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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
FOR THE PERIOD:
3:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1983.

The House met at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

Before we begin today's proceedings I would like to welcome to the galleries, I do not know the numbers, but some parents and students from the Integrated Elementary School in Little Bay, Green Bay, accompanied by their principal, Mr. Samuels and teachers Mr. Stark and Mr. Pitts.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

MR. WINDSOR: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. WINDSOR: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to table the summary report of the Newfoundland Greenfield Aluminum Smelter Joint Feasibility Study. This document is meant for public release and provides a comprehensive overview of the major study findings.

During the last 1970's, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador carried out an extensive review of a number of energy intensive industries which could take a large block of power and thereby provide incentive for development of the electrical energy potential of the Churchill river. The aluminum industry was identified as the most energy intensive and also among the most desirable in terms of employment opportunities and environmental impact. In early 1980 the Department of Development and Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro approached eighteen aluminum companies with a presentation on the energy potential of the Lower Churchill and the attractiveness of locating new smelter

MR. WINDSOR: capacity in Newfoundland.

As a result of this presentation and follow up discussions between senior officials, including the Premier, Anaconda Aluminum Company, as it was then known, was convinced to enter into a joint study with the Province to assess the potential of Newfoundland as a greenfield smelter site. An agreement was signed on December 1, 1981 to conduct such a study.

The economic impact and the financial analysis components of the study were addressed in-house, with consultants retained to cover engineering, capital cost, environmental, transportation, labour and public opinion issues. A budget of \$500,000 was established for those consultant services with was cost shared between Anaconda and the Newfoundland Government.

MR. WINDSOR: The Department of Regional Economic Expansion subsequently agreed to share the cost of the Newfoundland portion of this study.

The study focused on the feasibility of a world class smelter facility in this Province. The proposed facility was modelled after the Anaconda smelter in Seebree, Kentucky, which has an annual production capacity of 180,000 short tons of primary ingot. Such a capacity would operate continuously with 950 permanent employees on site and another 325 person years of employment created in the service sectors. This would translate into a total increase of \$45 million annually to the Gross Domestic Product of the Province.

As Labrador and the Island of Newfoundland are distinct geographic areas, representative locations were selected at York Harbour near Corner Brook and at North West Point in the Happy Valley - Goose Bay area. This permitted specific site consideration which is necessary for assessing environmental concerns determining transportation costs and developing capital and operating cost estimates. The findings of the viability analysis, however, once they are quantified, are largely applicable to any number of Island or Labrador locations.

Although the study did not attempt to compare both sites, it was recognized that energy costs would be higher on the Island, due to longer transmission lines and the necessity to cross the Strait of Belle Isle, whereas other factors such as capital costs, transportation, workforce availability, infrastructure and operating conditions marginally favor an Island location. Energy does, however, constitute about one third of the cost of producing aluminum ingot and a

MR. WINDSOR: Labrador location therefore has an advantage being much closer to the Churchill potential which allows for more favourable long term power rates.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report to this House today, that the study has confirmed Newfoundland as a world class site for an aluminum smelter with the potential to be one of the top greenfield sites in the world.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. WINDSOR: The financial analysis indicates, however, that a \$1 billion investment of this nature would not be justified anywhere in the world under current economic conditions. I must emphasize that this is due to the current depressed state of the aluminum industry and the economy and not to any factors peculiar to Newfoundland. The downturn in the aluminum industry unfortunately occurred somewhat during the course of the feasibility study with the financial analysis being based on factors which prevailed several months ago when the industry was at its lowest point. With an end to the recession in sight, there are now very positive signs of a sustained recovery in the aluminum industry. With the recent upturn in economic activity, inventories are being reduced, prices are rising, and previously shutdown smelter capacity is being restarted. There will be capacity, however, which will not be reactivated because of high energy costs and/or obsolete equipment. This points to the need for new greenfield capacity which I am optimistic will come. This feasibility study has been completed at a time to allow us to ideally position ourselves as prime contenders for the next round of expansion. On the local level a favourable ruling on Upper Churchill recall power would put us in a highly advantageous position to attract such capacity. Newfoundland has the energy potential and has now been confirmed as one of the most competitive greenfield sites for an aluminum smelter in the world.

When we undertook this study, Anaconda Aluminum was planning for additional primary capacity to support its secondary processing activities. Since that time, the company has undergone a major reorganization and name change. They are now ARCO Aluminum, a division of ARCO Metals whose parent company Atlantic Richfield is based

MR. WINDSOR: in Los Angeles. Because of economic and other strategic considerations, ARCO Aluminum's plans have also changed dramatically and new greenfield capacity does not now fit into the priority category in their capital expenditure programme. I am encouraged, however, that this study, coupled with the projected turn around in the fortunes of the industry will give new momentum to the idea of an aluminum smelter in the company's overall plans.

In conclusion I would like to express our thanks to the various officials of ARCO and the federal government for their co-operation throughout this study. I would also reiterate that we consider the feasibility study results positive in the longer term, having confirmed the Province as a major world class candidate for any increase in aluminum production capacity. During the next few months we will use the study results as a basis for high level discussions with senior officials of ARCO and other companies which may be considering new production capacity.

MR. WINDSOR: We will also be working closely with federal officials to determine the availability of various forms of incentives, and investigating the effects on the investment decision of such incentives. We also feel that other areas of the Province may well offer locational advantages which may further increase our attractiveness to the aluminum industry. Such areas will be assessed in the coming months as we also increase our general promotional efforts towards the attraction of energy intensive industry to this Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, my initial reaction to that Ministerial Statement is that another pipe dream is gone. The hon. gentleman in that statement is merely trying to justify the expenditure of several hundreds of thousands of dollars of taxpayer money in a study. Mr. Speaker, they have a new policy now this administration, they study everything under the sun. They study the offshore, they study the impact on this, they study the impact on that, they study this, that, and the other thing then they come into the House and make ministerial statements, Mr. Speaker, about studies that they have undertaken. The next thing they will be studying the tsetse fly, they will be studying the cod fish to see if they can get some kind of -

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

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

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

MR. MARSHALL: If the hon. gentleman as is usual, has nothing sensible to say, I suggest he take his seat, Mr. Speaker. This is a Ministerial Statement that the minister has made and it is a very important matter, The hon.

MR. MARSHALL: gentleman is debating the statement at the very best.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!
The hon. Leader of the Opposition comments in response to the Ministerial Statement should be confined to the Statement itself.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: So, Mr. Speaker, I tell you this that there will be some thumping on the desks there opposite if they ever come in with a project, if they ever get a project started, launched, get a project off the ground. According to the desk thumping over the Ministerial Statement merely on a study that is being paid for by the taxpayers of this Province, Mr. Speaker, we can expect some fanfare if they ever launch a project.

MR. TULK: They will be dancing on their chairs.

MR. NEARY: They will be dancing on their seats. The only thing left to study over there now are their navels. They have studied everything else, Mr. Speaker. They are going to have everything studied to death, Mr. Speaker. All the MHAs from the West Coast went down to the United States in connection with this aluminum smelter.

MR. NEARY: The Labrador MHAs were not invited to go, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

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

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

On a point of order, the hon. the member for Humber West.

MR. BAIRD: It was just stated that all the MHAs for the West Coast went down to the States. I do not think that is a correct statement, Mr. Speaker, I am one of them. I was not there and I know of others who were not there.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

That is not really a valid point of order, it is a difference of opinion between two hon. members.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, they were all invited to go and none of the MHAs from Labrador were invited to go. Now we are told by the hon. gentleman that ARCO, the new company, in all likelihood have changed their priorities. The thing is so 'iffy', Mr. Speaker. The hon. gentleman tells us now that a lot depends on the recall of power, the water reversion rights that is before the Supreme Court of Canada now. Now, if that ruling is handed down in their favour then there will be something else, there will be another obstruction thrown in the way. Mr. Speaker, let us accept these things for what they are: They are merely window dressing, they are studies. They are studying everything now hoping that they can fool the people, pull the wool - they are grasping for straws - that they can pull the wool over the eyes of the Newfoundland people by saying, 'Look, we are trying. We have studied this and we have

MR. NEARY: studied that.' But, Mr. Speaker, when will the Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor) or the Premier or somebody there opposite tell us about a real project they are getting off the ground, something that is started, something that you can see, something that will employ people and not something that will just merely waste taxpayer money, Mr. Speaker.

And remember this, Mr. Speaker: Back a few years ago, especially the President of the Council, the Government House Leader (Mr. Marshall) told us and the Premier told us that this administration would not make premature statements, that they were not going to be like the Liberal administration, like the Smallwood administration that used to make all kinds of statements, fanfare and theatrics leading up to the actual starting of a project. This administration were not going to conduct themselves in that manner. And what have we seen? Since 1981 they have been talking about this aluminum smelter. Since 1981, almost three years, Mr. Speaker, they have been talking about it, the same crowd that told us

MR. NEARY: that they would not make premature announcements, that they would not be talking about projects unless they were ready to announce them, getting them off the ground. Now, Mr. Speaker, let us accept these Ministerial Statements for what they are. They are just merely an updating on studies that were undertaken by the administration.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition's time has expired.

MR. SIMMS: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. SIMMS: Mr. Speaker, I want to provide hon. members with some additional information concerning wild life management in the Labrador portion of our Province. The hon. the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) made a request and although I have already made an announcement with respect to the black bear season and the caribou season in Labrador, I think the information is of importance to the people and I will therefore make reference again to those two seasons and in addition I will provide additional information as it relates to the status of the annual moose licence draw in Labrador.

With respect to the black bear season for Labrador, Mr. Speaker, the hunting season opened on April 4, 1983 and is scheduled to close June 25, 1983. The season will re-open on August 29 and will close on November 22. I would also like to point out there are four black bear management zones in Labrador, and the seasons are the same for all four zones. The bag limit for black bear is two per licence. However, black bear cubs and female black bears accompanied by cubs may not be taken.

MR. SIMMS: With respect to the annual caribou hunt, Mr. Speaker, in Labrador, the caribou management zones are they same as they have been in past years. However, only the Northern zone will be opened to hunters this year.

The season in the Northern zone will be from August 15, 1983, to October 8, 1983. The Northern zone will then be closed from October 9 to November 13, 1983, and will re-open from November 14, 1983, to April 30, 1984.

However, within the Northern zone, there are two restricted areas, Harp Lake and White Bear Lake. For those restricted areas, the season will be from August 15, 1983, to October 8, 1983 and from November 14, 1983 to March 10, 1984.

There is, Mr. Speaker, one exception with respect to these dates. It relates to people who reside permanently in the Northern zone. These hunters are provided a licence at no cost, and they may also hunt during the period from October 9, 1983, to November 13, 1983, when the area is normally closed to other hunters. However, during this period, residents of the Northern zone may hunt male caribou only.

Any resident, Mr. Speaker, permanently residing the Northern zone for a consecutive period of not less than six months before applying for a caribou licence will receive a licence at no cost. Other applicants, or those who do not permanently reside in the Northern zone, will receive a licence at a cost of twenty five dollars. And again, the bag limit is two caribou per licence.

Mr. Speaker, applications have been solicited for a moose draw in Labrador, and the

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MR. SIMMS: deadline for acceptance of these applications is tomorrow, May 27, 1983, as has been publically announced. And although the date has not been formally set for the draw, I am advised that the draw will take place in public in Happy Valley - Goose Bay sometime during the early part of June, 1983. I am also advised that last year's draw took place in early September so this year the draw will take place three months earlier than in past years.

MR. SIMMS: For all moose management areas, Mr. Speaker, with the exceptions of Little Mecatina and Natashquan, the season will extend from September 19th to November 26th. In those two areas the season has been set from January 30th to March 25th. And the moose quotas for the various regions are attached to the statement.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. HISCOCK: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. HISCOCK: With regard to the announcement just made by the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth (Mr. Simms) we are pleased too that one of the positive things that came out of this is wildlife management for Labrador and now we have a quota of eighty-eight moose for this year. But I also have to point out that the wildlife officer in Port Hope Simpson last year worked for three months and in court now there is at least one case of poaching. If we are going to have wildlife management, we have to have wildlife officers. We just cannot come in here and make Ministerial Statements and expect management to take place by itself.

With regard to the other part, the criteria of saying anybody up North - which means Rigolet North - would get a licence free if they lived in the area for at least six months. I do not think that should be. I think the residential criteria should be at least one year or two years. I also think that people in L'Anse-au-Clair, Cartwright, Mary's Harbour and Port Hope Simpson should not be discriminated against. They have to now - because migratory patterns have taken the herd up North - they have to get together, five or six hunters, charter a plane into Goose Bay, from there on up North, incurring an expense of

MR. HISCOCK: \$2,000 or \$3,000. I cannot see why these hunters along the South and East Coasts of Labrador should be discriminated against, when we can have somebody coming in to do study, live in Labrador for six months and end up getting their licences free if they happen to live up North, I think that this is discriminating against people who live in the South. I hope that the minister will change this so we can have this apply to all the people along Coastal Labrador because, Mr. Speaker, this is rather important, these hunters do go and hunt on back of Nain and they have to go to great expense. Many times, Mr. Speaker, these hunters take it upon themselves to charter a plane into Goose Bay and then charter another plane up North, not really sure if they are going to get any wildlife. And I can not see why they should have to pay this extra \$25, I cannot see why. So I would hope that the minister takes it under advisement and has it applied to all people along the Labrador Coast.

With regard to the other part,

Mr. Speaker -

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please! The time for the hon. member has expired.

MR. HISCOCK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

ORAL QUESTIONS:

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if we have driven the Premier out of the House or not, but it has been some considerable number of days since the hon. gentleman has been here. Like I say, there is no fun during Question Period without the hon. gentleman. We are forced to change our strategy. Every day we have our caucus meetings, we have questions only the Premier can answer as the head of the administration, so could the hon. gentleman tell us when the Premier is going to come back in the House? Have we driven him out? Has he now taken it for granted the House is going to close tomorrow, as they thought it would last week and that he is not coming back anymore? What is the problem? I mean, we have a lot of questions that only the Premier can deal with.

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I know from experience that the hon. gentleman has a lot of questions, but that does not bespeak the quality of the questions. Mr. Speaker, the hon. the Premier was up in Ottawa on Monday and Tuesday. There is business of the Province that has to be conducted outside of this House and the Premier does a very good job of it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL: He was in Ottawa on public business the last two or three days. Today he is down at a very necessary function, opening the Upper Salmon project. I think the Premier is very attentive to the affairs of

MR. MARSHALL: this House, but I am sure hon. members in this House will appreciate the fact that there is public business to be conducted outside of this House. And as for the hon. gentleman's gratuitous statement about the Cabinet, the Cabinet is here pretty well a full compliment every day.

MR. HODDER: Oh, pretty well. This is the first day.

MR. MARSHALL: Some of them are out on business from time to time, but the hon. gentleman has no trouble asking questions and getting answers to questions. The only problem that we have is getting questions of any quality.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman is aware that the Premier gave us all a lecture here a couple of weeks ago about our duties and responsibilities and told the whole of Newfoundland that our number one priority, what we were elected for, was to serve in this House, and now the hon. gentleman has been absent for several days. I must say it is no fun here without him, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please! The Question Period is thirty minutes and not a period to enter into debate as to why or why not certain ministers or the Premier are not here. So I invite the hon. Leader of the Opposition to pose a question.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Premier, I am forced to put some questions to the President of the Council, the Government House Leader (Mr. Marshall),

AN HON. MEMBER: He is pretty snarky today.

MR. NEARY: Yes, the hon. gentleman did get nasty there a few moments ago but I am not going to be intimidated or provoked by the hon. gentleman. I am going to ask the hon. gentleman if he can tell the House, now that the member for Stephenville (Mr. Stagg) has resigned as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor), would the hon. gentleman tell the House if the administration will take advantage of this resignation to keep a hospital bed open or to devote the income of the hon. gentleman towards people on social services? Will the hon. gentleman tell the House if the government has taken a decision not to fill these parliamentary secretary positions when they become vacant and whether he anticipates that the Premier may just wipe out these unnecessary jobs?

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

MR. MARSHALL: Once again we come to the quality of the question. It reminds me that, not too long ago, the hon. gentleman was up and consumed the whole Question Period talking about the drilling activity offshore and was not only shot down in this House, he was also shot down by the oil companies afterwards. So, you know, that is one example, now we get another example of the type of question that the hon. gentleman asks. I will not respond to the question with respect to the hospital bed, All I can say is that the hon. the member for Stephenville acquitted his office in the same manner as he acquits it at all times, in a magnificent way, and he was of great assistance to the administration, as he will be in his present position.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL: These parliamentary secretaries have been very, very beneficial to the government because the members who are carrying out the duties have been of

MR. MARSHALL: great help to the government as it pursues its policies and tries to do its best for the people of the Province of Newfoundland. So, you know, that is my response to the hon. gentleman's question. I regret it cannot be given in any more detail but the question itself was not of very great substance.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Would the hon. gentleman tell the House if it is the intention of the Premier to leave these positions vacant as they become vacant? No doubt there will be other resignations, according to what we can hear, from within the ranks of the benches there opposite. Will these positions be left vacant or will some backbencher be rewarded, Mr. Speaker, for his loyalty?

MR. NEARY: Will somebody else be rewarded for his loyalty or will they be left vacant in these times of restraint?

MR. SPEAKER (Russell) The hon. President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, that is another question you have to ask the reason for.

Surely there are more important questions the hon. gentleman can ask. All I will say is that the hon. Premier, I am sure, will continue in the policy that he has adopted since he has formed the administration of involving each and every member of his caucus, be they in Cabinet or out of Cabinet, to the fullest extent in governmental decisions and in governmental policies. There are many private members on the government side of this House who could admirably fill any one of these positions of parliamentary secretary for that matter, any one of the positions in the Cabinet, they would fill everything admirably and they will have a great deal of opportunity to do it in the years to come. The only positions not available to the hon. members, because they cannot look forward to them, are in the Opposition.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I have to remind hon. members that the administration announced a freeze on hiring some time ago, and I hope that they intend to follow that practice in this instance. Although the member for Bay of Islands (Mr. Woodrow) down there has been looking at the Premier with calf's eyes, no doubt expecting to get the nod or get into the Cabinet.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman baited me there on the offshore. Well, I want to get back to that for a moment, Mr. Speaker. I want to remind the hon. gentleman that not long ago the hon. gentleman himself stated that the offshore dispute would eventually have to be negotiated on a political basis, that eventually this government

MR. NEARY: would have to sit down in talks with Ottawa and resolve this matter. Now the question I have for the minister: In light of the comments from the member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry) that a Tory government may or may not be elected federally, that it would be insanity to hold out and wait for that highly unlikely possibility, will the minister tell the House now, in light of the statements made by his colleague, the member for Mount Scio, is the administration going to stop their childish and costly game of sulking and start negotiating this very important matter with Ottawa?

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentlemen there opposite are so devoid of any kind of intellectual leadership that they have to rely on questions asked by a member on this side of the House in order to attempt to pose questions of any kind of substance at all.

MR. MARSHALL: The hon. gentleman, Mr. Speaker, with respect to the question, I think the hon. the member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry) is quite capable of voicing any questions that he has himself; he does not need the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) to be his handmaiden in that. But with respect to the particular question that he asks, the position of the government is quite clear and the hon. gentleman there knows it, that this government negotiated a deal on the offshore in December and January of this year. It was a deal that was good for the Province of Newfoundland. It was good for all Canadians. It was a deal, Mr. Speaker, that would see us have an equal say in the management of the offshore to protect the jobs and protect the development in this Province. It was a deal, Mr. Speaker, which would see our young people be able to look forward to the resource being dedicated in large measure to their achieving a per capita income equal to the average of their counterparts, the young people in other parts of Canada. It was a deal, as I say, that was good for all of Newfoundland and all of Canada. What we did, Mr. Speaker, was enter into that agreement in principle with the federal Minister of Energy at that time, and because there was a change in the position between what the federal minister was saying and the federal officials, we simply asked the federal government to put in writing what it had undertaken it would do orally with us, and we wait today, Mr. Speaker, to get that response as to the specific understanding of that agreement in writing. As soon as we get that, Mr. Speaker, we are ready, willing and able and quite anxious to resume negotiations, but until that comes, Mr. Speaker, what would happen would be that we would be forced, which the federal government was attempting to do and is attempting to do through their handmaidens on the other side in part, to get us. We entered into this

MR. MARSHALL: agreement in good faith, we gave to the federal government our bottom line, as it were, at that particular time, believing that, for the first time, the federal government was open and was going to address the offshore issue in a fair and sensible and reasonable basis. And we are not, by way, Mr. Speaker, of negotiating below our bottom line, which we would do if we did not take the sensible, reasonable, prudent precaution that any reasonable person would take to simply ask the federal government to put in writing what they promised us orally. And, Mr. Speaker, obviously any bases of negotiations in good faith have to be prefaced on the fact that the other side is prepared to put in writing what it promised orally. If somebody is afraid to put in writing what it had promised, you have to call in question their bona fides. So, the answer is when the federal government wishes to show its bona fides, we are prepared to negotiate and we will be ready and quite happy to negotiate with them, but not until then,

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, in light of the member for Mount Scio's (Mr. Barry) comments that staking the entire future of this Province on the federal election by this administration is stupid and asinine, will the minister agree to forget that mouthful of childish rhetoric that he just uttered, considering what lack of an agreement is costing the people of this Province, put aside his sandbox mentality and, regardless of anything else -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question! Question!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: take into consideration, Mr. Speaker, the pressure that is being placed on the administration by the member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry), by the Board of Trade and by the people of this Province, and get back to the bargaining table?

Let the hon. gentlemen take the initiative on behalf of the administration and start new talks all over again? Will the hon. gentleman please undertake to do that?

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, once again I say I do not think the member for Mount Scio would appreciate, neither does he need the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) to be his handmaiden in asking any questions.

The situation with respect to it, Mr. Speaker, is this government is not waiting and relying on the federal election. What this government is doing is waiting and expecting fairness and reasonableness on the other side, that is that they put into writing what they agreed to orally. We are not relying, Mr. Speaker, on a change of government. What we are doing, we are relying with a great deal of confidence, on the will of the people of this Province. Because ultimately, in the final analysis, this matter will be resolved by the will of the people of this Province, and it will be a resolute will, Mr. Speaker, to get the same rights in this Province as the people in Alberta and Western Canada today enjoy, and that is, Mr. Speaker, prior to 1930, I repeat again for the edification of the hon. member, the Western provinces did not own their resources. And the reason why they own their resources today was because of persistent pressure in the 1920s so that in 1930 it was realized. And I feel that the people of Newfoundland will certainly do no less than the people of Alberta

MR. MARSHALL: in demanding of any government in power that it not desist until it gets a reasonable share and return from its own resources.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. MARSHALL: So, Mr. Speaker, we are not relying on a change of government. What we are relying on, first of all, is that there be a spirit of fairness and reasonableness on the part of the federal government and they will simply respond as to their understanding of that agreement which we reached. And failing that, Mr. Speaker, what ultimately we are relying on is the indomitable will of the people of Newfoundland, whom we are quite sure are not going to see the resource that they brought into Confederation not dedicated in the first instance to seeing that the young people of this Province have an opportunity to acquire an earned income equal to the younger people in the other parts of Canada. Mr. Speaker, we will do it despite the Uncle Toms on the other side of the House, and their handmaidens and their messengers from the present administration in Ottawa that will not bend to a reasonable request.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. MARSHALL: When the federal government wants to be reasonable, Mr. Speaker, and put it in writing, we are prepared to negotiate. But, no, we are not relying on any, as I say, Mr. Speaker, election, we are not even relying on court cases. This is going to be determined by the will of the people concerned and the spirit of fairness of all Canadians, including the people of Newfoundland.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. NEARY: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman has to convince his own colleagues; the member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry) is one that the hon. gentleman has to convince. I do not believe that argument is going to

MR. NEARY:

change the mind of the supporters of the administration who sit on that side of the House. The handmaidens and the Uncle Toms the hon. gentleman is talking about are like the members for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry) and the other dissident and disgruntled members of the Tory caucus.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman also mentioned earlier about how the statements that I made were denied in certain quarters. Now could the hon. gentleman tell us now - he has had ten days or so to ponder this matter over in his mind - could the hon. gentleman tell us now how many rigs will be drilling on the Grand Banks as of July 1 of this year? Could the hon. gentleman give us the names of these rigs, tell us where they are coming from, and give us a few details about the number of oil rigs that will be drilling on the Grand Banks as of July 1 of this year?

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

MR. MARSHALL: I thought the hon. gentleman had gotten enough of a lacing as it was the last day he asked that particular question. Because he asked that question, you see, and the purpose of this question is first of all to attempt to sow the seeds of insecurity as to offshore operations here, and to give the other impression, that it is going on full belt in Nova Scotia so therefore we should make an agreement. Now we want to make an agreement, as we said, but not at any price.

The rigs that are out there and will be out there; the Zapata Umland, the SEDCO 706, and the West Venture. And, as was indicated and confirmed, Mr. Speaker, by Mobil, subsequently in a press report following the hon. gentleman's statement, they are hoping in the

MR. MARSHALL: not too distant future to get another rig over here, the John Shaw, And where is that coming from, Mr. Speaker? Lo and behold, it is coming from the shores of Nova Scotia to Newfoundland. So that just goes to prove that they are going to drill where there is a prospect of discovery.

Now while the hon. gentleman is also talking and exulting in these factors and trying to sow the seeds of uncertainty with respect to our offshore, he might be interested in another little bit of information that has recently come to hand, that Shell in Nova Scotia has recently relinquished a significant amount of its acreage. It is a wonder that has not been picked up here. The acreage on the Continental Shelf was considered to be Nova Scotia's best chance for an oil discovery and Shell's action in giving up 25 to 30 per cent would suggest a downgrading of this prospect. The hon. gentleman

MR. MARSHALL: might like to digest that when he makes these statements and questions that are indirectly meant to be handmaidens for the purpose of serving other people to try to force us into an agreement like Nova Scotia's, as it he calls it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL: There is other information, Mr. Speaker, that is of interest to the hon. member, that this demonstrates the federal exploration agreements are contingent commitments only, that is, the company can either drill or drop acreage. This aspect is not stated in the federal public statements of the drilling progress which have tended to give maximum values on the assumption that all committed wells will be drilled.

You see, the hon. gentleman does not know what he is dealing with, he does not know really what he is toying with. While he is trying to give the impression indirectly that because of the lack of an agreement there is no exploration off the coast of this Province, in actual fact one rig is now, even without an agreement, going to be transferred from Nova Scotia to Newfoundland, and Shell has dropped its most prospective acreage and, very importantly as well, the statements made by the federal government when they announced their drilling programme, which were announced as if they were certain and were absolutely tied in, are not so, they were contingent possibilities and already we see a substantial amount of that falling off.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. NEARY: I have him on the record now. That is all I wanted, to get him on the record.

MR. HISCOCK: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Rural, Agriculture and Northern Development (Mr. Goudie), It is concerning a question that I asked last

MR. HISCOCK: Fall in this House with regard to the shortage of gasoline in the community of St. Lewis. We were told that the residents in St. Lewis would have to go to Mary's Harbour to get gasoline. This government did nothing about it and said there was sufficient gasoline there. Well, Mr. Speaker, nothing was done. Now St. Lewis is out of gas, Mary's Harbour is out of gas, and so is Lodge Bay. The salmon season is coming and a lot of these fishermen have no gasoline. I have contacted the two companies Labseaco and Woodward Limited and they will not be in the area for at least a couple of weeks. The fishermen feel that they will miss maybe two weeks of salmon fishing if they do not get gasoline.

So I would like to ask the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development (Mr. Goudie) what plans has his department made since last Fall to make sure that there is sufficient fuel in Lodge Bay and Mary's Harbour and St. Lewis, and what plans he is taking to make sure that this does not happen again?

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

MR. GOUDIE: Mr. Speaker, in terms of ministerial responsibility for coastal communities in Labrador, I must remind the hon. gentleman that my responsibility lies in the area from Rigolet North to Nain and that the South part of the Labrador Coast is the same as any other part of the Province. Perhaps the question might be more appropriately directed to my colleague, the Minister of Justice (Mr. Ottenheimer), responsible for EMO or whatever. I do not have any responsibility for getting gasoline into communities on the coast.

MR. MARSHALL: Does the hon. the member for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock) represent the South of Labrador or the North of Labrador?

MR. GOUDIE: The hon. gentleman who just asked the question, Mr. Speaker, does represent the Southern coast of Labrador.

MR. HISCOCK: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. HISCOCK: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the President of the Council (Mr. Marshall).

As far as I am concerned, it is an extremely serious matter for any minister to slough this off and say, 'Okay, it is not my responsibility.' The fishermen in Southern Labrador, in the area of Lodge Bay, Mary's Harbour and St. Lewis, will be losing potentially thousands of dollars unless this is rectified.

I brought this matter up, I have had correspondence from his parliamentary assistant, and I have letters to show that the parliamentary assistant said in February they were going to look into this matter. So if it is not his responsibility, then I would

MR. HISCOCK: like to know why his department and its deputy minister have been looking into this matter. So I will direct the question to the President of the Council (Mr. Marshall) and ask what action is this government taking to make sure that there is sufficient fuel along the Labrador Coast? It is a serious matter. A lot of these fishermen run out of unemployment insurance in May and cannot afford gasoline and depend on the merchants coming in. So I would just like to know from the President of the Council, as Acting Premier, is this government going to be making any plans to make sure that this does not happen continually? It has happened three or four years in a row now.

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

MR. MARSHALL: I want to assure the hon. gentleman that this government takes cognizance of what he says and we are very concerned. But we have long since learned - and, you know, I have to temper it by this - we have long since learned not to take verbatim and literally every statement made by the Opposition. But if the hon. gentleman brings up a point that is of real concern in his district, we will certainly test the urgency of the matter and we will see, obviously, what can be done. I can tell the hon. gentleman that this government is very, very sensitive and aware of the needs of the coastal parts of Labrador and is doing everything it possibly can to assist in the servicing of the people out there. We realize the difficulties that are attendant upon it because of transportation problems and what have you from time to time, but, certainly, this government cannot be accused of not being sensitive to the needs of the people of coastal Labrador in relation to the capacity

MR. MARSHALL:

to perform and we will continue to do so. So I have to tell the hon. gentleman that we will look into the statements the hon. gentleman has made, but I just caution the House, and I have to observe again that time and again we do hear statements from the Opposition that are obviously very grossly exaggerated as to the urgency and the imperativeness of the matters that they bring up. However, having said that, we will certainly look into what the hon. gentleman said.

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

MR. HISCOCK: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan), The Premier has referred to Mary's Harbour, Lodge Bay and said that he ended up taking a boat down there and he knows the area quite well and he referred to it as the twilight zone. In fact he has referred to it as the most forgotten area of this Province. I am surprised that the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development (Mr. Goudie) can stand up and say that he is not responsible for keeping an eye on that area, particularly when the Premier calls it the most neglected area in the Province.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! The hon. President of the Council on a point of order.

MR. MARSHALL: I hesitate to interrupt the hon. gentleman, but the hon. gentleman, Mr. Speaker, is making a speech. The purpose of the Question Period is to address a question to a minister. I think the hon. gentleman is in the realm of making a speech, which is out of order.

MR. SPEAKER: I remind hon. members again that questions should be brief and answers should be brief.

The hon. member for Eagle River.

MR. HISCOCK: The question is to the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan), With regard to the operation of the St. Lewis plant, Fishery Products operated it for years but pulled out of there as well as Cartwright and Packs Harbour, although I believe they are going back to Packs Harbour, I do not believe Fishery Products is going back to St. Lewis, but that another company, Earles Limited of Carbonear, is supposed to take over. Can the minister confirm that Earles will be going into St. Lewis and if they will be operating the plant at the same capacity as last year and, also, will they be providing fuel to fishermen in that area of the coast?

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, the Labrador Coast, of course, is always of concern to the Government of Newfoundland and to my colleague and other colleagues regarding the development of the coast and fisheries in particular. I recall saying last week when I spoke answering questions on Labrador that it is difficult to get the private sector to do much on the coast. It usually involves government and the spending of government dollars, federal or provincial, to get some activity. Fishery Products did move out of a place called Fox Harbour - St. Lewis is the right name; it was called Fox Harbour, next to Battle Harbour - and we have been successful, as a result of Fishery Products Limited moving out, away from the coast, in talking to a number of potential operators and companies that go into the coast, and we are now successful in attracting Earles Freighting, or Fred Earle Limited of Carbonear, who has been well known in the fish business over the years, and he will be operating that facility, which is owned by the Government

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MR. MORGAN:

of Newfoundland, at

St. Lewis and we will be leasing the facility to Earles
Freighting and granting the necessary licences to that
company, taking them back from Fishery Products and giving

MR. MORGAN:

them to the Earle Freighting Limited of Carbonear. Over the last few days I have been in conversation with Mr. Fred Earle, who is the principal of the company, and he has informed me they are now in the process of moving in fuels and other supplies for the fishermen in that area this Summer.

MR. HISCOCK: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Supplementary, the hon. member for Eagle River.

MR. HISCOCK: This question also is to the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) with regard to Red Bay in Southern Labrador. Last year the plant at Red Bay was operated by W.J. Burton Company of England. The Saltfish Corporation paid this company \$50,000 for the fish but this \$50,000 never did get to the fishermen, who are still out of pocket. Can the Minister of Fisheries inform this House what action the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is taking to recover this money and to make sure that the fishermen of Red Bay get paid?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, we have had meetings with Mr. Aiden Maloney, the acting Chairman of the Saltfish Corporation, one of the best men, I guess, in the fishing industry today bar none, knowledgeable in the industry, and he has been quite involved in trying to resolve that very complex issue where the operator, W.J. Burton, had financial difficulties last year and left bills unpaid to the fishermen, bills unpaid to suppliers both at Red Bay on the Labrador side and at Brig Bay in my colleague's district on the St. Barbe Coast. As a result of these meetings with the

MR. MORGAN: Saltfish Corporation, every effort is being made by the Newfoundland Department of Fisheries, in conjunction with the Saltfish Corporation, or vice versa, to see that the bills outstanding are paid, and the bills from the fishermen in particular. At the same time, the Newfoundland government is trying to find someone to move in to take over these two plants. W.J. Burton will be gone, moving out, unable to carry on because of financial problems, but it looks pretty definite that both these facilities will be in operation.

In fact, we are confident there will be an operator for the Red Bay plant. At Brig Bay, we may very well have to operate directly through the Saltfish Corporation without a private sector company.

MR. HISCOCK: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. HISCOCK: A final question, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Fisheries. Under the Coastal Labrador DREE agreement, the federal government have now decided to enter into only 50/50 cost shared arrangements with the provincial government on the plants the provincial government owns. For example, the St. Lewis, Labrador, plant was built out of a Canada Works project and various other ones were built out of free labour and material given during the Smallwood administration. As well, others in Mary's Harbour, Black Tickle, William's Harbour and Cartwright were built by the provincial government. These need to be upgraded if we are going to take advantage of the Northern cod, because we have a lot of over-the-side sales down there. The Provincial Department of Fisheries, in letters that I received from the deputy minister, say they will not enter into a cost-sharing basis of 50/50, they will only enter into a 90/10. The federal government say they will not enter into it unless it is 50/50. And as a result, the people in that area are going to see more over-the-side sales. Can the Minister of Fisheries inform this House if his department and this government continue to maintain the position that they will not get into a cost-sharing basis unless it is a 90/10, they will not go into a 50/50 cost-sharing arrangement?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. MORGAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, when the funding was supplied for the Labrador Coast, initially it was supplied through the Department of DREE, and we had allocated \$3 million to develop the facilities along the Labrador Coast. Then the minister at the time, Mr. Romeo LeBlanc, decided - and he made his decision public - that the federal government was not getting enough credit for its activities in fisheries in Newfoundland, and

MR. MORGAN: too much credit was going to the Newfoundland Government, etc. Because of that, he decided to take the program away from DREE and put it in the Federal Department of Fisheries, to be administered totally by that department. That meant they left the Newfoundland funding side on the table here in Newfoundland and we could not participate. They had decided to go it on their own 100 per cent, with less money.

As a result of that, that was three years ago, the federal government have not yet spent too much of that fund. As the hon. gentleman is aware, they have done studies and further studies, they engaged NORDCO to do some work for them, and still there is not too much activity in developing the facilities. Now they come back to the private sector companies and offer them 50/50 cost-sharing, and some of the companies, for example, the company at Smokey, W. J. Hiscock, have taken advantage of that funding. But we are saying to them, 'We had an agreement, 90/10, and we were ready to spend our money with you. Then you decided to back off and go on your own. Now you decide you cannot do it on your own you are back looking for fifty cent

MR. MORGAN: dollars from us. What is the game?' So as a result of that, I held discussions with the new minister, Mr. De Bane, and all I can say at this time, because we are in the midst of some very important discussions as it pertains to fisheries development in the Province, is that as a result of these discussions

we are both determined to get some development along the Labrador Coast with regards to the upgrading of existing fish plants. And most of the fish plants along the Labrador Coast are owned by this government, they were built under a cost-shared programme over the years but they are owned by the Newfoundland Government, and it is going to take substantial amounts of money to upgrade these plants and they need upgrading. So, all I can say at this time in answering the hon. gentleman's question is that the two governments, the two Departments of Fisheries in particular, have been discussing the problems of the fish plants that need upgrading along the Labrador Coast, and we are hoping to have something positive for the Labrador Coast in that regard some time over the next month, if at all possible.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

The time for the Question Period has expired.

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I want to table the annual report for Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro.

MR. NEARY: Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL: I have additional copies here and if there are any other copies needed by members, I think the Clerk can get them from Hydro.

NOTICES OF MOTION

MRS. NEWHOOK: Mr. Speaker.

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

MRS. NEWHOOK: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill entitled, "An Act To Amend The City Of St. John's Loan Act, 1978."

PRESENTING PETITIONS

MR. WINDSOR: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Development,

MR. WINDSOR: Mr. Speaker, I beg leave today to present a petition which hon. gentlemen can see has been signed by some 811 constituents of the great and historic district of Mount Pearl. And I might add, Mr. Speaker, that this petition, dealing with the need for expanded school facilities in the district of Mount Pearl, represents not only the opinion of these 811 people it represents the opinions of all the people of Mount Pearl since the problem is not unique just to the Roman Catholic School System, as represented by this petition, but as well by the Amalgamated School System. I know I speak with confidence when I say that the opinions expressed in this petition are in fact, those of every resident of the district of Mount Pearl.

The prayer of the petition, Mr. Speaker, is as follows:

"WHEREAS the existing facility, Mary Queen of the World High School is overburdened with students to the

MR. WINDSOR: point that the average teacher/
student ratio far exceeds that recommended by the
Department of Education; and

WHEREAS the existing portable classrooms are the oldest
portable classrooms in the system and have reached
a point where the safety and health of the students
have been brought into question; and

WHEREAS Mount Pearl is the fastest growing community in
this region with new residential construction
taking place continuously thereby compounding
the problem of adequate space to properly house
our students; and

WHEREAS a lack of laboratory facilities within Mary Queen of
the World High School places our students at a
disadvantage when compared with other high schools
in the region; and

WHEREAS we feel our youth are our strongest future resource
and they deserve every possible consideration to
prepare them for their future, we the undersigned
do hereby petition

MR. WINDSOR:

our provincial government to make sufficient monies available to have a Catholic High School constructed in Mount Pearl to be ready for commencement of the 1984-85 school year!" Mr. Speaker, I support this petition because there is no doubt, in fact, that the district of Mount Pearl probably has the most pressing need of any district in our Province at the moment for a new high school and, in fact, school facilities generally. The district of Mount Pearl and the town of Mount Pearl, in fact, is probably the fastest growing community in Eastern Canada. Without a doubt in fact the Newtown area of Mount Pearl is, of course, the growth potential area for the capital city region. We are, in fact, developing. In the Housing Corporation, we have sold in the last year over 200 building lots which are either built on now or being built on and, no doubt, that will impact on the availability of space within our schools, and we have about another 60 lots that have been sold this year and are now under construction and another 230 lots, just in the Newtown area alone, that will be available for building this year. So, Mr. Speaker, that, no doubt, is going to put an extreme strain on the facilities available for schools, particularly the Roman Catholic high school facilities in Mount Pearl. Just to give you an example of the growth of the student population, figures indicate that over the four year period from 1977 to 1981 there was a 35.6 per cent increase or 7.1 per cent per year. Mr. Speaker, I would challenge any other

MR. WINDSOR: district in the Province to come up with a rate of growth such as that. I visited last night with a number of the members of the action committee, some of whom are in the galleries today, and I welcomed that, to discuss this problem with them and I took the time to look at some of the units that are presently being utilized, particularly at Mary Queen of the World. At the moment there are nine portable classrooms which are probably almost twenty years old, which house from Grades III to V, as well as some special education and remedial reading groups, Mr. Speaker. Another five portable classrooms which are not as old nevertheless are removed from the physical location of the main building so students who want to take part in physical education activities, library activities and other activities have to go outside regardless of wind and weather, and you are talking of primary students, Mr. Speaker, housed in these particular units. Just to give an example of the overcrowding, the cafeteria at Mary Queen of the World seats 180 people. Now there are over 900 students attending school at Mary Queen of the World so that means, even with two shifts, we still have nearly 300 children who have to eat their lunch in their classrooms, they do not have the advantage of going to the cafeteria, not to mention, Mr. Speaker, the restraint on providing physical education instruction, science instruction and special education instruction when you do not have the space, even though under the student/teacher ratio extra instructors might be available in accordance with the per capita allocations that are made.

MR. WINDSOR: Talking of the St. Peter's school, Mr. Speaker, which is a newer facility but nevertheless is experiencing the same overcrowding. The best example I can give you of that - Grade VIII in that school has two streams whereas Grades III to VII have three, Grades I to II have four and kindergarten has five. Now, it is obvious that if they only have two streams of Grade VIII and five of kindergarten and various amounts in between, that

MR. WINDSOR: we are heading into a very serious situation in St. Peter's as well. All in all, Mr. Speaker, I think the numbers indicate that the total projected enrolment for the two schools in 1984 - 1985 is about 2,235. That was projected in 1982, only a year or so ago. Today, or as of February 4th of this year, that has been increased by some 412. In just over a year, the projections have increased by some 412 so that we now predict some 2,696 students. Those are just the students who are presently registered in the system. With some of the growth potential that I talked about earlier and the possibility of transferring some students in from other areas, we could be talking close to 2,900 students with a school capacity of less than 2,000.

I realize I am out of time, Mr. Speaker, and I beg that this petition be tabled and referred to the department to which it relates.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, we support the prayer of the petition presented by the hon. gentleman on behalf of 814 people who live in the community of Mount Pearl. We are well aware of the problems encountered by the various school boards in that area, Mr. Speaker. The hon. gentleman, at the tail end of his remarks, I believe, referred also to the integrated school board that has a problem down there, and they do not know how they are going to be able to cope with the situation with the projected enrolment for September coming. They have a real problem there now, a lack of toilet space and so forth and so on. And, of course, the problems at Mary Queen of the World are also very bad. So we support the petition, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman, of course, realizes that this is a matter for the school board. What the petitioners want the government to do is to give the money over to the school board to enable them to build a new school. Now, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is in the right position to do something about that. The hon. gentleman is in a decision-making capacity. As a member of the Cabinet, the hon. gentleman has to persuade his colleagues to give the Minister of Education more funding for the R.C. School Board so that they can build this new school. Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not know how far the hon. gentleman is prepared to push this, he should be prepared to push this matter to the brink of almost resigning from the Cabinet if his colleagues do not accede to his request. The hon. gentleman now has gone public, gone on the public record as saying that he supports this request from his constituents, now he has to make a decision between the Cabinet and his constituents. Maybe he will be successful in persuading the Cabinet to give the R.C. School Board the money they need to build this new school. But in the event that he does not, Mr. Speaker, what will the hon. gentleman do? Will he still stay in the Cabinet?

MR. WARREN: And the Integrated School Board.

MR. NEARY: And money for the Integrated School Board so they can upgrade their system also, Mr. Speaker.

So the hon. gentleman is right in the driver's seat. He is a senior minister in the government and the government makes the decision on funding, on financing for education in this Province, for funding for school boards. He is probably a potential Premier so,

MR. NEARY: the hon. gentleman is right in the driver's seat and, Mr. Speaker, we will anxiously watch the performance of the hon. gentleman. In the event that he is unable to persuade his colleagues to give the school board this badly needed money, what will the hon. gentleman do? Will he continue to support that administration or will he come down on the side of his constituents? That is the decision facing the hon. gentleman, Mr. Speaker. So we will be watching the hon. gentleman's performance in this House in the future as far as this matter is concerned.

We whole-heartedly support the prayer of the petition, Mr. Speaker, and we wish the hon. gentleman well with the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) and his colleagues in Cabinet.

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

MS. VERGE: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to respond to the petition so well presented by my colleague the Minister of Development and the member of the House of Assembly for Mount Pearl (Mr. Windsor). I, along with the officials of my department, will carefully consider the request embodied in the prayer of this petition for a new facility for the Roman Catholic population of Mount Pearl, as well as representations we received from groups related to other school boards in the Mount Pearl area and in several other areas of the Province for new school construction. I would like to remind all hon. members that government has provided to the Denominational Education Committees for the purpose of new school construction over the last three years, this new fiscal year included, over \$50 million, for new school construction. In the three years that coincide with the phase-in of the re-organized high school programme, the fiscal years 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84, there will be close to \$60 million worth of new school construction across our Province. That includes

MS. VERGE: expansion of high school facilities to support the expansion of the high school programme and the extra grade, as well as improvement of facilities for kindergarten through Grade IX. In the present fiscal year, the budget which we recently brought down makes provision for \$14.1 million block funding to the Denominational Educational Committees for new school construction in the 1983-84 year.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I am sure all hon. members are aware, under our Denominational Education System government co-operates with

MS. VERGE:

the churches who have rights in education under the Constitution in financing school construction. Government's role is limited to providing block funding to -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

MS. VERGE: - these church authorities who are the Denominational Education Committees. The Denominational Education Committees in turn solely decide how and where those government funds are to be spent. For every construction project the recipient school board has to contribute a minimum of 10 per cent to the cost of the project.

MR. NEARY: Are you going to give them the money or are you not?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MS. VERGE: Mr. Speaker, in summary government has generously funded new school construction in this present fiscal year as well as the last two years, to make possible close to \$60 million worth of new school construction in our Province -

MR. NEARY: What arrogance! Are you going to give them the money?

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

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! The hon. President of the Council on a point of order.

MR. MARSHALL: The Minister of Education is responding to the petition. I am sure there are people in the House, visitors in this House, who are interested in what she has to say and I think she should be able to do it unimpeded by the low type of reaction, the hon. gentlemen interrupting the hon. minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! The hon. Minister of Education does have a total of five minutes to respond to the petition, she also has the right to be heard

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): in silence.

MS. VERGE: Thank you very much,

Mr. Speaker. I was having trouble hearing myself there towards the end because the member for LaPoile district (Mr. Neary), the Leader of the Opposition, was talking continuously and drowning out what I was trying to say in response to the petition of the Roman Catholic parents in the Mount Pearl area.

Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, in this present fiscal year government is providing \$14.1 million for new school construction, that is over \$14 million that will be spent by the Denominational Education Committees who have the sole say on which projects will be funded with those public funds, in conjunction with 10 per cent contributions from school boards, and this will culminate the high school expansion programme coinciding with the phase in of Grade XII. So, Mr. Speaker, by the end of this fiscal year we will have the benefit in our Province of much improved school facilities.

Mr. Speaker, government does not have the right or the power to direct capital funding to a specific school project for the St. John's Roman Catholic Board in Mount Pearl.

MS. VERGE: Government simply provides block funding to the Denominational Education Committees with the Roman Catholic Committee getting its proportionate share which is now about 36 per cent, and then the Catholic Education Committee deciding how and where those public funds are to be spent.

Mr. Speaker, I say to the member for Mount Pearl (Mr. Windsor) that he should advise his constituents, if they have not already done so, to also present their petition to the Catholic Education Committee which is the partner with government in financing school construction.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

The hon. member for Fogo.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition on behalf of some twenty-eight residents -

MR. NEARY: She shot you down, 'Neil', boy!

MR. TULK: - of the Town of Lumsden, and I would like to read the prayer of the petition into the record. It says: 'We the undersigned residents of Centennial Road, Lumsden, Fogo district, wish to petition the provincial government for funds for the extension of sewer facilities to our area of the town of Lumsden.'

'The Department of Health following a recent investigation of our area has informed us that a serious health hazard exists. We are hopeful of having this situation remedied in the near future.'

Mr. Speaker, I think it is worthy of note that what the people of Lumsden are asking for, the the twenty-eight names on the petition, is an extension of the sewer facilities that presently exist in the town of Lumsden. They are not asking for a whole new system in that town. I think it comes to something like \$100,000 worth of work. Mr. Speaker, the reason for the need of the extension of that

MR. TULK: service is as a result of, as the Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor) said in his town, in the town of Mount Pearl, is the result of the expansion that has recently taken place in Lumsden, over the last ten or fifteen years, whereby there has been a new road opened up for housing and those people have built their houses on it.

Mr. Speaker, it is worthy of note that the prayer of the petition states that the Department of Health following an investigation has informed those people living along that road that a serious health hazard exists. In other words, what we are looking at here is an emergency situation. Mr. Speaker, on Monday afternoon I happened to visit that area, I visited one of my constituents in that area, at his request, to look at what was happening. Mr. Speaker, it is pitiful to see what a person living in that area has to live with. Here is a young man, an industrious young man who has built himself one of the better homes in Lumsden, and the people of Lumsden are noted for their good houses, Mr. Speaker, they are beautiful homes,

MR. TULK: and it is outrageous to see what you can see by the side of his building lot. Right next to his lot, Mr. Speaker, is practically raw sewerage. And I have to bring that to the attention of the House, and to the attention of the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mrs. Newhook), it is what I would call one ungodly sight, if you look out among the few trees that are there. The day I was there was a fairly cold day and the smell was there, Mr. Speaker, and I can imagine what it must be like on hot days. As a matter of fact, the situation is such that he is afraid, his wife is afraid, as parents they are afraid to let their children just go out and play in their own yard, in their own sand box.

So, Mr. Speaker, I place this petition to her department, asking her to please take, if she has not included in her capital funding for this year the extension to the town sewer system, to take this on as an emergency project. Because what we are going to see here I think, before this Summer is out, a situation where people's health is going to be affected.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the minister may say, "Well, there has been no representation on this matter". That is not quite correct, and I do not believe she will. I hope she does not. Because as I understand it from the mayor of the town, I was talking to him today, last Fall a delegation came to see the deputy minister, the minister I do not think was available, and they were promised that they were going to get an engineering study done of the requirements of that town. Obviously we know what happened last Fall. We

MR. TULK: had that mini-budget that the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) brought in and he took every dollar that he could find, and cut the Municipal Affairs estimates such that they later told them the project could not go ahead, the engineering studies could not be done.

I would ask the minister, and ask the department, now that this year is here, before we get into the Fall again and we get some more cuts from the Minister of Finance, I would ask the minister to see that indeed this project is carried out, the engineering studies are done, and the project is indeed carried out. Otherwise, Mr. Speaker, we are again going to be looking at a situation in this Province that indeed could be a health hazard, that nobody has bargained for in Lumsden, and that they should not have to live with. Thank you, very much.

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

MR. NEARY: I wholeheartedly support the prayer of the petition so ably presented by my colleague, the member for Fogo (Mr. Tulk), Mr. Speaker, the petition was well presented, well documented and I congratulate the hon. gentleman for making such a fine presentation on behalf of his constituents.

MR. HODDER: A hard working member.

MR. NEARY: A hard working member of the House of Assembly. Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman was very descriptive -

AN HON. MEMBER: Very articulate.

MR. NEARY: Yes, very articulate and very dramatic in describing the conditions that he saw last Monday afternoon when he visited Centennial Road in Lumsden, Mr. Speaker. The hon. gentleman almost went as far as to say the the sewerage was squeezing up between your toes when you walked along certain parts of the road, Mr. Speaker, and I think in this day and age that is terrible and an indictment of the administration and the government in power. The government have been very secret about the lists so far this year, of projects that will be carried out. I understand that yesterday the deputy minister wired the various councils around Newfoundland telling them if they were going to get water and sewer projects this year, or cost-shared paving, or extensions to projects already underway. They are so secret about it they will not even table a list in this House, Mr. Speaker. The telegrams went out yesterday, I understand, from the minister's office. The minister will tell anybody in the world what is going to be done in the way of water and sewer projects this year except this House of Assembly,

MR. NEARY: where we have to approve the spending. To the minister it is all top secret. Mr. Speaker, I invite the hon. minister to stand and support this petition. The hon. minister was not here to hear the description of the horrible conditions on Centennial Road in Lumsden, on Fogo Island, where people do not ask for very much. In Fogo district the people are very patient people -

MR. TULK: Hard working.

MR. NEARY: -hard working people. In Lumsden they are very hard working people and, Mr. Speaker, they are entitled to better treatment than they are getting from this administration so I hope that my hon. colleague was able to persuade the hon. minister and the administration to extend the sewer facilities in Lumsden to include Centennial Road, to eliminate this health hazard that currently exists in that community. Mr. Speaker, it was a worthwhile presentation on the part of the hon. gentleman and I congratulate him for the excellent way in which he is representing his district and his constituents.

MRS. NEWHOOK: Mr. Speaker.

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

MRS. NEWHOOK: I am sorry that I did not hear the petition, but the MHA for that district did speak to me about it yesterday. I accept the petition and certainly I would like to take a good look at it and I will certainly look into the situation. He is asking for a study.

MR. TULK: No, do the study and then the work.

MR. NEWHOOK: It does seem that the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) is criticizing our government for doing too many studies.

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

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

A point of order, the hon. member for Fogo.

MR. TULK: The minister was not in the House when I presented the petition and I do not want to interrupt her, but what I want to say to her is this, that I was saying to her, do the study and then immediately do the work.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Fogo did not raise a valid point of order.

MR. TULK: I made my point though.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MRS. NEWHOOK: Mr. Speaker, I did say that I accept the petition and I will certainly look into the matter. We will have our regional office in Gander go down to Lumsden and take a look. I am not committing myself or my department to a study, but certainly if it is necessary we will do that study and we will do it as quickly as we possibly can.

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

MR. MATTHEWS: Mr. Speaker, I rise to present a petition on behalf of the residents of the community of Point May who are desirous of improved and additional television service to that presently offered by CBC. The petition, Mr.

MR. MATTHEWS: Speaker, contains 192 signatures, all signed by residents of Point May. And, Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that NTV is presently licenced to service the area but the communities of Point May, Lamaline, Point au Gaul and Lord's Cove are presently not receiving an adequate signal from NTV.

AN HON. MEMBER: They have been lucky.

MR. MATTHEWS: Yes, that may be the case but they do not think so, because they are restricted to one channel, Mr. Speaker. They do not have the choice of cable as do the more affluent areas such as St. John's, Grand Bank and Fortune. Mr. Speaker, on my frequent visits to the communities of my district, particularly the communities that I have mentioned previously, I have witnessed first hand the inadequate TV service there and certainly the signal they are receiving from NTV is adequate. So,

MR. MATTHEWS: Mr. Speaker, I support the prayer of the petition and I call upon all hon. members present to support same.

MR. HISCOCK: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. HISCOCK: Mr. Speaker, I support this petition 100 per cent on behalf of the residents of Point May, Lamaline, Lord's Cove and Point au Gaul. It is an area that I know very well because I have relatives in Lawn. It is also a problem that I know extremely well because of representing coastal Labrador.

I learned through talking with a person from Ottawa who is working with one of the satellite companies, that they have been employed by the federal government to go across the North West Territories and put in this system, CanCom, all along the North West Territories in very, very small communities of 250, 300 or 400 people. I met the person when he was on his way to Argentina to install this system for the American Base. And I would say that the Minister of Communications (Mr. Doyle) could probably look into the possibility of us in this Province with our remote rural areas getting into a similar programme in joint co-operation with the federal government, getting into sort of a CanCom system, provide these satellites, and hopefully - maybe it is quite possible that Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro could be the delivery agent for it, or Newfoundland Telephone Company or the C.N. telephone company, Mr. Speaker, the name of which escapes me at the moment.

But I believe that this is the route that we have to take because private enterprise itself, NTV and the cable T.V. companies cannot do it. But I do think that if we go this route with CanCom, the

MR. HISCOCK: satellite dishes, that in a few years, instead of it being \$5,000, if we buy them in a package we should get them for \$4,000 or \$3,000.

I would hope that the Minister of Communications (Mr. Doyle) would look into the possibility of setting up some type of small Crown corporation to provide a satellite receiving system in remote rural areas of this Province. And, as I said, the delivery agent for this could probably be Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro.

It is an area, as I said, Mr. Speaker, that I know very well and the 192 residents in Lamaline, Point May, Lord's Cove and Point au Gaul deserve better service. I would go as far as to say - and I think the member for Grand Bank (Mr. Matthews) would agree with me - the area in Grand Bank that is most neglected, most forgotten by this government is the foot, the toe of the Burin Peninsula. That is an area that needs to be upgraded and provided with communications.

So, Mr. Speaker, I support this petition but, as an Opposition member, I am not in a position to do anything about it. I hope

MR. HISCOCK: that the member for Grand Bank (Mr. Matthews) will use his influence with the Minister of Communications (Mr. Doyle). We have a Minister of Communications and I beginning to wonder why, Mr. Speaker, unless it is to have a ministry of propaganda to point out these leaflets that the government has. But I hope, Mr. Speaker, that the government will look at the possibility of, not only for Point May, not only for the Coast of Labrador but for other rural areas of this Province, setting up a Crown Corporation to look at the possibility of providing satellite discs to these areas and the government becoming a delivery agent for it in co-operation with private enterprise, like Newfoundland Telephone or some of the other ones I have mentioned.

So, Mr. Speaker, I support this petition 100 per cent as pointed out.

MR. NEARY: You do not have to pay for NTV, it is free.

MR. HISCOCK: So, I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that this does become a reality. I remember, Mr. Speaker, as a child going down over the Burin Peninsula when it was not paved -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

MR. HISCOCK: - before they had the DREE schools, before they had the shipyard, before they had the fish plants. The Burin Peninsula has come a long way under the Liberal Government of the past, under this government and under the federal government. It has to come a lot further now and I would go so far as to say, Mr. Speaker, that if we were the government and we had a Minister of Communications we would set up this Crown Corporation and we would do something about this.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DOYLE: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. DOYLE: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the government I am pleased to accept this petition on behalf of the residents of Port May so ably presented by my colleague, the member for Grand Bank (Mr. Matthews).

As members of the hon. House are aware, Mr. Speaker, the provincial government cannot directly effect the provision of broadcasting services within the Province, that is a federal responsibility and nobody disputes that. However, Mr. Speaker, government believes -and we consistently articulated this policy over the last number of years - government believes that all residents of Newfoundland should have access to a very broad range of television and telecommunication services within the Province. We have and we will continue to encourage both the private and the public broadcasters within the Province to extend their services to all Newfoundland communities. So, Mr. Speaker, I will with pleasure make representation to the local broadcaster in this case which happens to be the Newfoundland Television Network, or NTV, and also we will make representation to the regulatory agency, in this case it happens to be the Canadian Radio Television Telecommunications Commission. We will make representation to them.

MR. DOYLE: make representation to them as well on behalf of the 185 to 200 people in the Point May area. And not only will we do that, Mr. Speaker, we will also advise residents in the Point May area, and any other area in the Province as well, of what types of alternative services there are presently in existence and available to these people in underserved areas. Of course, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking officials within the Communications Division to give any assistance which the communities may need regarding the provision of that additional programming for these communities.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we are all aware of the fact that there are a number of communities in and around Newfoundland, especially up along the Labrador Coast which do not have access to the second television service. As a matter of fact, there are a number of communities along the Labrador Coast that do not have access to CBC service, Paradise River being one, for instance. And when I say, Mr. Speaker, that there are alternative services available - and I want to point out this because it shows how very little the member for Eagle River knows about communications and I would like to read it into the record also, or to have it go on record, that the hon. member for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock), who happens to be the Opposition spokesman on communications has yet to rise in this House to ask me a question on communications and he will stand up in this House today and criticize and all the rest of it, but he still does not have the knowledge to ask a question on communications. But getting back to the alternative services that are available to the people of Newfoundland if they wish to take advantage of it, there are a number of services available right now that have

MR. DOYLE: been designed specifically for underserved areas of the Province. And I am referring, of course, to the CanCom service which the hon. gentleman from Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock) made reference to a few minutes ago.

MR. HISCOCK: Yes. Yes.

MR. DOYLE: If the hon. gentleman would be quiet I will tell him a little bit about this matter and I will show him also how the people in various communities can get along without paying for this service. As I said a few moments ago, Mr. Speaker, I am referring to the CanCom service which is widely being applied for now by various groups and various private entrepreneurs around the Province. I am not aware at this point in time if the residents of Point May have an application in before the CRTC to have this type of service. However, if there is not, then government will gladly make available to the residents of Point May and indeed to any area of the Province, the expertise within the Communications

MR. DOYLE:

Division who will assist groups and individuals all across the Province from the initial point of making the application for the service up to the point where the application is either accepted or rejected. Right now, Mr. Speaker, it is possible for residents in underserved areas of the Province to have access to almost as much television service in the remote areas of the Province as they have in the urban, more widely populated areas. And that is made possible with the advent, Mr. Speaker, of the CanCom service, which initially provided four channels incidentally, one out of Vancouver, one out of Edmonton, one out of Hamilton, and one out of Montreal. What you have now, Mr. Speaker, in addition to that, is the American signals being made available legally on CanCom, that is, NBC, ABC, CBS, and PBS, the same American signal, PBS, which Shelburn Cable of Corner Brook, incidentally, was dragged through the courts for a few months, when they were providing that service, and forced to spend astronomical sums of money on that case, and finally lost it. That same PBS signal is now available on the CanCom service and it will be put up on Canadian satellite very shortly, and it will be made available as a package of programming -

MR. SPEAKER (Russell):

Order, please!

The hon. minister's time has expired.

MR. ROBERTS:

Let him carry on. By leave.

MR. SPEAKER:

Does the hon. minister have

leave to continue?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER:

Agreed.

MR. DOYLE:

- and it will be made available

Mr. Speaker, on the CanCom package called the Three Plus One service. So what you will have is actually four television channels out of the Three Plus One package, also four more on

MR. DOYLE: the first package of CanCom for a total of seven channels which a community may apply for. These services are now available to the people of Point May, or the people up a long the Labrador Coast.

I remember just a couple of months ago, as a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, I went up and held public meetings in approximately twelve or fifteen communities in the hon. gentleman's district, the member for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock), and explained to the people in each of these communities how they could go about getting that service. They do not have to wait for private individuals to come into these communities to make these services available, all they have to do is organize themselves into small associations or small committees, apply to the CRTC for a licence, have it done under the guidance, if they want to, of the Communications Division here, we will give them all of the assistance and expertise that we have in that division, And just a couple of months ago, as I mentioned, in making this tour of the Labrador Coast we went into one community, Paradise River, that only has a population of anywhere between eighty and hundred people; we held a public meeting in that community and made the people aware of what they could do. Since that the people of Paradise River

MR. DOYLE:

have gotten themselves organized into an association, they have applied to the CRTC for this CanCom package and Three Plus One. Funding for that has been approved only a couple of weeks ago under the Coastal Labrador DREE Agreement, which is 50/50 cost shared funding between the Province and the federal government. And there is absolutely no reason to believe that the CRTC will not approve these seven or eight channels. So what you have there is an example of a small community like Paradise River with only 100 or 150 people who now will have as a result of this policy approximately seven channels in that small community. Now, I could go on for an hour or more on this, Mr. Speaker, but I only have five minutes and I do not want to belabour the point at this time. But I will take the petition that the hon. gentleman has presented and do everything in our power to address it.

Thank you.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. MARSHALL: Motion 2, the Loan Bill,
Mr. Speaker.

On motion, that the House
resolve itself into Committee of the Whole to consider
certain resolutions relating to the raising of loans by
the Province, Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!
We are doing Bill No. 37.

Shall the resolution carry?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, during this debate
we have had quite a bit of banter back and forth across the
House, quite a bit of discussion, especially from the Minister
of Finance (Dr. Collins) who is piloting this bill through
the House, about the performance of this administration
compared to the performance of the former Liberal administration.
Now since yesterday was Private Members' Day it gave me
an opportunity to take a look at the track record of this
administration and compare it to the track record of the
former Liberal administration. Because you see, Mr. Chairman, one

MR. NEARY:

of the big objections we have to the way that this government has been borrowing and spending--at the same time they are talking about restraint they are on a real spending spree in this Province, they are borrowing and spending, and the problem is, Mr. Chairman, that there is nothing in between. They collect the revenue, they spend the taxpayers' money and they borrow and they spend but there is nothing in between; there is no activity, there is no development, no action, there are no job creation programmes, there is nothing to create jobs, there is nothing to stimulate the economy and that is the problem, Mr. Chairman. They are borrowing, they are collecting record revenue, record sales taxes, liquor taxes and gasoline taxes from our people, they are spending that and in addition to that they are spending \$270 million a year that they are borrowing and they have nothing to show for it and that is what we are objecting to, Mr. Chairman. The total provincial public debt is close to \$3.5 billion, \$3,500 million, or around \$6500 debt for every man, woman and child in this Province. Now, Mr. Chairman, I had an opportunity to think about this since the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) provoked me the other day and I started to search for mines that this administration opened. How many mines, I said to myself, have this administration opened? In eleven years, I said, how many mines have they opened? You know, Mr. Chairman, I could not find one mine.

MR. TULK:

There have been a few clothes lines on the other side.

MR. NEARY:

There has been a few close but I could not find one mine that was opened under this

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MR. NEARY: administration. Now, let me
tell hon. gentlemen how many mines were opened under a
Liberal administration. There was the Little Bay copper
mine, Tilt Cove mine, Baie Verte mine,

MR. NEARY: Labrador City, Wabush, Daniel's Harbour, Flat Bay, the talc mine down here in Manuels and the Whale's Back mine, Mr. Chairman, all these mines were opened under a Liberal administration.

MR. TOBIN: Yes, the reason why (inaudible).

MR. NEARY: Now, how can hon. gentlemen have the face to stand in this House and then compare the development, compare the reputation, compare the activity of one administration, the Liberal administration against the eleven years of Toryism in this Province. And then I started searching for industries. I said, 'How many new industries have this crowd created since they took over?' Now, the hon. the member for Trinity - Bay de Verde (Mr. Reid) looks at me over there and is waiting patiently for the answer. Well, Mr. Chairman, I could not find one new industry. Then I started to look back over the Liberal years to see if there were any new industries created.

MR. CARTER: Do not remind us for God's sake.

MR. NEARY: Oh, I will remind hon. gentlemen. The hon. gentleman does not like to be reminded, I know. There was the cement mill out there in Corner Brook, there was the Newfoundland Hardwoods, a pressboard mill here in St. John's, and then there was the mill in Stephenville. Now, Mr. Chairman, the latest technique that they have over there is to close down Liberal industries, open them up again and try to claim that they are their projects. Mr. Chairman, there would be no paper mill in Stephenville today but for the Liberal Government. The mill at Stephenville, Mr. Chairman, the Golden Eagle Refinery up in Holyrood, they have managed to close them down; the Come By Chance Oil Refinery, they managed to close that down; there was a machine plant down at the Octagon, they managed to close that down; Marystown Shipyards, that was another

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MR. NEARY: Liberal project, they tried to give that away, get rid of it; the Harmon Corporation formed in 1967 as an industrial centre; the first deep-sea drilling for oil and gas on the

MR. NEARY: Grand Banks - two licences issued in 1969 by both the federal and provincial governments, and they have followed that policy here ever since. The thermo generating plant in Holyrood, Mr. Chairman -

MR. BAIRD: The chocolate factory, the Birch plant.

MR. NEARY: There was a shoe factory at Carbonear that is still functioning. I was over the other day to a sale they had over at the Fieldian Gardens. They have one every year, excellent product. There was a brick industry started by the Liberals, a number of sawmills, Churchill Falls, the Newfoundland Power Commission, and I could go and on, Mr. Chairman, and I could not find one industry that this government had created, or had been responsible for. And, Mr. Chairman, they have managed to supervise over a lot of closedowns in this Province, and I would say the people of Corner Brook are very concerned about what is happening in their city, in the second city.

Now, what happened back in 1971 when Bowater's threatened to close down number seven paper machine, what happened then? Did the Premier of the day go off to England on a seal hunt expedition and bump into a Bowater's official that could have been the janitor as far as he was concerned? Did he do that?

MR. TULK: No.

MR. NEARY: Well, let us see what happened in 1971 when Bowater's threatened to close down number seven paper machine.

AN HON. MEMBER: Your time is up.

MR. NEARY: No, Here is what happened: The government bought an option on the mill and the government decided to purchase all Bowater timber in the Province and purchase all their property in this Province, Mr. Chairman.

MR. NEARY: And, Mr. Chairman, no more was heard of closing number seven machine for twelve years.

DR. COLLINS: It is a good thing they did not pick up the option.

MR. NEARY: No more was heard of closing down number seven paper machine in Corner Brook, and threatening the future of that mill once the government moved in and took an option, an offer to buy the whole Bowater operation in this Province. That was the end of that. Now what is this government doing? They are just laying back, Mr. Chairman, laying back, they do not even have the plans. They do not even know what the future of Bowater's is going to be.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that is the difference between Liberalism and Toryism. That is the difference between a Liberal Administration and a Tory Administration, and that is the difference between the present Premier and Mr. Smallwood, who hon. gentlemen so often like to compare the gentleman to. The Liberal Administration believed in building and developing, Mr. Chairman, all this hon. crowd believe in is closing down, shutting down industries.

MR. NEARY: They are presiding over the demise of the fishery in this Province, the pulp and paper industry and the mining industry and they have not produced one new idea, one original idea or one new industry in eleven years.

Now, who built the transmission line across this Province to bring electricity, the power grid across this Province? Was that a Tory administration or was it a Liberal administration?

MR. MARSHALL: I have no idea.

MR. NEARY: Who built Bay d'Espoir? Does the hon. gentleman have any idea who built that?

MR. BAIRD: Who killed Cock Robin?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, who built the thermo generating plant in Holyrood? Mr. Chairman, I could go on and on and on. What about all the fish plants in the Province? Who built all the fish plants? And who is closing them down? And the hon. gentleman talks about revenue, expanding our revenue base, our tax base, so that we can get more revenue so that our deficit will not be as heavy and we will not have to borrow as much money. Mr. Chairman, if this administration remains in power very much longer, taxes will increase further, they will be borrowing more money.

DR. COLLINS: It is all in your mind.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, this may be a crude term, but the government seem constipated, the whole system is constipated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

The hon. member's time has elapsed.
Shall the resolution carry?

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

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

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I do not know if we will go into it a lot but I just want to make this comment. I am glad Mr. Smallwood did not have his option on Bowaters picked up. What do you think he would have done with it? He probably would have put either John Doyle in charge of it or perhaps if not John Doyle, John Shaheen or perhaps Al Vardy or someone like that and you know what would have happened with Bowaters after that.

A figure, Mr. Chairman, that I think is interesting to look at: Since the Peckford administration came in, personal income in this Province has increased at a compounded annual rate of 11.5 per cent so there must be some activity going on in the Province. The Gross Domestic Product in the Province has increased by 10 per cent compounded annually. Now, compare that with what the public sector debt has increased: as I mentioned, 11.5 per cent for personal income, 10 per cent by GDP; our total public sector debt has increased by 7.2 per cent compounded, considerably less than the other indices.

Another interesting figure, Mr. Chairman - I dug it out just out of interest - in the six year period from 1965 until the last Liberal administration gave up the ghost in 1971,

DR. COLLINS: in that six year period the annual compounded growth in our public sector debt was 21 per cent, over that six year period a 21 per cent annual growth in the public sector debt. Now compare, Mr. Chairman, that with the figure for the total public sector debt in the four years since this administration has been in power. It has been 7.2 per cent in the four years this administration has been in power compared with the last six years of the Smallwood regime, when the public sector debt increased by 21 per cent compounded annually. So I think that we have to be careful that even we ourselves do not become brain-washed by all this talk that emanates from the Opposition that, you know, the public sector debt is going out of control in this Province and so on. As a matter of fact, the public sector debt is being managed now immeasurably more sensibly and immeasurably more carefully than was done in the Smallwood days and, of course, the financial indices and the opinion of the financial world sort of backs that up.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I am sure that the scholars, the intellects, the professors of logic at universities throughout the world would love for me to send them Hansard, the verbatim account of the remarks just given, and given the day before yesterday by the hon. Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins). Mr. Chairman, they would have a ball with the hon. gentleman's statements. They may end up jumping out the windows, committing suicide trying to figure out what it is that the hon. gentleman is saying. The fact of the matter is, Mr. Chairman, the only yardstick that you can use to judge whether your Province is progressing or deteriorating is the Gross Provincial Product. That is it, Mr. Chairman, it is just as simple as that. The

MR. NEARY: Gross Provincial Product last year in this Province was minus, it was minus one, I believe, minus one point something.

DR. COLLINS: We are listening to something (inaudible). It was minus point four actually.

MR. NEARY: Minus four. I thought it was minus one point something, minus four.

DR. COLLINS: The national one was minus six.

MR. NEARY: The Gross Provincial Product, Mr. Chairman, which is the total value of all the goods and services produced in this Province was a minus four last year. In order to maintain the status quo -

DR. COLLINS: It was minus six in Ottawa.

MR. NEARY: - in order to maintain services at their present level the Gross Provincial Product or the total value of all the goods and services produced in the Province has to be around 8 per cent or 10 per cent - increase every year. There has to be an increase every year of 8 per cent to 10 per cent. And, yet, last year we had a minus point four and this year, Mr. Chairman, we will have another minus I will predict, we will have zero increase in our Gross Provincial Product. Mr. Chairman, here we are, here it is May 26th, no sign of any plans,

MR. NEARY: or recommendations, or ideas or anything put on the table worthwhile to debate, to stimulate the economy, to create jobs, to overcome the crisis in the fisheries, to help Corner Brook, to help Buchans, to help all of the other communities on the misery list in this Province, Mr. Chairman. No plans to deal with any of these matters -

MR. TULK: An Acting Premier who wants to go South.

MR. NEARY: - just press on, try to shut her down as quickly as you can. That is why the hon. President of the Council (Mr. Marshall), the Government House Leader, has been so testy in the last few days and has been sitting in his seat sulking and not saying anything, and giving black looks to his own members who get up to speak, Mr. Chairman. The hon. gentleman is hoping that we will run out of steam over here.

MR. TULK: And when he says he wants to go he is going and that is it.

MR. NEARY: He is going to Florida, yes. He has his reservations booked, and he may be going.

But, Mr. Chairman, all we hear from this crowd, the only kind of statement we hear from the government are statements like we heard from the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan).

MR. TULK: The new word now is 'study'.

MR. NEARY: The Minister of Fisheries on May 6, outside this hon. House, told the whole world that Fishery Products - 'In ten days', he said, 'Fishery Products will be bankrupt'. Now, Mr. Chairman, if somebody on this side of the House made that statement, or some backbencher on the government side made it, you would say, Well they are fishing for information, they are trying to find out what is going on. Because we are not supposed to be in the know. So you could forgive myself or some member on this side or some government backbencher for making a statement about Fishery Products going bankrupt. But for a minister, Mr. Chairman, a man who is supposed to be protecting the biggest Newfoundland fish company, pulling

MR. NEARY: the carpet out, starting a run of creditors against Fishery Products, almost driving Fishery Products into bankruptcy by making these irresponsible statements - could the hon. gentleman tell us whether the administration condones that kind of statement by the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) -

MR. LUSH: And he will not get to his feet to tell us.

MR. NEARY: - who publicly stated that within ten days - and the ten days have been up, it is twenty days now, Mr. Chairman, twenty days have gone by and Fishery Products are still afloat, and we are told in their financial statements that they made \$100,000 profit in the first quarter. And according to the financial statements of the company, the Canadian Development Corporation, they will make money this year instead of losing money. And yet

MR. NEARY: we were told by the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) who is supposed to be furthering the interests of the fishermen and the employees of these companies, we were told by the Minister of Fisheries that within ten days Fishery Products would be bankrupt. The hon. gentleman was threatened with a libel suit by the company, we do not whether that has materialized or not, but we have not heard one word uttered by the hon. gentleman since. Now, that is what you get from that administration, Mr. Chairman. And you also get, of course, sexist jokes and racist jokes from the administration, condoned by the Premier and the hon. gentleman, Mr. Chairman. And I have here in front of me a letter that I received from -

DR. COLLINS: Does that have anything to do with the Loan Bill?

MR. NEARY: Yes, it has all to do with the Loan Bill because it has to do with generating new dollars in this Province, and it has to do with the policy of the administration as far as development is concerned.

I had a letter yesterday from Mr. I. H. Langlands, Mr. Langlands, the Vice-President of the Fishery Council of Canada, and, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Langlands thanked me for writing a letter of apology that he is going to send to 600 delegates throughout the world who attended the conference here, but before he does that, he said, 'I am sending your letter to the President of the Fishery Council, Mr. Ron Bulmer, Suite 603, 77 Medcalfe Street, Ottawa, Ontario, with a suggestion that he send a copy to each of the registered members who attended the Monday evening event. Before Mr. Langlands does this, he said, 'I think that the President should contact your Premier, the hon. Brian Peckford and/or the minister' -

MR. NEARY: referring to the Minister of Fisheries - 'the hon. James Morgan, to give either or both the opportunity of also apologizing.' Now, Mr. Chairman, this Province is likely to stand to lose substantially as a result of irresponsible statements made about Fishery Products. The hon. gentleman as a result of these statements started a run of creditors on Fishery Products. I am told the next day the company almost went under. We were told by the minister that they had ten days before they were going to go into bankruptcy. This is twenty days later and they are still afloat. Now, does the administration condone that kind of statement made by the Minister of Fisheries? And will the administration, in order to remedy and cure this distasteful behaviour of the Minister of Fisheries down at the new hotel, when they had that conference, will somebody please persuade the Premier to write a letter that can be sent with mine to these 600 delegates throughout the world? This is the last chance, the last opportunity for the Premier to redeem himself, or is the Premier going to continue to condone and defend the wild, irresponsible statements made by the present Minister of Fisheries?

MR. NEARY: Now, Mr. Chairman, the hon. gentleman may be anxious to get this bill passed and get the House closed, but we will stay here until Regatta Day, Mr. Chairman, in order to try to shame the administration into producing some plans to stimulate the Newfoundland economy and to tell us what they intend to do to get people back to work.

Mr. Chairman, just as a comparison, the good old Liberal days compared to the Tory days. Mr. Chairman, back in 1949 and 1950, after we became a Province of Canada, we had no university, we now have a university thanks to the Liberal Government. We had no road across this Province -

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

The hon. member for Fogo.

MR. TULK: Mr. Chairman, a few minutes ago the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) in replying to some questions from the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) said he did not want to be, he pointed out, or he in some way inferred that he did not want to be reminded of the increasing public debt and that perhaps we should not be reminding him of it either. Mr. Chairman, I say to him that neither should he because, I suppose like most of the people on that side of the House, not all of them, but I suppose like most of the people on that side of the House he is supporting that fellow who is trying to become the Leader of the Tory Party and hoping to become the Prime Minister of the country, and I speak of none other than Bully Boy Crosbie.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. TULK: He should not, Mr. Chairman, want to be reminded, because I faintly remember from 1969 to 1971 hearing that hon. gentleman, the man he admires so much, the man the gentleman admires so much on that side, I think I remember hearing that gentleman standing up in this House bellowing forth his poison against the former Liberal Administration in this Province, of how the Liberal Administration, the government of the day, was bankrupting the Province. We do not need any more of that logic because, Mr. Chairman, as the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) was saying a few minutes ago, the logic of the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) belongs in archaeology.

MR. NEARY: It is mind boggling.

MR. TULK: It is mind boggling. It would do for some ancient historian or some archaeologist, something to study, how he can manage to come up with the figures that he comes up with. Mr. Chairman, there is absolutely no logic -

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please! I interrupt the hon. member for a second. It being five o'clock on Thursday I have to inform the House that there are no questions for the Late Show.

The hon. member for Fogo.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, it is not surprising there are no questions, You could ask all the questions you want in this House and get no answers, so why ask them?

MR. BAIRD: Try and try again.

MR. TULK: The only thing that the member for Humber West (Mr. Baird) tries for is from somebody else's seat or in some back space in the seat.

As I was saying, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance should not want to be reminded of the state of the public debt in this Province because

MR. TULK: it was his favourite man in Ottawa today, I suppose who was bellowing forth in this House in 1969 how the Liberal Government was going to bankrupt the Province; those were his words; 'we are bankrupt. We cannot raise any more taxes, we cannot generate any more funds because we are practically bankrupt' he said. At that time, Mr. Chairman, as we have said before in this House, I think the public debt was around \$750 million. We were bankrupt in the ancient world of the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins). He said, we cannot raise another cent, we do not have a cent to do anything, Smallwood is going to put us on the rocks, Mr. Chairman, \$750 million. We have got today a public debt -

MR. HOUSE: (Inaudible).

MR. TULK: The Minister of Health (Mr. House) should attend to the hospitals and keep them open. He does not know anything about health let alone finance so he should be quiet. He has made a mess of that, Mr. Chairman -

MR CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. TULK: - now he is going to get into Finance. It is in bad enough condition with what we have got up there do not you move up. Do not try to get that job as well, handle the one you have.

Mr. Chairman, \$750 million in 1972 - what have we got today? \$3.5 billion - and Bully Boy Crosbie was the man who predicted gloom and doom in this Province. Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Finance goes on to say that we need an expanded tax base. Well, that is the one true statement that he has made, that we

MR. TULK: do need an expanded tax base in this Province. Because I am absolutely sure that the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) this Fall is going to be looking around for something else to tax and, Mr. Chairman, I doubt that he can find anything else.

AN HON. MEMBER: The member for St. John's North (Mr. Carter) has a very novel idea but I would not mention it in the House.

MR. TULK: What was that?

No, you cannot mention anything the member for St. John's North said anyway.

MR. TULK: Mr.Chairman, he is going again this Fall to be looking for something else to tax and he does need an expanded tax base, he does need other things that he can tax, there is no joke about that. But let me ask him how he expects to get that expanded tax base that he is looking for? As the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) pointed out, and rightly so, there has not been one new development take place in this Province since this government took office. And we are not talking about this government, we are talking about the government of the former Premier of this Province and of the present administration; there has not been one industry developed in this Province, not one new industry opened up. So how does he plan on getting that tax base?

MR. BAIRD: Why do you not write your speech and then read it out?

MR. TULK: At least, Mr. Chairman, it is not too much trouble for me to write it and then read it and I invite the member for Humber West (Mr. Baird) to do the same, rather than be like a crackie from his seat.

MR. BAIRD: I do not drop any aitches in my writing.

MR. TULK: Rather than be a crackie - just look at him, a bald-headed crackie!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. TULK: Now, he should stand up - go down to your seat and get ready to say something. Come on! Go down to your seat and get ready to say something.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. BAIRD: Silence is golden.

MR. TULK: In the case of the member for Humber West (Mr. Baird) silence is golden because every time he opens his mouth he makes a fool of himself anyway, so be silent. Silence is golden. Be silent.

Mr. Chairman, yesterday we asked the Minister of Forestry (Mr. Power), for example, what were they doing about Bowaters? Well, I think I heard him say yesterday evening on television or in the House, somewhere like that, that he is going to sit back and wait until 1985 or 1986 for Bowaters to give him a plan of modernization for their mill. He is going to sit back until that time. He said there is no point, it is a dream, it is a myth to try to have a plan of modernization before 1985 - 1986 because they cannot do anything with the mill before that time anyway.

MR. HODDER: Closing the barn door after the horse is gone.

MR. TULK: That is closing the barn door after the horse is gone. Does he not realize and does the government not realize that if Bowaters are going to stay in Corner Brook then they should modernize now so that when there are down turns in the economy they are competitive. Anybody at all, I guess, can run a business when times are good, but it is when times are tough that our mills and our industries in this Province need to be competitive.

MR. BAIRD: On my payroll over there.

MR. TULK: He is still not quiet. He still has need of his own advice that silence is golden.

MR. HODDER: For us he should get down and display (inaudible).

MR. TULK: Yes, he could do that.

MR. TULK: No plans to modernize Bowater, no plans to say to them, Look, put your modernization plans on the table, let us see this plant, this mill in Corner Brook competitive! Not only that, willing to sit back. Bowater will not let the government look at their financial statements, will not let them see any of their financial statements, and the minister says, 'Well, when they are ready! They will be ready in 1985 or 1986.

The Minister of Forestry (Mr. Power) also says -

MR. HODDER: Go back! Go back! Go back!
Go back in the corner!

MR. TOBIN: Sit down, boy! You are making a fool of yourself. Sit down!

MR. HODDER: Go back in the corner where the Premier put you.

MR. TULK: He did not know he was like he was, or he would have put him out in the corridor.

AN HON. MEMBER: The only trouble is he would want to move to the front benches.

MR. TULK: Mr. Chairman, the minister was asked to tell us what the modernization plans for Bowater were. He finally admitted that Bowater will not let that minister see what they intend to do, will not let him look at their books. If they want to get some money into silviculture, Bowater has told them it is coming off our roads programme. That is how powerful that minister is with Bowater, that is how powerful this government is with the corporations in this Province. That is how they get along with them. They are told what to do.

An industrial enquiry put together a committee. He does not even know at this point in time what that committee has done or if it is doing anything. In fact, Mr. Chairman, the whole truth of the matter is that he did not

MR. TULK: have a clue and does not have a clue about what is happening with Bowater. I hope today somebody will fill him in, because yesterday -

MR. POWER: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

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

MR. POWER: Just so the record will not be misconstrued to be anything but what it really is, the only person in this Province who seems to have absolutely no idea about Bowater is the hon. gentleman opposite who we have taken a great deal of time and effort to explain the situation to as it is happening in Corner Brook. And it just continuously appears to me that all the wood in this Province is not in the forests.

MR. TULK: No, it is in the minister's head.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: To that point of order, the hon. member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Chairman, I wonder why it is that the member opposite, the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. Power) must get up to explain himself on a point of order, which is not a point of order as Your Honour knows.

MR. POWER: It is a point of clarification for you poor fellows who do not seem to understand anything that is said around here.

MR. HODDER: Why is it that that member will not stand on his feet in this House and speak for ten minutes after the hon. member here sits down? Why does he have to waste the hon. member's time on points of order?

MR. TULK: Yes, why do you not stand up?

MR. HODDER: Is it because the House Leader (Mr. Marshall) opposite has told you to get out of the House? Not one of them are allowed to speak, Mr. Chairman. They

MR. HODDER: will not participate in the debate. They will not speak. They will not get up and debate the issues in this House, they have to get up on points of order because the House Leader (Mr. Marshall) there opposite, the President of the Council, the Deputy Premier, and sometimes lawyer, has told the hon. member that he is not allowed to speak.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. HODDER: So why are you -

MR. TULK: Now you are wasting my time.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!

To that point of order, I rule it is merely a difference of opinion between two hon. members.

I have to inform the hon. member for Fogo (Mr. Tulk) that his time has elapsed.

MR. TULK: Mr. Chairman, is he leaving or what? He should, Mr. Chairman, he should leave.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

The hon. gentleman's time has elapsed.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, it is unfortunate that my colleague's time was up because he was making such a beautiful speech. It was music to my ears. I must say, Mr. Chairman, the hon. gentleman is coming on strong in this session of the House. That is only the beginning, the hon. gentlemen now should know what to expect from my hon. colleague, Mr. Chairman. My hon. colleague was concerned about the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. Power) not being allowed to get up. The President of the Council, the Government House Leader (Mr. Marshall), has sat in his seat for the last ten days, Mr. Chairman, has not gotten into the debate, has not gotten into the rough and tumble of the debate hoping that we would get tired over here, that we would unwind and they would be able to close the House down. And the hon. gentleman is just sitting there mute, Mr. Chairman, cannot wait, afraid to get up and say anything, cannot wait to get out of the House.

DR. COLLINS: It is not his bill. It is my bill.

MR. NEARY: Oh, it is the hon. gentleman's bill. Well, Mr. Chairman, this may be my last go at it unless the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) or the Government House Leader intimidates me, unless they provoke me, Mr. Chairman. I do not think there is any point in belabouring this matter

MR. NEARY: any longer, there is no point in stalling this bill any further. They have forty-four members, we have eight. They are going to win today anyway, whether it is before 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. this evening or whether it is Monday or Tuesday of next week. The only point I would like to make is that once we allow the bill to go then we are playing into the hands of hon. gentlemen, we are playing into their strategy of getting the House closed. Because the longer we can delay this bill - they cannot close the House until they get this borrowing bill passed, hon. members know that, so if we decided to hang her down until Tuesday or Wednesday or Thursday of next week

MR. NEARY: , there is no way they could close the House. But, Mr. Chairman, we do not believe in wasting the time of the House doing that. We have made some pretty valid points in this debate. We have accused the administration of mismanaging the fiscal affairs of this Province and mismanaging the resources of this Province. Mr. Chairman, these statements are true. Every editorial writer in the Province, the Board of Trade, the fish processors, the mining companies, the miners, the unions, everybody in this Province, Mr. Chairman, have stated publicly that the administration have mismanaged the affairs of this Province. And Mr. Chairman, we know that Standard and Poor's and Moody's are watching this -

MR. HODDER: Province with eagle eye.

MR. NEARY: - they are watching this Province with eagle eyes. In a public statement made by a representative of Standard and Poor's in New York there a few weeks ago, they said that the credit rating of this Province would depend on the budget, on the performance of the administration, especially on whether or not there was an offshore agreement.

Now, Mr. Chairman, we are further away from an offshore agreement in this Province than we have ever been. The fishing industry is in turmoil, the forest industry, the mining industry in turmoil, no plans to stimulate the economy, Mr. Chairman, and I would suspect by the end of this calendar year that Standard and Poor's and Moody's will have something else to say about the credit rating of this Province.

DR. COLLINS: Are you a betting man?

MR. NEARY: No, Mr. Chairman, I am not a betting man. If I was a betting man -

DR. COLLINS: Here is your chance to -

MR. NEARY:

- I would be willing to lay my life on the line that we will not see any plans from this administration to stimulate the Newfoundland and Labrador economy, to create jobs for young Newfoundlanders, or to help Corner Brook or Buchans or Labrador West or Happy Valley-Goose Bay, or Bell Island, or the Baie Verte Peninsula. I would lay my life on the line if I was a betting man that this administration will not produce any plans to deal with these matters.

Mr. Chairman, I started to say a few moments ago after Confederation we had no Trans-Canada Highway, built by a Liberal Government, we had 900 of 1300 communities with no road connection. We only had 2,000 miles of road over which a motor vehicle could manage to travel, and only 100 miles of them were paved, in all 452 years before Confederation. Electric

MR. NEARY:

lights in only one half of all the dwellings in Newfoundland, a total of 2,400 teachers, all of them receiving an average salary of \$862 a year, back after Confederation.

MR. TULK: Just after?

MR. NEARY: Just after Confederation. Or sixteen dollars a week. Fewer than 100 teachers with university degrees; indoor toilets in only eighty-four of 1,187 schools at that time; water and sewerage systems in only nine of 1,300 communities in this Province; only twenty-six public libraries; six radio stations; not one school bus; only three public parks and all of them in St. John's; only four modern hotels; only three senior citizens homes with accommodations for 150 persons; no unemployment insurance; only one airplane and that was a small one-engine job; only less than 13,000 telephones; only four government scholarships awarded annually in 1,187 schools; no Arts and Culture Centres; only 133 restaurants and snack bars, etc. -

DR. COLLINS: What year are we talking about, by the way?

MR. NEARY: We are talking about the time we went into Confederation, right up to the time that the Liberal Government left. Just compare what happened.

- only twenty-two of 1,300

communities had any form of municipal government; no old age pensions - yes, there was an old age pension, thirty dollars a quarter.

MR. TULK: No, Sir. Thirteen dollars a quarter.

MR. NEARY: Thirty dollars a quarter, ten dollars a month for a man and his wife.

MR. TULK: Thirteen dollars a quarter, people starved to death on it.

MR. NEARY: - and only 144 medical doctors;

MR. NEARY: only 786 nurses. Mr. Chairman, you would not consider that to be North America's most prosperous or progressive province, would you? Well, in twenty-three years, Mr. Chairman - as a matter of fact, in the first fifteen years of Confederation the pace of development in this Province was the highest, the most progressive in North America at that time. And, Mr. Chairman, instead of hon. gentlemen over there condemning Confederation as they do, instead of hon. gentlemen making anti-Canadian statements, instead of hon. gentlemen carrying on their anti-Confederate campaign, Mr. Chairman, as they do, as the President of the Council, the Government House Leader (Mr. Marshall) continues to do - Mr. Chairman, why even the opponents of Confederation should embrace it today.

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman should accept the challenge I made to him last year and get up in this House and say, 'I am a proud Canadian.'

Mr. Chairman, just take a look at the twenty-three years of Confederation and see what happened, the whole thing turned around. And then we had a change of government and she stalled again, the system got constipated, Mr. Chairman, and it will take another Liberal Government to free up the constipation. It will take a Liberal Government to give this Province the laxative that is needed to start us on our way again, to get us moving forward again. The system has become constipated with this administration and it will take a pretty strong laxative, but the Liberals can do it, to free her up and get her moving again, Mr. Chairman. And that is why we so strongly object to the borrowing and the huge debt that we have in this Province. That is why we are so violently opposed to it, Mr. Chairman, because they have nothing to show for it.

MR. TULK: It is like a logjam.

MR. NEARY: It is like a logjam, that is right.

MR. TULK: You would need a big explosion of dynamite.

MR. NEARY: Yes, well, you would need more than the armed forces to free her up.

AN HON. MEMBER: You would need NATO.

MR. NEARY: You would need NATO, that is right, to come in and free her up now.

Mr. Chairman, we cannot stop the government from getting this borrowing bill, unless the hon. gentleman provokes us. There is not much else we could say about it. We begged and pleaded and asked the

MR. NEARY: administration to produce plans for development, plans to deal with the economy, to stimulate the economy, to deal with record unemployment, to deal with Buchans and Corner Brook and Labrador West, Wabush, Labrador City, Happy Valley, Goose Bay, Bell Island, the Baie Verte Peninsula. We have begged and pleaded. What else can we do, Mr. Chairman? All they can think about over there is closing the House.

MR. TULK: You said there was nothing we could say but there is a lot more we can say yet.

MR. NEARY: Maybe there is a lot more that we can say but, I mean, how long more can we hang her down?

MR. TULK: Two months.

MR. NEARY: I suppose we could. If we wanted to we could hang her down for a couple of months, but will the government in those two months produce plans to deal with the crisis in the Newfoundland fishery?

MR. TULK: No. That is the reason why we will let it go. It is hopeless anyway with that crowd.

MR. NEARY: Is is hopeless. It is a hopeless situation.

DR. COLLINS: A solid economic footing.

MR. NEARY: A solid economic footing, my eye!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, here is what they are placing their hope in, look, Brian Mulroney. The only member over there who is supporting Mr. Mulroney, according to his brochure, is the member for Menihek (Mr. Walsh) and he has listed his telephone number as parliamentary secretary.

MR. WALSH: Not any more.

MR. NEARY: Not any more? The hon. gentleman got him to remove the number from the brochure, But it is in this brochure in case -

MR. HODDER: Which went right across Canada.

MR. NEARY: - which went right across Canada, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN (McNicholas): The hon. President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: I know the hon. gentleman is in flight but I have to rise on a point of order.

MR. NEARY: Could you have what?

MR. MARSHALL: I mean, the hon. gentleman is not being relevant. Mr. Mulroney's campaign has nothing to do with the debt load of this Province.

MR. TULK: Well, it will.

MR. MARSHALL: Perhaps all of the Tory candidates, Mr. Chairman, will have a very positive effect on the debt load of this Province, but his actual campaign, Mr. Chairman, has nothing to do with this bill which is a loan bill.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, this has a lot to do with Mr. Mulroney's campaign.

MR. CHAIRMAN: To that point of order.

MR. NEARY: I am speaking to the point of order. Because the telephone number that is listed in the brochure - Newfoundland - Mr. Peter Walsh, MHA, 709-737-3921-is a government

MR. NEARY: number, paid for by the taxpayers out of some of the borrowing that is included in that bill. That is a brochure that was sent out across Canada, Mr. Chairman, the only gentleman over there who is supporting Mr. Mulroney, not supporting Mr. Crosbie.

MR. MARSHALL: I am not raising a fuss about it.

MR. NEARY: Well, it is not a point of order. The hon. gentleman says he is not raising a fuss about it, Mr. Chairman, it is not a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN (McNicholas): I rule it is not a point of order. The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, so I can only repeat what we have been saying now for the last few days, and it takes a little while sometimes for the word to filter through, that this administration have mismanaged the affairs of this Province, they have mismanaged our fiscal matters, mismanaged the natural resources of this Province. They are presiding over the demise of the Province. One industry after another closing down, shutting down. Nothing new opening up, no plans to create jobs, Mr. Chairman, yet we have a provincial debt of \$3.5 billion, over \$6,000 for every man, woman and

MR. NEARY:

child in the Province, and borrowing \$270 million in this fiscal year. At the same time they are doing this, they are on this spending spree, mismanaging the affairs of the Province, they have the face to get up and talk about restraint and closing hospital beds, Mr. Chairman. You cannot even get an extra cup of tea now at the Grand Falls Hospital if you are a patient there, you cannot get an extra cup of tea. Things are pretty bad. They should take the salary of the Parliamentary Secretary who resigned, the member for Stephenville (Mr. Stagg), who resigned, very disgruntled, resigned, they should take his salary and give it to the Grand Falls Hospital so that they can provide a second cup of tea to patients in that hospital. It is getting pretty bad, Mr. Chairman, in the Province when you cannot ask for a second cup of tea. The situation is pretty desperate in the Province. And so, Mr. Chairman, probably some of my colleagues may wish to have a few words. I hope they do, Mr. Chairman. Any time we spend on this borrowing bill is not time wasted, it is time well spent. It is a matter that should be highlighted. The people of the Province should be conscious and aware of what is happening, Mr. Chairman. They should be aware that this crowd are leading us up the financial path of ruin in this Province, financial ruin.

DR. COLLINS:

We have a great reputation.

MR. NEARY:

Yes, they certainly have a great reputation, according to the spokesman for Standard and Poor's in New York. They are watching the hon. gentleman with a Fleagle eye down in New York.

MR. CHAIRMAN (McNicholas): Order, please!

The hon. member's time has elapsed.

MR. NEARY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (McNicholas): The hon. member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Chairman, I would just like, for a moment, to address the provision in the budget relating to grants to those who publish Newfoundland books.

MR. TOBIN: What?

MR. HODDER: The provision in the budget relating to grants to those who publish Newfoundland books, if the hon. member is having trouble understanding me.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that this is a good measure, perhaps one of the only good measures in the budget. It is a measure which will encourage and help our novelists and poets and our writers to realize their goals. And I think that it will also contribute to our culture and our heritage. I would like to draw hon. members' attention to a matter for which I have a deep concern. For some time now I have been hearing rumours that Mr. Joseph Smallwood has been having financial difficulty with his book The Encyclopedia Of Newfoundland. I know that he personally promoted the first volume throughout the Province last Summer, and I understand that it was a touch-and-go project at that time. However, through his promotion of the first book he got the second into production. Now, Mr. Chairman, these are hard economic times, as we all know, and a project of this magnitude is difficult to fund unless it has a benefactor.

MR. HODDER: I, personally, bought Volume one last Summer and if any members opposite do not have a copy I recommend it highly, the Encyclopedia of Newfoundland. It is a well researched and scholarly document and it is full of surprises about our past and the great men of Newfoundland who have excelled in every walk of life. It is, I believe, one of Mr. Smallwood's greatest achievements and it will be a treasured part of Newfoundland literature. Mr. Chairman, if we believe that we have something different here in Newfoundland, and if we want to hang on to what we have, then I believe that the Encyclopedia of Newfoundland is a foundation document. It is a work which lets us know that we are a unique and distinctive culture.

AN HON. MEMBER: What is this all about.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member is having trouble hearing because of members on his own side who are interrupting, I am talking about a very good book the Encyclopedia of Newfoundland and I recommend it to all members.

I understand at the present time, Mr. Chairman, that a Canadian Encyclopedia has been commissioned and the Province of Alberta has donated millions of dollars towards it and I feel, Mr. Chairman, that this government must put aside its bias in this case and fund the encyclopedia. I believe as well that every school in the Province should have a copy of the encyclopedia and I do not think that we should let a project of this magnitude die and I think that it is important that we have volumes two, three, four and five.

MR. CARTER: Absolute trash.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Chairman, you know, hon. members make jokes which reflect, really, back on them. A man who was Premier of this Province for twenty-three years and is now 82 years of age and is working on a labour of love, I do not think that we should let that work go unfinished. Mr. Chairman, that encyclopaedia is a work which is well researched by Newfoundland scholars, and there are many people working on that particular book who are distinguished Newfoundlanders -

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. HODDER: - and Mr. Chairman, just to finish up, I believe it is worthy of being in every school and household in the Province and I would say to the government forget your biases.

MR. HODDER: Even the provisions of the budget are not adequate to support work of this magnitude.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please! It being 5:30, a motion that the Committee rise and report progress is deemed to be before the House.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS: I do not know if the hon. member has finished his remarks, they were very interesting remarks, so I would suggest that perhaps we could continue past the half hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are no questions for the Late Show, is there agreement to continue?

The hon. member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Chairman, we on this side would stay here all day, all night, around the clock if we could only get answers from the government. If we stay for half an hour, could I have some sort of commitment that perhaps somebody on the other side would return debate rather than, like the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. Power), having to clarify himself on points of order? We would like to hear from the government plans and we would like to hear what the government plans to do about the economy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please! Do we have leave to continue?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Port au Port's time has elapsed.

The hon. member for Eagle River.

MR. HISCOCK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to speak on this bill and I also would like to speak on how, Mr. Chairman, we can get extra revenue into this

MR. HISCOCK: Province. I was just returning a phone call to one of my constituents, one of the members of the Chamber of Commerce in Labrador South, and the topic of conversation, of course, was the 12 per cent sales tax on clothing. Residents in Southern Labrador from Red Bay to L'Anse-au Clair are going to Quebec to buy their clothing because there is no tax in that community, they are also going to Quebec to buy their gasoline, they are also going to Quebec to buy their tobacco, and they are also going to Quebec, to the Hudson Bay Store, to buy their food. As well, Mr. Chairman, some of them are even doing their banking at the Caisse populaire in Blanc Sablon.

So, Mr. Chairman, here we are, a Province \$3.5 billion in debt, and the people of the two areas of our Province bordering on Quebec, Labrador West and the Straits of Labrador, find it is cheaper to go to Quebec to buy things than it is to buy in their own Province. We are not only losing that valuable taxation revenue that we need, but we are losing jobs by way of the retailers supplying these goods, and we are also losing the jobs for the people who pump the gas, sell the clothing and sell the various other products that are needed.

I have written the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) on this and I, like the member for Port au Port (Mr. Hodder), would like to see the Minister of Finance get up and address this and reply to us in debate. What is the Minister of Finance and this government going to do? Are the small businessmen in the Straits of Labrador going to continue to lose this valuable amount of revenue

MR. HISCOCK: that they need, and to see the people driving across the border and getting gasoline and buying their clothing and buying various other products because it is cheaper? Are we going to see the people in Port aux Basques and other people here in the Province when they go on business trips, the civil servants of this Province when they go on these trade delegations to PEI, come back with their suitcases filled with tobacco and cigarettes because it is cheaper? Is that what we are doing, Mr. Chairman, in our Province, making it so expensive to buy things that people are buying clothing outside the Province, people are buying cigarettes outside the Province? Rumour has it that contraband is really becoming quite a large market now in this Province with companies going to Nova Scotia and bringing back goods by the truck load. Well, I would go as far as to say that if they are caught, then the full due process of the law will be thrown at them. But what about average people who are allowed to drive to Blanc Sablon and buy their own cigarettes and buy their own gasoline? What about those, Mr. Chairman? Is this Province going to be taking account of these small businesses? And the answer is, of course, no, they have not given this due consideration. And the answer I received from the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins), by the way, is that if we change it for the residents of our Province who live in Southern Labrador, then we should change it for the residents who live in Port aux Basques and we should change it for the people living in Mount Pearl. Of course, Mr. Chairman, this does not hold water; Mount Pearl is not bordering on another province, nor is Port aux Basques, close as it may be to Nova Scotia. So, Mr. Chairman, that is one thing that I hope that this government does take

MR. HISCOCK: into account, that we do have a neighbouring Province of Quebec, it does border on the Labrador area of our Province, and that we as a Province should take into account that it is cheaper to buy products in Quebec than it is in Labrador and in Newfoundland. I am sure the Minister responsible for Consumer Affairs (Mr. Ottenheimer) will agree with me that the reason he set up this commission to look into prices in regard to our high cost of living is not to do away with the sales tax entirely or the tobacco tax entirely or the gasoline tax. The small businessmen in Southern Labrador are saying our taxes should at least be equal with Quebec's so that we can compete with businessmen in Quebec. But is this government taking that into consideration? Are they being

MR. HISCOCK: And I would go as far as to say that the Minister of Justice (Mr. Ottenheimer), being the gentleman that he is, renowned for his sense of compassion, will do this. As for the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins), I am not so sure if he is cut from the same cloth, but I would say that the Minister of Justice, the minister responsible for Consumer Affairs, will use all due influence on him to convince him that this is a reasonable request on behalf of the small businessmen in this area of our Province. Because, Mr. Chairman, those businessmen are hurting, and hurting severely. They have to pay an extremely high cost for fuel, they have to pay an extremely high cost for electricity because it is generated by diesel, and all members of this House of Assembly realize that the more diesel-generated electricity you consume, the higher your electricity bill will be, whereas if you are on hydro, the

MR. HISCOCK: more electricity you consume,
then the lower your electricity bill becomes -

MR. HODDER: According to what you consume.

MR. HISCOCK: - according to what you consume.

Of course, Mr. Chairman, that area ends up having the highest cost of living anywhere in the Province and these businessmen have to face unfair competition. I would like now, Mr. Chairman, to change the topic and go back to the national conservative convention and how we, as a province, are putting all our eggs in one basket, and how we as a province are shabbily treating the former Prime Minister of this Country -

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. HISCOCK: - who hand delivered a letter saying he would give the offshore to this Province.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

The hon. member's time has elapsed.

The hon. Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, I rise briefly to comment on the remarks of the last speaker, the hon. the member for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock) and, of course, he has discovered the border problem. This is not unique to this Province. Every time there is a border between one place of tax which is different from another place, the same problems he mentioned arise. The problem is present in New Brunswick, where they have a border with Maine, the problem is present in Quebec where they have a border with New York State; the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and so forth all have problems with states of the United States. This problem he came up with is there and we have it. There are two ways of getting

DR. COLLINS: away from it, First of all, you can abandon borders. In other words, we could have just one Country here, we could have a homogeneous country like, say, the United Kingdom or whatever. However, we treasure our provincial identities and our provincial cultures and our provincial heritages, and I do not think there are many people in Canada who want to have one homogeneous country. The second way of doing it would be to get away from the necessity of having higher tax rates, and that is exactly what this administration is trying to do. We are trying to raise our own resource producing activities in this Province so that we will not have to have the onus of sales taxation that we have at the present time. With that thought in mind, I hope the hon. member opposite will do everything in his power to make sure that we can develop the Upper Churchill to our benefit, that we can develop our offshore resources to our benefit, and that we can develop our fisheries to our benefit. With this huge mass of valuable resources, I think the time is not too far in the distant future when we can indeed get down our tax rates that will not only be comparable with our sister provinces on our border but indeed will be below it.

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

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

MR. HISCOCK: With regard to having the issue that the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) brought up of having more revenue from the Upper Churchill and the offshore and the fisheries, that is not going to change the border with Quebec, that is not going to change the fact that it is still going to be cheaper in those areas. I would like for the Minister of Finance to deal with these small businessmen. What is he going to do for those small businessmen? Is he just going to get up and give political rhetoric?

DR. COLLINS: To the point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): To the point of order, the hon. Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, just speaking to the point of order, I mean, if the hon. member opposite has no understanding of the issues that face the Province I cannot help that. But, I mean, I am just laying out the issues for him and if he wants to focus on one small area, ignoring the fact that there are borders between countries and provinces all over the world, I cannot help that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: To that point of order, I rule it is merely a difference of opinion between two hon. members.

The hon. member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Chairman, one of the things that is disturbing me about the debate on this legislation is the fact that members opposite are not participating in the debate. Mr. Chairman, we actually saw a situation this afternoon where -

MR. NEARY: 'Mr. Carter' said he would speak if you sit down.

MR. HODDER: Oh, Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member would like to speak and take ten minutes, I certainly will sit down if he would indicate.

AN HON. MEMBER: Points of order are delaying the House unnecessarily.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Chairman, we have all of next week and the week after and the week after that.

MR. NEARY: Until the end of August.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Chairman, to follow what my colleague and friend from Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock) was saying, you know, this government has put all of its eggs in one basket in more ways than one.

MR. TOBIN: Who said that?

MR. HODDER: Oh, my good friend the member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry), who is one of the people on the other side who is fearless and who speaks his mind. Mr. Chairman, the only refreshing comment that this Province has heard has been from the member for Mount Scio. I have known that hon. member for some time and I know that he is a man of integrity and he is a man who speaks his mind; Perhaps that is why he is not the Minister of Mines and Energy any more.

MR. TULK: Would you have him over here?

MR. HODDER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I certainly would have him over here, I would welcome him with open arms.

MR. TULK: You mean you do not even have to think about it.

MR. HODDER: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry) and myself go back a long way and he knows that as far as this member is concerned, he is certainly welcome to this side of the House.

Mr. Chairman, one of the problems with this session of the House has been the lack of information coming from members on the other side, from the government ministers. Mr. Chairman, we on this side of the House have been putting questions on the Order Paper and we get few answers.

Not only are we not getting answers to questions that are being placed on the Order Paper, but we are not getting answers to many things that should be public business in this House. Mr. Chairman, I refer to a question which was placed on the Order Paper by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) asking for a run-down on costs incurred in putting forward the Province's position on the constitution in 1980 - 1981 and 1981 - 1982. Mr. Chairman, this information was not forthcoming. I think that that in itself shows the total and absolute arrogance of this government.

One of the questions that we have been asking on this side of the House year in, year out, is the names of people who get rural development grants. In every other jurisdiction in the country where government money is given out, people who apply know that it is public business and that their names will be made public but, Mr. Chairman, all we get is a little hidden list without the names.

MR. TULK: 'A hidden list' - explain that, will you?

MR. HODDER: Mr. Chairman, hon. members will give a list of the name of the project and the amount that was spent on it, but in order to get the name of the particular person who applied for the project, you have to apply to the minister and then the minister must get his permission. It is a convoluted scheme to keep members of the Opposition and the public -

DR. COLLINS: You would harass the people, would you not?

MR. HODDER: Would I harass? Well, Mr. Chairman, the minister realizes that DREE grants are taxpayer dollars.. A person who applies for a DREE grant - usually it is a more substantial grant than a Rural Development grant - but a person who applies for a DREE grant knows before he applies that once that grant is awarded or the loan is awarded, it becomes public information. Any business that is done in this Province that has to do with banks and businesses and loans - I mean, an ordinary businessman can pick up Dun's Report which reports transactions that are carried on between businessmen. I know some businessmen may like to keep their loans secret, but it is public money and it should come

MR. HODDER:

before this House. We have not been able to get information, Mr. Chairman, on the list of the roads projects and where the money is going in this Province.

MR. NEARY: And water and sewer.

MR. HODDER: We have not been able to get information where water and sewer money on water and sewer projects is being spent in this Province, even though the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) -

MR. NEARY: We have asked what the Minister of Communications (Mr. Doyle) to justify his existence.

MR. TULK: Here is a question for you, what is his department, how big is it, what does it do?

MR. NEARY: We will ask questions about that next week.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, when the Minister of Communications walks around the Confederation Building I think he takes his whole staff with him.

MR. NEARY: He takes them down for coffee.

MR. HODDER: But, Mr. Speaker, we talk about the lack of information we get from this government on questions that are put on the Order Paper, the lack of information that we get in Question Period, the lack of any firm policy. There was a five year plan at one time, it was brought out with a great deal of publicity and gusto, sent across the Province, everybody thought that the promised land had arrived, the five year plan which was predicated all on federal money. We do not hear anything about the five year plan. We do not hear members opposite standing up and telling us how far they are along with their five year plan and where they are going for the next - I mean we are in year three I believe of that five year plan -

MR. DINN: Nobody asks questions about it.

MR. HODDER: The five year plan. Well, while I am asking the questions perhaps the minister could stand for the next ten minutes and tell me, where the government is with their five year plan. We are in year three now I believe.

But, Mr. Chairman, to get back to the lack of information. We cannot get information on rural development grants, we cannot get information on where water and sewer grants are going. This is public money which is voted by this House. We cannot get information in Question Period. We get no information whatsoever as far as the plans of government members, what they plan to do to improve the economy of this Province. We saw this Province bring in a budget which had no stimulative effect whatsoever, yet when the federal budget which was hailed by the business community across this country came out they prepared a statement to downgrade and to try to taint Newfoundlanders and change Newfoundlanders' minds. But, Mr. Chairman, there was one provision in the budget, there was one provision that the government could have taken, they could have lowered the sales tax on building materials. That would have been a token, but it could have caused -

MR. TULK: You are cutting into my notes now.

MR. HODDER: No, I think the hon. member probably had my notes.

DR. COLLINS: You are a bit late, we did lower it.

MR. HODDER: You did not lower it in the last budget, you held it, you just made mention of it.

DR. COLLINS: We lowered it last November. I will have to send you over a newspaper clipping.

MR. HODDER: But, Mr. Chairman, there was not one thing, the tax on construction materials in this budget was referred to but it would have been one aspect, which by the way the Board of Trade called on the government to further decrease it. Mr. Chairman, I would have thought that if this government had dropped the tax totally on building materials then the resulting construction activity when we need it now when the economy is flat the resulting construction activity and the purchase of superfluous products, the tax which the government would get on personal income tax from people who were again working.

DR. COLLINS: Housing construction is up.

MR. HODDER: I know housing construction is up. But, Mr. Chairman, housing construction is way up in the Province, yes, the minister is right but the Province is flat. And this is one way in which the government could have -

DR. COLLINS: You are delayed in your information.

MR. HODDER: It has nothing to do - the reason the construction industry in on the upswing is because of the \$3,000 grant which the federal government gave. So that encouraged construction and in the last budget there were some tax breaks as far as the RHOP, I believe it is, plan was confirmed - the Registered Home Ownership Plan. But, Mr. Chairman, if the minister would get up and tell us how his budget stimulated the economy of this Province. They again took a hands off approach but yet when the federal government does something -

MR. TULK: They taxed everything they could find.

MR. HODDER: Oh, yes, but as far as the stimulating of the economy is concerned -

DR. COLLINS: The fishing industry is turning around very smartly.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Chairman, I wish the hon. minister would venture outside of the Overpass and sort of traverse the rural areas of this Province and talk to the people in those rural areas, particularly come over to the West Coast and go to my friend from Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock) district in Labrador and to LaPoile and Fogo and all of these places where we on this side of the House visit frequently because we move

MR. HODDER: around the Province,
Mr. Chairman, we do not hide in St. John's.

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

MR. HODDER: What a shame, Mr. Chairman,
What a shame.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I just have to
bring the hon. member up-to-date. The hon. member wanted the
building tax decreased, well we did that last November. He
wanted something done for the housing industry, the housing
industry is going ahead nicely. He wanted something done for
the fishing industry, the fishing industry is improving. He
wanted something done for the pulp and paper industry, it is
beginning to turn around. The hon. members opposite just do
not read the papers or something. I mean everything they said
has either been done or is now happening. I really think they
should get up-to-date on their information.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, under normal
circumstances the life span of a Minister of Finance in any
Province, in any government, is very short indeed. I am amazed
that the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) in this Province
has had such a long life. I would submit, Mr. Chairman, it is
not because of the hon. gentleman's ability to look after the
fiscal matters in this Province, I would say that has nothing
to do with it. I would say it has to do with the government
benches being very thin on manpower that the hon. gentleman
is about the best that they could find to put in that portfolio.
But, Mr. Chairman, the hon. gentleman is beginning to wear very
thin. The hon. gentleman's policy is that you buy for \$1 and
sell for \$2, 1 per cent profit. That is the hon. gentleman's
theory, Mr. Chairman, and the figures that were given out earlier

MR. NEARY: by the hon. gentleman during this debate I tell you can leave an awful lot to the imagination. Last year we accused the hon. gentleman of cooking the books, we may take the Hansard, the hon. gentleman's statement the day before yesterday, and the one he made today, and send it over to his buddy over at the university, send it over to Garf, and ask him to take a look at it. Even he would be shocked at bewildered, Mr. Chairman, at the statements made by the hon. gentleman.

Mr. Chairman, we have seen one resignation now, one resignation in the last few days. The Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Development has gotten so brownd off that he has resigned, he is going back to his law practice.

MR. DOYLE: That is not the reason he gave.

MR. NEARY: Well, Mr. Chairman, hon. gentlemen do not always give the real reason why they resign. But now we have got the lap dogs over there gazing up at the Premier's chair which has been vacant for the last several days, we have the member for St. Mary's-The Capes (Mr. Hearn), the member for Bay of Islands (Mr. Woodrow), and the member for St. Barbe (Mr. Osmond), a few other lap dogs over there looking at the Premier's with calves eyes, hoping that they will get the nod to fill that vacancy.

MR. NEARY: If the member for Stephenville (Mr. Stagg) had been invited into the Cabinet, of course, there would be no resignation, he would be perfectly happy there, but because he could not get the recognition that he wanted, because he is so teed off and embarrassed by the administration, he has now turned in his badge.

Now, Mr. Chairman, my suggestion to the administration and to the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) is that they not fill this vacancy and, if possible, root out the other parliamentary secretaries that are unnecessary. Of course, the member for Burin - Placentia West (Mr. Tobin) will be in there like a bird dog. The original lap dog will be there. No doubt he has been looking for the Premier already to try to get into the job vacated by the - I was wondering what was wrong with the hon. gentleman's nose these days, it was so red, Mr. Chairman, he is so lit up, his eyeballs are so lit up. Well, Mr. Chairman, I would suggest to the hon. gentleman that that vacancy will not be filled very quickly because of the dissension in the ranks. If he gives it to the member for Burin - Placentia West, he is going to brown off the member for St. Mary's - The Capes (Mr. Hearn) who is on such an ego trip since he came into this House that he thinks he should be President of the United States.

MR. HODDER: My favourite is the member for Grand Bank (Mr. Matthews), the old red rooster!

MR. NEARY: But, Mr. Chairman, if they will not take our advice and do fill the job, we are rooting for the old Rhode Island Red, the old red rooster from Grand Bank, Mr. Chairman. That is who we are pushing for if they decide to go ahead with it, but my suggestion is they not fill it. There is a freeze on hiring in the public service, there should be a freeze on filling up these parliamentary

MR. NEARY:

secretaries -

MR. HODDER:

I think he is going to to cross the House.

MR. NEARY:

Well, you know, that would not surprise me. It would not surprise me if the hon. gentleman soon moves across the House. The hon. gentleman probably is a follower of the member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry), I do not know, but I would suspect that he might be.

Mr. Chairman, it looks as if we are not going to finish this loan bill today, so I would like to move adjournment of the debate.

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

MR. SPEAKER (Russell):

Order, please!

The hon. the member for Kilbride.

MR. AYLWARD:

Mr. Speaker, the Committee of the Whole have considered the matters to them referred and have directed me to report some progress and ask leave to sit again.

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

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Justice.

MR. OTTENHEIMER:

I move that the House at its rising do adjourn until tomorrow, Friday, at 10:00 a.m.

On motion, the House at its rising adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, May 27, 1983 at 10:00 a.m.