK: Processing.

MR. GOUDIE: Yes.

It is possible to do that, I suppose. As an example, I would think that in many areas the Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor) is setting up to accomplish that same type of objective. But in relation to rural areas of the Province, on the Island part of the Province and in Labrador, I think it can be done, but, again, that is a very large policy area to be addressed by the government. Obviously I cannot address myself to that, perhaps the President of the Council (Mr. Marshall) can. In any event, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments and the positions put forth by the Opposition and I move second reading.

On motion, a bill, "An Act To Amend The Co-Operative Societies Act," read a second time, ordered referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow. (Bill No. 24)

MR. MARSHALL: Motion 23, Bill No. 30.



Motion, second reading of a bill,  
"An Act To Amend The Pippy Park Commission Act." (Bill No. 30)

MR. YOUNG: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. the Minister of Public Works.

MR. YOUNG: Mr. Speaker, this bill will provide for the appointment of an Executive Director of the Pippy Park Commission who will be responsible for the administration of the day to day activities of the Commission." At the present time the responsibility of managing the park falls on the shoulders of the Chairman. However, running the park is a full-time job and cannot be done by the Chairman unless he becomes a full-time, working chairman. Government has therefore decided to establish in legislation a position of Executive Director to carry out these duties and responsibilities and leave the Chairman and the Board free to oversee the park without being involved in the day to day management.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: I do not know what happened to the Minister of Public Works. He just seemed to collapse after he read a few paragraphs from the bill. The hon. gentleman folded up like an accordion, trying to sneak this through now without any fanfare, without anybody recognizing it. The hon. gentleman read a few lines from the bill itself, "An Act To Amend The Pippy Park Commission Act," and then collapsed just like an accordion.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not know if this is the government's own make-work project, or the minister's make-work project or if they are looking for a place to stow away another one of their buddies, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman did not tell us how the park functioned previous to this Executive Director. Surely somebody must have been in charge of the Pippy Park. The hon. gentleman did not tell us if this job is going to be advertised, whether it will be advertised within the Public Service, whether somebody will be promoted to the position of Executive Director, what the salary will be, what all the perks will be, Mr. Speaker, he just brushed it off, there is nothing to it. We are going to put in an Executive Director now to free up the Chairman and the Board so that they can carry out their other duties and responsibilities. Well, my understanding is that the Chairman of the Pippy Park Commission was not a full-time employee.

MR. TULK:

Who was it?

MR. NEARY: I do not know who he was. No doubt one of their buddies. I do not know who the members of the board are now. Perhaps the hon. gentleman can enlighten the House and tell us, if he has the information. If he has not, he should send and get it and give us the names of the Chairman of the Pippy Park Commission and its board members. Mr. Speaker, this appears to me to be a full-time position that they are establishing. An executive director; what a title, Mr. Speaker, what a title! But anyway I am glad the hon. gentleman brought it in.

We have 20 or 25 applications on file down there now.

MR. NEARY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, the Liberal Party is also advertising for an executive director. I do not know if they are copying our classification.

MR. TULK: I suppose they are not trying to take on a PC hack.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is time for the Liberals to pay their bills.

MR. NEARY: Well, every political party in Canada, I would say, has that problem, and probably in the world - every political party in the world. I would say when you look at the amount owing by the Liberal Party in this Province, I would say it would be very insignificant compared to what some political parties owe, very small indeed, peanuts.

MR. TULK: I know hotels that have had to write off \$7,000 or \$8,000 for the Tory Party.

MR. NEARY: That is right. Hotels have had to write off \$8,000 and \$10,000 for the Tory Party in this Province, and so forth and so on. And then there is Confederation Trust. We know all about Confederation Trust -

MR. MARSHALL: The previous administration.

MR. NEARY: - and if the hon. gentleman wants

MR. NEARY: to open up a can of worms, let us talk about it.

MR. MARSHALL: Open all the cans in the world.

MR. NEARY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, and so can we.

MR. MARSHALL: You can open cans of worms all day long, I am not afraid.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, an executive director, what will be his duties and responsibilities? What will be his salary? Is it a full-time position? How will the appointment be made? Will it be the laying on of hands by the minister, who seems to be the expert over there at violating the ordinary principles of hiring practices and procedures by filling up every job he can with a party supporter from his district?

MR. HODDER: That is not true.

MR. NEARY: It is true, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MARSHALL: He deals with all districts.

MR. NEARY: Yes, no doubt the hon. gentleman deals with all districts. It would be a worthwhile exercise for the naive House Leader to go down and check the list, just check the list, take a look at it, and then compare it to St. John's East, or St. John's South, or Carbonear, Mr. Speaker.

MR. PEACH: It is well looked after.

MR. NEARY: The author of the book.

MR. TULK: Instead of spending all his time in his law office, he should be representing his district.

MR. NEARY: When it comes to political patronage and political

MR. NEARY: appointments, Mr. Speaker, there is the author of the book.

MR. WARREN: Where?

MR. NEARY: Right there.

The administration wrote the book, the hon. gentleman is the author of it. And I have no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that this executive director will end up the same way.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this gives us an opportunity to have a few words about the overall position of Pippy Park at the present time. There seems to be, of late, very little respect for that park. There seems to be a downgrading of Pippy Park. We hear complaints of people who live on Higgins Line, for instance, we hear a storm of protest.

MR. TULK: He is going to make a speech out of this.

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman can make all the notes he wants. The hon. gentleman is not capable of making a speech. With all due respect to the hon. gentleman, he is not capable of that, he does not have it in him. He has not taken advantage of the privilege of this House to get the practice.

MR. TULK: Why do they not send him up to do a Dale Carnegie course?

MR. NEARY: A Dale Carnegie course might be worthwhile, not only for the hon. gentleman but for a good many more hon. gentlemen there opposite.

Mr. Speaker, the administration now have approved of a road right up the center of Pippy Park, practically a four lane highway, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: I heard Your Honour the other day, and the member, I believe, for St. John's South (Dr. Collins) -

MR. TULK: The member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry), was it not?

MR. NEARY: No, not Mount Scio - certainly the member for St. John's Centre (Dr. McNicholas) criticize the city council because they had not asked government for enough money. I do not know if Your Honour was offended or hurt when his colleague, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, (Mrs. Newhook) said, 'Well, the city council can ask for all they want, they are not getting any more.' I do not know if that was enough for the hon. gentlemen, the two city members who made these statements, to cross the House.

DR. COLLINS: That is not true.

MR. NEARY: That is true.

DR. COLLINS: No, that is not accurate.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, it is accurate.

DR. COLLINS: No, we did not say that.

MR. NEARY: Well, if the hon. gentleman wants to correct me, let him stand up, I will take my seat for a few moments. I will let the hon. gentleman correct me. But what I heard with my own ears was two members from St. John's criticizing the city council for not asking government for enough money to repair the roads, rebuild roads in the city. And then I heard the Minister of Municipal Affairs come out and say, 'With all due respect to my colleagues, the city council can ask for what they want, they are not going to get any more money this year anyway.'

MR. TULK: Unless they are nice.

MR. NEARY: No, not even, 'Unless they are nice.' All the minister said was that everybody knows the deficit, everybody knows the financial condition of the Province, so the member for St. John's Centre (Dr. McNicholas) can suggest all he wants to the city council -

DR. COLLINS: St. John's Centre?

MR. NEARY: St. John's Centre, and the member for Pleasantville (Mr. Dinn), I believe, was the other one. The two gentlemen trying to get a little political mileage for themselves. Not very often in St. John's can the member for St. John's Centre, say anything because practically everything in his district comes under the city council. Not very often can he get a chance to slip into the news, trying to leave the impression that he is fighting for his district. There is more to life than presenting trophies to recreation groups and to sports groups, there is more to running a district than that. But you kind of got it made, Mr. Speaker; if you represent a riding in the city of St. John's where everything comes under the city council you more or less got it made. But the hon. gentleman seized upon the opportunity, grasped the opportunity the other day to try and get a little mileage for himself with his constituents, I am sure there have been complaints, you know, 'Sure, we appreciate your trophies and we appreciate the glad-handing and we appreciate the good fellowship and the camaraderie but what about the district? What about the roads down here? So in order to slip into the news the hon. gentleman, being an opportunist, leaped at the

MR. NEARY: opportunity to suggest to  
the city council -

MR. FULK: Who?

MR. NEARY: The member for St. John's Centre  
(Dr. McNicholas) and the member for Pleasantville (Mr. Dinn).

- and criticized them and condemned  
them and said, 'Well, look, the problem with you fellows is  
that you are not smart enough to ask for more money.' And,  
lo and behold, the next day the Minister of Municipal  
Affairs (Mrs. Newhook) says, 'Well, hold on now, hold it now,  
you can ask for all the money you want, but you are not  
getting any more.' So obviously there was no



MR. NEARY: prior consultation between the two members and the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mrs. Newhook) on that matter. There does not seem to be any communication at all in that caucus.

DR. COLLINS: You got it all wrong.

MR. NEARY: I got it all right. I am sure that the hon. the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) must have shook in his shoes, he must have trembled when he heard it.

DR. COLLINS: What has this got to do with the bill?

MR. NEARY: It has all to do with it because we are talking about a road going up through Pippy Park, that is what got me off on that tangent, Mr. Speaker. But I had to get that off my chest. I was rather amused by that, when you see two members on the government side, one a minister, by the way, making suggestions like that, Mr. Speaker, to try to get a little mileage for themselves and then to -

DR. COLLINS: Is that the real story?

MR. NEARY: I beg your pardon?

DR. COLLINS: Is that the real story?

MR. NEARY: The real story? Well, Mr. Speaker, the Mayor now has accepted the challenge, by the way, and is putting in a request to the Minister of Finance and to the Minister of Municipal Affairs for more money.

MR. DINN: It is too late now. Everyone else had their requests in months and months ago.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, we will see now. The Mayor and the City Councillors are going to put it to the test.

DR. COLLINS: Put what to the test?

MR. NEARY: The suggestion of the hon. gentleman's two colleagues.

DR. COLLINS: What suggestion?

MR. NEARY: To ask the provincial government for more money. Your trouble is, the problem with you is

MR. NEARY: you did not ask for enough, that is what they were told.

DR. COLLINS: The House has already accepted the budget.

MR. TULK: The Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mrs. Newhook) says they are not getting any more anyway.

MR. NEARY: But, Mr. Speaker, the City Council is going to accept the idea, the suggestion -

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

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): A point of order, the hon. the Minister of Labour and Manpower.

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. the Leader of the Opposition does not want to say anything in the House that is incorrect. Basically what happened was that I found out from Municipal Affairs that the City had asked for \$1 million - I also found out that the City of Corner Brook asked for some money and so on - and I did not think it was enough to do the streets in the city. The City of St. John's knows that they should have their requests in about October or November, like all other municipalities. Now that the Mayor has sent in a list, presumably - or will send in a list, it has not arrived yet to my knowledge - we will be able to work on it over the next few years and make sure that the streets in the city are looked after properly.

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: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if the hon. gentleman is aware of his duties and responsibilities, but when hon. ministers speak, as the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) did at the Fisheries Council of Canada meeting, when the Minister of Labour and Manpower (Mr. Dinn) speaks, they are speaking for the administration. When the hon. gentleman spoke

MR. NEARY: and criticized the city council about not asking for enough money, he was speaking for the administration. But obviously the hon. gentleman had not consulted with his colleague responsible for these matters, and now the hon. gentleman is caught in an embarrassing situation where the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mrs. Newhook) says, 'No, I do not care what my colleague said publicly, you are not going to get the money.' So there is no point of order, Mr. Speaker. It is just merely the hon. gentleman trying to weasel his way out of an embarrassing situation that he has gotten himself into.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): To that point of order, raised by the hon. the Minister of Labour and Manpower (Mr. Dinn), I rule that there is a difference of opinion between two hon. members.

And while I am ruling, I now have a copy of Hansard during Question Period today.

MR. NEARY: Take note of my time, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: - and a point of order raised by the hon. the President of the Council (Mr. Marshall) and a similar point of order raised by the Premier later concerning remarks which were made during the Question Period. The Chair heard the remarks quite clearly when they were made, but the Chair was not too sure of who said them so I did not rule at that time. I have a copy of the unedited Hansard, and I believe a copy has been distributed to both sides of the House, and while I will not read out the remarks, I believe they were heard quite clearly by a lot of people, I will have to ask the hon. the member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan) if he would withdraw these remarks.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, of course I withdraw

MR. CALLAN: the remarks. Mr. Speaker, I should say, though, that as Hansard clearly shows, the remarks were not directed at anybody. It was a question, a question like, for example, 'Did you have razorblades for breakfast?' Or, 'Did you get out on the wrong side of the bed?' And why anybody on the opposite side should think that the question was directed at him or her directly -

AN HON. MEMBER: You would have to be awful stunned not to.

MR. CALLAN: I was talking to the member for St. John's West (Mr. Barrett) before that when he was catcalling across the House, the remarks were not directed at anybody, but, Mr. Speaker, if anybody on the government benches were offended or thought that I was speaking of them specifically, I withdraw unconditionally, unqualifiedly.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

The hon. the member has withdrawn these statements.

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not want to dwell on that matter because two hon. gentleman now find themselves in a very embarrassing position. They have gotten themselves boxed into a corner by the silly, childish, foolish, little political games that they were playing with the city council. And the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mrs. Newhook) and the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) indicated a few moments ago that they have no intention of giving the City of St. John's any more money.

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

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

MR. MARSHALL: The principle of this bill, Mr. Speaker, relates to the Pippy Park Commission, it relates to

MR. MARSHALL: defining the duties of the Chairman and providing for the appointment of the office of Executive Director. Now, Mr. Speaker, that is the principle of this bill with relation to the Pippy Park Commission, and we are concerned with its Chairman and Executive Director.

MR. MARSHALL: The hon. gentleman is talking about roads in the city of St. John's. Such a wide-ranging debate is perfectly permissible when you come to a Budget Speech or the Address in Reply, but on a bill that is before the House, Mr. Speaker, members have to keep relevant to the principle of the bill. The hon. gentleman is not being relevant to it.

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

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is up and down like a yo-yo these days, awfully testy. I may have strayed a little bit but I was just coming back to Pippy Park. I got sidetracked a little bit, Mr. Speaker, I am coming back to Pippy Park, so therefore if the hon. gentleman just had to restrain himself for about twenty more seconds he would have found out how relevant that I am, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: To that point of order, I would have to suggest that there probably is a point of order, The act we are discussing is the Pippy Park Commission and I would remind the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) of our rule of relevancy.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Now, Mr. Speaker, I started to deal with that road and that is where I got sidetracked off on the amusing situation the ministers got themselves into.

The road that is going up through the Pippy Park, Mr. Speaker, that road has been the subject of much controversy in the last few weeks. I have not heard any reaction from the minister or from the government. We know the feelings, the views, of the city council on that road. We know the views of the people who live along the

MR. NEARY: Higgin's Line and Ridge Road and up in Kentwood subdivision about that road - violently against it, Mr. Speaker. And yet the government are going to go full speed ahead with a four-lane highway. I know the member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry) wants to speak about this matter. Just give me two more seconds and I will take my seat. I know the hon. gentleman has to get back to his law practice.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to accommodate the hon. gentleman because I know the hon. gentleman is going to support me. The reason I am going to take my seat early is I want to give the hon. gentleman a chance to support what I am saying.

MR. TULK: I would not bet on that.

MR. NEARY: No, the hon. gentleman has not had a chance in the last three weeks, I believe, to have a flick, so today I am hoping that he will stand in his place and support what I am saying. His constituents are against the route that that road is taking, the Outer Ring Road. The people who live along the Higgin's Line are against it. The road itself, Mr. Speaker, not the route that it is taking now, but the Outer Ring Road was proposed by a Liberal administration to get the traffic away from the university, to get the traffic off the Parkway and to connect with the Trans-Canada

MR. NEARY:

Highway and Kenmount Road, to go up around and way down off Portugal Cove Road, down towards Airport Road, that road is started. But what people are objecting to - people are for the Outer Ring Road -

MR. TULK: Do you know what 'John' told me?

MR. NEARY: What was that?

MR. TULK: 'John' told me he was

going to run federally, so he would be quiet.

MR. NEARY: Well, if he is going to run federally, I do not think he would be running in that riding because that is already filled. Unless Mr. McGrath is going to retire, the hon. gentleman will not get a chance.

AN HON. MEMBER: There must be lots of other ridings available.

MR. NEARY: There are lots of other ridings available. Mr. Speaker, how many ridings will be available if Mr. Clark wins the leadership? Mr. Clark is well out in front. It looks like he is on his way to victory. Joe Who is on his way to victory. Mulroney seems to be declining; he has not been able to program himself properly, somebody turned off the tape. So it looks like Clark has got her made. And, Mr. Speaker, I hope the House is open on June 12th so I can come in and look across at hon. gentlemen. Their whole political future is going out the window, flying out the window, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. NEARY: I know, I am wandering again. I am coming back to it. I want to give my hon. colleague, my learned friend down there, an opportunity to speak on this road. No doubt that is what he wants to have a few words on because I am sure Pippy Park is of no real interest to the hon. gentleman. I am inviting the hon. gentleman to



MR. NEARY: stand in his place and support what I am saying. And, Mr. Speaker, I will take my seat now if the hon. gentleman will support what I am saying, that people are opposed to that road; the city council is opposed to it, everybody is opposed to it except 'Johnny'. Everybody is out of step, like the woman watching the parade going down the street, said, 'Everybody is out of step except my Johnny.' Everybody is out of step now except -

MR. CARTER: This 'Johnny'.

MR. NEARY: - except the government. Well, that is just a saying.

MR. CARTER: Oh, I see.

MR. NEARY: The soldiers are parading down the street and poor old Johnny cannot keep in step and his mother says, 'Look, everybody is out of step except my Johnny,' and that is the way it is with this government, everybody is out of step except the minister.

MR. YOUNG: I am not responsible for the road.

MR. NEARY: The minister is responsible for the road. Now he will turn around and say, 'Well, the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe) is.' The hon. gentleman is not a member of the Cabinet, is he? He is not responsible for Pippy Park. Now the hon. gentleman is going to stand up and say, 'No, it is not my responsibility, it is that of the Minister of Transportation.' Mr. Speaker, what kind of a Cabinet do we have?

MR. NEARY:

What kind of a parliamentary system are we operating under? One minister, they are seated beside each other, can say, 'No, I am not responsible for that, that fellow over there looks after that'. Collectively, Mr. Speaker, they are responsible, the hon. President of the Council (Mr. Marshall) knows that. The hon. gentleman is rather amused to hear one of his colleagues make a statement like that. Collectively they are responsible. And if the minister speaks, like the Minister of Labour and Manpower (Mr. Dinn) when he spoke about the city council, they speak for the administration. You do not just take off your hat one day and say, 'I am not a minister,' and put it on the next and say, 'I am a minister.' That is not the way it works, Mr. Speaker. The hon. gentleman cannot fool the people like that. So, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is pointing at his watch. I am going to sit down, but before I do I am just going to repeat what I said that, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman has not given us any justification.

MR. TULK: I think he is going to change his position.

MR. NEARY: He is going to change his position? The hon. gentleman has not given us any justification for this Executive Director, has not given us any details, any facts, has not justified it and neither has the hon. gentleman justified going along with his colleague, building a four-lane highway up through the Pippy Park, Mr. Speaker. And the whole thing is just laughable.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas): The hon. member for Mount Scio.

MR. BARRY: Mr. Speaker, it is not often I get a chance to stand up and agree with the hon. member opposite but there are a few points that he made in his recent remarks that I have to agree with. For example, he indicated that there was considerable interest in various

MR. BARRY: members looking at the possibility of federal ridings. Now there is absolutely no doubt about that, Mr. Speaker, because the whole country knows that the Conservative Party of Canada could have Monty Python in as the next leader and they are still going to win the next election.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. BARRY: I will show the relevance of this to the Pippy Park Commission, Mr. Speaker, in a moment. But the entire House is aware of the fact that we have a very interesting federal campaign shaping up in Ottawa. Regrettably the media from time to time tends to get a few things out of line, and I want to correct one thing carried in The Daily News a few days ago that listed me along with another individual as supporting Mr. Clark. It was a very hard decision for me to make because I, as you know, was in favour of no review in Winnipeg. But when I saw the opportunity existed for John Crosbie after the decision was made - and the relevance of this to Pippy Park, Mr. Speaker, is coming very quickly -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. BARRY: - when I saw the opportunity,  
Mr. Speaker,

MR. BARRY:

that John Crosbie had, as is borne out more and more every day now that we have a new ball game as the leadership review, it was a hard decision to make but I decided that I had to, as a politician in Newfoundland, do whatever I could to see if we can make a Newfoundlander Prime Minister of Canada. I am telling you, Mr. Speaker, members of the House, there is going to be one very good shot taken on the 11 of June.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. BARRY: And the reason I mention this, Mr. Speaker, is because I know that John Crosbie is aware of the significance of Pippy Park to the city of St. John's. And I know that as Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker, he is going to have a very real interest in the route of this road. That is just in case members might think that these remarks are not relevant.

I would like to, before I forget also, Mr. Speaker, mention the very good work that Mr. Graham Mercer has carried out as Chairman of Pippy Park. Mr. Mercer, unfortunately, has gone through a very severe illness recently and is hopefully on the road to recuperation, but he has, through his enthusiasm and vigor and hard work and dedication, I think made a success of the Pippy Park Commission. As the member for Mount Scio, in whose riding Pippy Park is contained, I am very proud and pleased to see Pippy Park make such a contribution to not just the city of St. John's, and not just the Avalon Peninsula, but to the entire Province.

I am not sure if the Speaker is aware that we have, for example, during the Summer teachers coming into further their education at the university, who go to Summer school, and students come in. Do you know where they

MR. BARRY: often stay during the Summer? They bring their trailers along and end up in Pippy Park Trailer Park.

MR. NEARY: Members of the House have done that.

MR. BARRY: Members of the House have done this as well. During the Winter, Mr. Speaker, we have all, I am sure, visited Pippy Park. I have had the opportunity to do some cross-country skiing up there - not very well; Jack Rabbit Johanson, at the age of 110, can still beat me in any sort of cross-country ski race - but it is very pleasant to get up there on a day like this when the snow is on the ground, as it may be this evening, and do a little bit of cross-country skiing.

Now as far as the road through Pippy Park is concerned, I believe that this is one issue where government has shown itself to be tremendously responsive to the concerns raised by citizens, and I commend the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe), I commend the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mrs. Newhook) for the fact that they have made themselves available. I have been present, the member for Kilbride (Mr. Aylward) has been present, other members have been present; as a matter of fact,

MR. BARRY: the member for Kilbride  
(Mr. Aylward) in his professional capacity has gone up and done a little bit of surveying work with respect to possible alternate routes that might be able to minimize the adverse impact of any road through the park.

Now there is a very difficult problem. If this building is going ahead - if we look out the back window here, the foundations are being poured over there today for the floors by the looks of it - if there is going to be the new College of Fisheries, the new Marine Institute, people are going to want to get in and out of those buildings. If you go out here on the Parkway any time around lunch time or dinner time, it is impossible; the Parkway is plugged right now. So the traffic problem is going to have to be dealt with.

Now how is that going to be dealt with? There has to be some form of road to take the traffic around to the outskirts of the city. I would hope to see the route of that road do as little harm to Pippy Park and interfere as little as possible with the activities carried out in the Park. And I believe we have the commitment of the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe) that there will be at least a preliminary environmental review done before there is any final decision taken. Is that correct?

MR. DAWE: Yes.

MR. BARRY: There will be at least a preliminary environmental review done.

MR. NEARY: By whom?

MR. BARRY: By the Department of the Environment.

MR. NEARY: Why do you not get an independent review board?

MR. BARRY: By the Department of the Environment under the Environmental Assessment Act, Mr. Speaker. That is

MR. BARRY: the first step in determining whether a full-scale environmental assessment is needed. Now a full-scale environmental assessment costs considerable money, and this preliminary overview may decide whether or not that money has to be spent. We have a duty to the taxpayers of Newfoundland to have the preliminary review first. But we do have this commitment from government that a preliminary environmental assessment will be taken of any route that is finalized with respect to Pippy Park.

The minister has looked at the possibility of moving the road a bit to the North, a bit to the South. I think there is some flexibility with respect to the route. There are problems if the route is moved to the North. There is a proposed extension to the golf course that the road could interfere with, if it is moved too far North, there are problems with access

MR. BARRY:

from the new Confederation Building, from the new Marine Institute if it is moved too far North. But I ask the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe) and I ask members of Cabinet - I know we will get a positive response - to give very careful consideration to the concerns that have been expressed by a wide range of people throughout our community, including Your Honour, and we know that this is a very valuable asset to the City Of St. John's. We have to show some foresight in the planning of this city because all too often we take things for granted, we do not realize how great an advantage they provide, we do not realize how much pleasure they provide to the people of the city and of the Province, and we have to be very careful that we do not destroy these advantages, these things that give us pleasure, in the search for meeting the technical problems such as traffic control in the City of St. John's. It is not easy, but I believe that government, by listening to people who are expressing concern, can find a happy medium that will let us meet the traffic problem and at the same time let us see a good Pippy Park over there.

And in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I have to say again that I was very pleased to see the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) acknowledge that John Crosbie - who will have a great interest in Pippy Park as Prime Minister - to see the Leader the Opposition acknowledge that John Crosbie stands a very good chance of being Prime Minister.

MR. NEARY: I did not say that,

MR. BARRY: Well, that was clearly implied in everything that he said. I think the Leader of the Opposition



MR. BARRY: has just shown himself to be a very accurate reader of the political barometer of this Province because the people of Newfoundland know that John Crosbie is going to have a very good shot at being Prime Minister and he will be a very good Prime Minister for the country as a whole and, by God, for the Province of Newfoundland.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. minister speaks now he will close the debate.

The hon. Minister of Public Works and Services.

MR. YOUNG: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hon. member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry) for his contribution to the debate. Unfortunately the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) got up in his usual manner on some personal attacks, but he did ask one question, Mr. Speaker. He asked the names of the members of the board, the commission. At the present time Councillor Dave Barrett is acting as Chairman. I might say, Mr. Speaker, that six members are appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, one member for the city, one member from the Board of Regents, and one member must be appointed by the Pippy family. Councillor Dave Barrett is from the city, Associate Deputy Minister Tom Bursey is a member, F.M. Ewing represents MUN University, John R. O'Dea is a member, Mr. Charles Cook is a member, Mr. Būrf Ploughman represents the Pippy family, C.M. Manning is Secretary and Mrs. Elizabeth Clark is a member.

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that the Chairman of the Commission, who has served for the past four years having been appointed for a second term, has been seriously ill. We find ourselves in a position now that until he recovers Councillor Dave Barrett will act as Chairman. Mr. Speaker, some time ago when the Pippy Park Commission was appointed, Mr. Gus Cochrane, who had an ADM status, acted as the Director. Mr. Speaker, I am sure the people of St. John's, as the hon. member said, do appreciate the park. I stay in the park quite often. It is a beautiful park and, I may add, during the last three years or four years much work has been done. I can tell the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) that I am sure if he asks any of the members of

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MR. YOUNG: the Commission, he will be told  
that Public Works co-operates fully. Mr. Speaker, I have  
much pleasure in moving second reading of this bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

On motion, a bill, "An Act To Amend The Pippy Park Commission Act," read a second time, ordered referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow. (Bill No. 30).

MR. MARSHALL: Order 32, Bill No. 39.

Motion, second reading of a bill, "An Act To Provide For The Portability Of Pensionable Service Between Certain Pension Plans Guaranteed By The Province." (Bill No. 39).

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker.

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

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, this bill is explained essentially in Clause 3 and it is a brief clause so perhaps I could read it out, "The purpose of this Act is to provide for full portability of pensions among the pension plans for employees covered by those pension plans to enable those employees to change their employment among any of the bodies who are employers under those pension plans without the loss of pensionable service."

Now, all those words mean that anyone whose employed in government or in an agency of government and they have a pension plan which is guaranteed by the Province, they can move around between government departments and agencies and they will take their pension rights with them. We already have this portability for certain numbers of employees and this will bring in the remainder. So the principle is already established and this just extends the principle to cover all the employees who are eligible for pensions which are guaranteed by government.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that is essentially all one needs to go into. There are other provisions in the bill, but that is the essence of the bill.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, we support the bill but there is only one question I want to ask the hon. gentleman. I presume the schedule listed on the back is the groups where the portability will apply. We think the principle is a sound one. As a matter of fact, I do not know if you have another piece of legislation, but we on this side of the House believe that pension plans should be portable in the private sector also. But we will deal with that at another time.

MR. NEARY:

What I would like to ask the hon. gentleman about is teachers. Does this portability apply to teachers or are they eliminated? Now, I see the Education Act, 1927 is in there, the Education Teachers' Pensions Act, Mr. Speaker, but I would just like to ask specifically about teachers, ask the hon. gentleman if they are covered, if they can move from, say, one government service to another and take their pensions with them? Also, Mr. Speaker, what about the Crown corporations? What about the Newfoundland Liquor Corporation, Newfoundland Hydro, Newfoundland Farm Products, etc.? Will the portability apply to Crown corporations? Because I do not see them listed in the schedule here in the back.

So these are the two questions I would like to ask the hon. gentleman, about employees of Crown corporations and teachers specifically, are they covered under this act?

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): If the hon. the minister speaks he will close the debate.

The hon. the Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first question is quite simple - yes, the teachers are covered. They are covered in this portability.

Mr. Speaker, with regard to Crown corporations, if they are covered under the Public Service Pension Act, yes, they would be in there. If they are not covered under the Public Service Pension Act, they would not have portability at this time. We have a large number of Crown corporations, the largest one, obviously, being Hydro. I would have to determine if all their employees are covered under the Public Service Pension Act.

MR. NEARY: For next day, could you have a list of them?

DR. COLLINS:

Yes, I will get that list.

But the teachers are very definitely and very distinctly covered in this.

On motion, a bill, "An Act To Provide For The Portability Of Pensionable Service Between Certain Pension Plans Guaranteed By The Province," read a second time, ordered referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow. (Bill No. 39).

MR. MARSHALL:

Order 33, Bill No. 35.

Motion, second reading of a bill, "An Act Respecting An Increase Of Certain Pensions". (Bill No. 35).

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

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker said Bill 36.

MR. NEARY: No, Bill 35.

A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, would the Government House Leader please get his act together. He has called Bill No. 35, "An Act Respecting An Increase Of Certain Pensions". Your Honour called Bill 36 and the minister is going to speak on Bill 36.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! The reason for the confusion is that the Speaker had an Order Paper for Thursday. If I could get an Order Paper for Friday I could straighten that out.

We are doing Bill No. 35,  
Order 33.

Motion, second reading of a bill, "An Act Respecting An Increase Of Certain Pensions", (Bill No. 35).

The hon. Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, this is just delivering on an announcement in the Budget Speech whereby those individuals receiving pensions from government will have an increase this year of 6 per cent, There will be a minimum increase of \$240, so that if the 6 per cent does not give a particular pensioner \$240, he will get that \$240 anyway. He will get more than 6 per cent in other words, and it starts as of the beginning of this year.

MR. CALLAN: When will it start?



DR. COLLINS: This will start the beginning of this fiscal year.

The bill also provides there will be no pension given to anyone which will be less than \$2,200 per annum.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, we support the bill, "An Act Respecting An Increase In Certain Pensions", The only thing that we object to is the fact that it should be more, as my hon. colleague points out. A lot of these people are on a very low pension. We think the increase should be substantially more than it is, Mr. Speaker. We know a lot of these people who have dedicated and devoted many long years of service to the Province, to the country, who received very low incomes at the time, had to go off at very low pensions.

MR. NEARY: So we feel, Mr. Speaker, that the increase for certain pensions for people who have been retired from the Civil Service and the Constabulary, and deferred pensions, Memorial University, the Auditor General's Department, the Public Service pensions and Uniformed Services Pension Act, Mr. Speaker, we feel that the amount should have been much more generous than it is.

But one thing that the hon. gentleman just said, Mr. Speaker - obviously the hon. minister has not even taken time to read his own Act - in reply to a question put by my colleague, the member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan, the hon. gentleman said, the commencement date would be the date of the new fiscal year, the date that the Budget was brought down. Is that what the minister said?

AN HON. MEMBER: April 1.

MR. NEARY: April 1, that is what the hon. gentleman said. The hon. gentleman did not even read the bill, Mr. Speaker, because the commencement date in the bill on page 3 it says 'This Act is deemed to have come into force on the 1st. day of May , 1983', a month later than the hon. gentleman told us it was going to come into force. The hon. gentleman is going to short-change -

MR. CALLAN: Why?

MR. NEARY: - the poor old pensioners in this Province.

MR. CALLAN: They lost a month last year.

MR. NEARY: They lost a month last year.

DR. COLLINS: It was written in the bill.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, they lost a month last year and they are going to lose a month again this year through old Scrooge over there trying to take a few dollars away from the pensioners to try to balance his budget.

MR. CALLAN: That is right.

MR. TULK: Which he will not do anyway.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, look, on humanitarian grounds alone I appeal to the hon. gentleman now to change that commencement date in this bill -

MR. CALLAN: With leave of the House.

MR. NEARY: - and make the commencement date the 1st. of April. A month, Mr. Speaker, makes a lot of difference to these people who are on fixed incomes, low incomes, very small pensions. It means quite a bit, Mr. Speaker. The hon. gentleman should reconsider the commencement date. I believe the Premier should have a little Cabinet meeting there now with his two colleagues to his right and left, have a little mini-Cabinet meeting over there. And the Premier who is always talking about 'have-not will be no more', 'regional disparity', 'down-trodden people', 'the champion of the underdog' -

MR. TULK: 'Fair is fair'.

MR. NEARY: - 'fair is fair', he tells us. 'Fair is fair'. Well, fair is fair for the pensioners too, Mr. Speaker, and 'have-not' should be no more

MR. NEARY: and 'have not' should be no more for the pensioners and they should not be downtrodden. And if the hon. gentleman is for the underdog, why does he not just lean over now to the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins), the hon. gentleman now is a rose between two thorns there now -

AN HON. MEMBER: No, a thorn between two roses.

MR. NEARY: No, not a thorn between two roses, no. The hon. gentleman, with all due respect, is a rose between two thorns there now. He has the two top dogs in the Cabinet to his right and left, he has the man who makes the decisions, he has the big gun to his left, the real Premier, the man who makes the decisions, calls the shots, Mr. Speaker. Reports that we hear is that the man who runs this Province, who runs the administration, is the hon. President of the Council (Mr. Marshall). So while the rose is between the two thorns - the President of the Council and the Minister of Finance - a little mini-Cabinet meeting now, look. It will not mean very much to hon. gentlemen but it means quite a bit -

MR. ANDREWS: Keep your remarks to yourself.

MR. NEARY: Is that some kind of a threat? Is the member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Andrews) making some kind of a threat - 'keep my remarks to myself?

Mr. Speaker, I appeal on humanitarian grounds to hon. gentlemen, to change the commencement date.

Mr. Speaker, I think it would be very worthwhile. There is nothing else I can say about it, I cannot get on my knees and beg.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I am sure they would love that. I will tell you one thing, they know they have been into a session of the House this session, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, they can try all the reverse psychology now they want, but they know they are a government on the run. The Premier knows that we have them on the run, Mr. Speaker. Every day they are losing ground and every day we can see how testy they are. They are reaching a stage over there now where they are almost violent, they almost become violent day by day.

MR. NEARY: I think three times in this session - I believe this has to be a record - three if not four times I was actually challenged and threatened with physical violence by members opposite, Mr. Speaker, and I am still on my feet. And that is pretty serious stuff. The hon. the member for Terra Nova (Mr. Lush) is right, that is pretty serious stuff. I have been threatened with physical violence three times by three different members, two of them ministers by the way. Mr. Speaker, anything I say in this House is within the realm of the rules of this House, and if the things I say were not within the rules of the House -

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

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

MR. MARSHALL: I know the hon. gentleman really wanted to be taken out of his misery so he wanted me to rise on a point of order, but he is not being relevant to the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: At all.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

I remind the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) of our rule of relevancy.

MR. NEARY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I remind the hon. the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) of what I am talking about now. I am talking about rolling back that commencement date to April 1st. It may not seem very significant to the hon. gentleman and to the administration, but it is a big deal for the pensioners. I appeal now in all humanity, Mr. Speaker, to the hon. the Minister of Finance. I know he is as tough as an old

MR. NEARY:

red rooster, Mr. Speaker, I know he is pretty tough, the hon. gentleman is like an Rhode Island Red, the old red rooster, but as tough as he is, Mr. Speaker, surely he can find it in his heart, surely there is a little compassion in his veins, surely the hon. gentleman can find it within his means and within his heart, Mr. Speaker, to give the pensioners their increase as of April 1st instead of commencing on May 1st.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): If the hon. the minister now speaks he will close the debate.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker.

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

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, this administration has a most commendable record when it comes to pensions for those worthy citizens who are working for or have worked for the Public Service. We have a record that I think is probably the best in Canada and certainly this bill also is inkeeping with that very fine record. In other words, Mr. Speaker, we like to give annual increases in pensions where we can afford it and where they are required. And obviously increases in pensions are required as the cost of living goes up, and we

DR. COLLINS: like to give an annual increase if we can at all do it and we use our provincial budget to bring in an annual increase. That is what we have done this time. There was an increase last year and now, twelve months later - or the twelve months will be up on the 1st of May - now twelve months later, one year later, we are bringing in another increase. So that stands as a self-evident thing and I think that most increases of this nature are given on an annual basis, and this is what we are doing in this bill. Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!  
On motion, a bill, "An Act Respecting An Increase Of Certain Pensions," read a second time, ordered referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow. (Bill No. 35).

MR. MARSHALL: Order 34, Bill No. 36.  
Motion, second reading of a bill, "An Act Respecting An Increase Of Certain Pensions For Transferred Employees," (Bill No. 36).

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

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, there are some former employees of the provincial government who transferred elsewhere to, let us say, the federal government, for instance, and they left their pensions with us. In other words, they took deferred pensions. Now, we are responsible for those deferred pensions. They will receive those pensions when they reach retirement age. Last year we brought in increases for those deferred pensions which had not been increased. They had not been increased for many, many years, and, obviously, the worth of them had declined very sharply with inflation and so on. Last year we brought in changes whereby those deferred pensions were considerably



DR. COLLINS: upgraded to make them comparable with pensions that are earned nowadays.

Now, this particular bill continues that. We will give those deferred pensioners the same increase this year that the general pensioners will get through the last bill which just passed second reading, so those people who have taken deferred pensions will get the same increase.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, just a question to the hon. gentleman about numbers - How many pensioners are we talking about under the three categories that have been mentioned in the schedule: The Broadcasting Corporation Employees' Act - there cannot be too many of them left around now - how many? How many under the Gander Airport Employees' Act? And under the Civil Service - I think these are the only two categories, are they not?

Canadian National Railway employees - could the hon. gentleman tell us the numbers we are talking about here?

MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. the minister speaks he will close the debate.

The hon. the Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker,

DR. COLLINS: the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) indicated there is not all that great number of people. There is a total of 247; 228 are in the railway, eight from Gander, four from the corporation, and there were actually another seven individuals and I just cannot recall where they went. But the total is 247 individuals. The vast majority is railway, 288, and then there was another small group, eight from Gander, four with the Newfoundland Broadcasting Corporation, and there were another seven which I just do not have any information on.

On motion, a bill, "An Act Respecting An Increase Of Certain Pensions For Transferred Employees", read a second time, ordered referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow. (Bill No.36).

Motion, second reading of a bill, "An Act To Amend The Uniformed Services Pensions Act." (Bill No. 41).

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

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, last session we brought in this bill. It was a new bill, "An Act Respecting Pensions For Members Of The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary And The St. John's Fire Department, And The Staff Of Her Majesty's Penitentiary." And in that bill, inadvertently the retirement age was changed for some of the commissioned officers. And what this amendment does is indicates , lays out very much more clearly than the bill last year, who will retire at sixty-five of the commissioned officers and who will retire at sixty. And in actual fact, all will retire at sixty except for the present individuals listed in Clause (1) there, those are the superintendent or the assistant superintendent of the Penitentiary, Chief of Police or the Deputy Chiefs of Police of the Constabulary, and the Fire Chief or the Assistant Fire Chief of the St. John's

DR. COLLINS: Fire Department. Those present individuals who presently hold a job will retire at sixty-five. That is their wish. That was the retirement age previously, so they did not wish their retirement age changed. The other commissioned officers always retired at sixty so that will continue, and if there are new incumbents come in they will also retire at sixty. It is just the present individuals.

If you will read the bill,  
Clause (3) - I think the hon. member opposite has some difficulty with reading so I will give it to him verbally when the bill comes in- 'This Act is deemed to have come into effect on the 21st. day of January 1983.

DR. COLLINS: When I bring in bills in the future I will have Braille put in there for the benefit of the hon. member.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, we have no objection to this bill but probably there is a good opportunity here for us to talk about early retirement in the Newfoundland Constabulary. I believe there was a policy - and I am surprised that the hon. the Minister of Justice (Mr. Ottenheimer) is not introducing this bill, by the way - there was previously a policy in the fire department and in the Newfoundland Constabulary that a non-commissioned member of the force could retire after twenty-five years of service. Mr. Speaker, we have seen numerous examples where members of the Newfoundland Constabulary have retired on full pension at a very early age. As a matter of fact, a young recruit coming into the Newfoundland Constabulary - I believe now they are recruiting at age eighteen, are they? Is eighteen the entrance age?

MR. CALLAN: Oh, yes.

MR. NEARY: So you can become a constable at the age of eighteen, which is the voting age, and at age forty-three you can retire. And the Minister of Justice nods that that is correct.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Fifty-five years old or twenty-five years service.

MR. NEARY: Whichever comes first.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Yes.

MR. NEARY: Fifty-five years old or twenty-five years service, whichever comes first, which means that a constable can retire at age forty-three. If he goes in at eighteen he will retire at forty-three, which is a very young

MR. NEARY: age by present day comparisons,

MR. SIMMS: You could retire now and get your pension.

MR. NEARY: I could retire? Mr. Speaker, ten years from now I might consider it.

MR. SIMMS: You are going to hang in there, are you?

MR. NEARY: Oh, absolutely. Things are only just getting good. It is only warming up.

MR. YOUNG: You had better get a new district.

MR. NEARY: Maybe it is my sadistic nature, but I love to see the Tories on the run, I love to see the government on the run, and the Premier on the run. I love to stand here day in and day out and see them dig a hole deeper for themselves, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

I just remind the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) of our rule of relevancy.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, there is no way we conclude this now. Could I move the adjournment until we get back at it again on Tuesday?

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker,

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, before I move the adjournment, I would like to advise the members opposite of the order of business for Tuesday. We will finish this particular bill and then we will get on the Loan Bill, and we will do the one or two revenue bills there.

MR. NEARY: What motion would that be?

MR. MARSHALL: Motion 2.

MR. MARSHALL: And then we will do Motion 1 on the Taxation Bill, and then we will proceed with other legislation.

MR. SIMMS: Do not give them too much information.

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

On motion, the House at its rising adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, May 24, 1983, at 3:00 p.m..