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PRELIMINARY  
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TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY  
FOR THE PERIOD:  
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 a.m.  
FRIDAY, MAY 27, 1983

The House met at 10:00 A.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

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MR. SIMMS: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. SIMMS: I am anticipating the possibility of having to make a statement a little later on in the morning. I am not actually certain yet, but I wonder if I might get an agreement now from the Leader of the Opposition to revert to Ministerial Statements later on in the morning if it becomes necessary?

MR. NEARY: As long as it is not political.

MR. SIMMS: It is very non-political.

MR. SPEAKER: It is agreed that the hon. minister shall have leave to make a statement later?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: It is agreed.

ORAL QUESTIONS:

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, we thought that yesterday was the launching of the Return of the Jedi but we notice today we have the return of the Premier in the House, the return of the Jedi of the House. We would like to welcome the hon. gentleman back and we would like to tell him that during his absence his House Leader (Mr. Marshall) made a statement outside the House that he expects to close the House sometime today. We think this is outrageous, Mr. Speaker.

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: I made no such statement at all. I made the statement, which I consistently make, that the House

MR. MARSHALL: will remain open as long as is necessary to conduct the necessary public business, and it will do so.

MR. ROBERTS: That is not what CBC carried.

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

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I cannot accuse the hon. gentleman of deliberately attempting to mislead the House, but I heard the hon. gentleman's voice with my own ears this morning -

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

MR. NEARY: I am on a point of order. The hon. gentleman raised a point of order.

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

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

MR. NEARY: Oh, a point of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! The hon. President of the Council..

MR. NEARY: He must have had his nasty pills today, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, you are not allowed to say indirectly what you cannot say directly, and you are not allowed to say directly that somebody is misleading the House. The hon. gentleman gets up and says, "I will not accuse the hon. gentleman of misleading the House," and then he goes on, "but". He is saying indirectly what he is not allowed to say directly and he should be asked to withdraw it.

MR. SIMMS: A terrible breach of privilege.

MR. NEARY: Your Honour is smiling, Your Honour knows that is not a point of privilege. The hon. gentleman obviously had his nasty pills this morning. He cannot get his own way, he is not going to be able to close the House. They have forty-four, there are only eight of us over here, and they cannot even control the House, Mr. Speaker. There is no point of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

The hon. President of the Council (Mr. Marshall) does not have a valid point of privilege. I was listening to the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) responding to a prior point of order.

MR. NEARY: Well, there is no point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, it is a difference of opinion between two hon. members.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to start out by asking the Premier to explain why he was bragging a week or so ago that the House would be kept open even longer than necessary in order to pass some legislation. How can he reconcile that with the statement made this morning on radio by his House Leader, that with the co-operation of the Opposition he would like to close the House today. Could the hon. gentleman care to comment on that?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: No, it is too foolish, Mr. Speaker, it is too foolish to respond to, really. I mean, let us get on to something more substantial. No, I do not think so.

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

MR. NEARY: Well, Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. Perhaps we can get on to something a little more substantial. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the hon. gentleman, now that he is back in his seat, if he can offer any words of hope for the unemployed, for young Newfoundland and Labrador students who are unemployed, for the students who are graduating from the vocational schools and from the College of Trades and Technology and from the Fisheries College and from the high schools, all these students who are graduating, if the hon. gentleman can offer any hope for these students to find employment, even Summer employment, to keep themselves occupied during the next few months?

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Before I recognize the hon. Premier, I would like to take this opportunity to extend a special welcome to the people who are in the Speaker's gallery, representatives from the Atlantic Provinces and Ottawa, who are here to attend the Fifth Parliamentary Conference. On behalf of all the hon. members, I certainly extend to you a very warm welcome to our Province and certainly to our Legislature.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) some time ago, this government have taken a number of very significant initiatives over the last year or so to try to stimulate the economy of this Province, and to a large degree we have been very successful. I also indicated to the Leader

PREMIER PECKFORD:

of the Opposition at that time that on a number of fronts we can see an economic upturn, for example, in the mining industry, and I gave examples to the Leader of the Opposition at that time of what was happening in Baie Verte in the asbestos operation and what was happening in the gypsum operation in Flat Bay, what looks like a hopeful sign in the negotiations that the Minister responsible for Mines (Mr. Dawe) has had with ASARCO for the Buchan's operation and so on, and even in the iron ore industry, where we see a reduction in the amount of downtime in the Wabush operation in Labrador West, and so on through the whole bit and piece. Mr. Speaker, we are putting in place silviculture and reforestation programmes, which have seen young people and others go to work who are working at the present time in the forest industry. So we are working there to try to help. We are doing all we can in the way of temporary employment for the Summer to employ students. We are in the midst of very extensive, intensive negotiations with the federal government for a major restructuring of the fishing industry which will involve, when it is completed, I am sure, the employment of a lot of students and young people as well. So, Mr. Speaker, we are taking initiatives and doing what we can to provide as many jobs to young people and to others in the Province as is humanly possible given the circumstances under which we operate.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is beginning to sound more like Brian Mulroney every day. He is programmed. You ask him a question, he just turns on the tape and gives you the same answer. Every time we put the

MR. NEARY: question to the hon. gentleman  
we get the same answer from the hon. gentleman.

MR. HICKEY: He is entering into debate.

MR. SPEKAER (Russell): Order, please!

The hon. the Leader of the  
Opposition is entering into debate and making a speech.  
maybe he could be more precise with his questions.

MR. NEARY: I am making some excellent points  
though, Your Honour you will have to agree.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the fact of the  
matter is that we have 60,000 Newfoundlanders unemployed,  
we have these students pouring out of the College of Trades  
and Technology, College of Fisheries, the University, the  
high schools and the vocational schools. Now, Mr. Speaker,  
what I am asking the hon. gentleman is to tell this House  
what plans his administration has to create some activity  
for these students during the Summer months so that they  
can find employment. Now the hon. gentleman told us about  
a week or so ago, the last time he was here, that deputy  
ministers would be

MR. NEARY:

responsible for hiring for each department for Summer employment. Now would the Premier tell the House when these Summer jobs are going to be advertised, when the students will get a crack at making an application for these Summer jobs that the hon. gentleman told us would be handled by the Deputy Ministers of each department?

MR. SPEAKER (Russell) The hon. Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I have indicated to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) already, and other ministers have over the last two or three weeks, what we are trying to do to stimulate employment in the Province - hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars being spent in various sectors of the economy. It is funny about the Leader of the Opposition; when I talk about silviculture and reforestation, do you notice that the Leader of the Opposition never comes back with a follow-up question on that? Because I do not even know, Mr. Speaker, if the Leader of the Opposition knows what silviculture and reforestation are all about. And it is going on right now all across the Province, we have hundreds of people employed, involved in reforestation, I wish some members of the Opposition from time to time would say, 'Well, why is the government not involved in ensuring that we are going to have trees for the future? Are we only looking for today? Are we looking for tomorrow?' And here we are involved with the federal government through the agreement that we signed with them, with a very, very enlightened, forward-looking forest development programme to ensure that we have a very viable forest industry thirty and forty years down the road. And right now there are a lot of young men and women working across Newfoundland in this reforestation programme and it



PREMIER PECKFORD: is a fantastic programme. I can never get the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) to follow up on a question to get into that kind of thing. He ignores that altogether. We are, as we said before, involved in hiring students during the Summer through the various government departments - up to 500 students, I think it is, we will be hiring this Summer. That is something we would like to do ten times more of, a hundred times more of, if we could, Mr. Speaker. But the point, which the Leader of the Opposition cannot argue with, is that we are doing everything that is within our power to alleviate student unemployment in this Province. Within our power, Mr. Speaker, we are doing everything that is humanly possible. To that statement the Leader of the Opposition has no answer.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman accuses me of ignoring his statements. Well, I could say the hon. gentleman ignores our protests over the Green Bay Transport No. 1, that ship

MR. NEARY: that the hon. gentleman subsidized for one of his buddies, Mr. Speaker. The hon. gentleman should address himself to that question.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman says that the administration is doing everything within its power. Now, could the hon. gentleman give us specific examples of projects -

MR. TULK: Special projects.

MR. NEARY: - special projects? The other provinces of Canada - as the parliamentarians who are sitting in the Speaker's gallery know, Mr. Speaker - every other province of Canada, except Newfoundland, has undertaken special projects to provide employment for students during the Summer. Now, would the hon. gentleman tell us what his administration is doing in the way of special projects to take care of student employment for the Summer?

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

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, let me first respond very briefly to the first remark by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary). When the Leader of the Opposition gets in trouble in Question Period, or at any other time in his political career, one thing becomes very evident - obviously, the Leader of the Opposition senses that he is losing this Question Period already - he then goes low and starts to try to get into some lower, lower road of political vindictiveness which somehow is to compensate for his lack of being able to continue to ask good questions and win the Question Period for a change.

MR. SIMMS: Right on!

PREMIER PECKFORD: But, Mr. Speaker, I have news for the Leader of the Opposition. I do not intend to go down to the depths to which the Leader of the Opposition goes.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: That is why we are over here and he is over there.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: Now, Mr. Speaker, number two, let me say that the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey) just reminded me that last year in his department alone, in employment opportunities - a nice phrase, Mr. Speaker, 'in employment opportunities' - the Department of Social Services created 2,600 jobs and this year will create 2,800 jobs. That is performance!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: Twenty-eight hundred jobs, 2,800 jobs, for the Leader of the Opposition's (Mr. Neary) edification, Mr. Speaker.

In the reforestation programme and in silviculture, the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. Power) just informed me that there will be 700 jobs.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: And behind me, the minister responsible for Wildlife and the other ministers who were involved in the temporary employment programme for students indicate 500 jobs, that is 2,800 plus 700 which equals 3,500 plus 500 which makes 4,000 - not 1,000, not 2,000, not 3,000 but 4,000 jobs that I can give right off the top of my head that we have created this Summer.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, when it comes to getting down and roling in the gutter, I am afraid the hon. gentleman is the expert at that. The reason I flicked Transport No. 1 at him was so the parliamentarians could see the hon. gentleman in full flight, Mr. Speaker, so that they could see what we have to deal with, what we have to contend with in this Province.

MR. TULK: The way he goes off the deep end.

MR. NEARY: I wanted them to see him go off the deep end, Mr. Speaker. So he did, he took the bait, hook, line and sinker, and away he went.

Mr. Speaker, now about these jobs the hon. gentleman was supposed to have created; the jobs that were created in Social Services was merely tranferring people from Social Services to the federal payroll, unemployment insurance. That was the strategy behind that.

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

MR. NEARY: Now I got another rise out of the hon. gentleman.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please!  
The hon. Minister of Social Services on a point of order.

MR. HICKEY: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.  
I am not going to sit and let the hon. gentleman deceive the House and the people of the Province. For his information, and to enlighten him and remind him, which he was informed of already during estimate time, a survey last year done on 6,500 of a sample all over the Province, based on 20,000 people removed from social assistance over the last ten years through this

MR. HICKEY: programme, a survey of 6,500 such cases indicated 78 per cent not on social assistance, in employment, having not come back to social assistance. That is not transferring it to the UIC.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. TULK: What was the point of order?

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. Minister of Social Services rose on a point of order which indeed was a point of clarification.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: That was not even worth commenting on. The hon. gentleman seems to be losing his memory, there is something happening to the hon. gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, let me come to another matter in connection with employment in this Province. The Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) made a statement, I think it

MR. NEARY:

was around May 4, that could have thrown another 2,500 Newfoundlanders on the unemployment rolls. I would like to ask the Premier if he condones this kind of a statement that was made by the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan), which had to do with Fishery Products going into bankruptcy. The hon. gentleman said that ten days from the time he made his statement, which was May 4 or May 5, Fishery Products would be bankrupt. Fishery Products the next day had a run of creditors -

MR. SPEAKER (Russell):

Order, please!

The hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) is indeed making a speech. He has asked this question and then went on to partially answer it.

MR. NEARY:

Just a short preamble,

Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, Fishery

Products countered by threatening to take the hon. gentleman to court for libel. Now would the hon. Premier tell the House if he intends to defend the Minister of Fisheries on that statement the same as he did on the jokes that were told at the Fishery Council of Canada meeting recently over at Hotel Newfoundland? Does the hon. gentleman condone that kind of statement?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

No, Mr. Speaker. In answer

to that question let me show what the Leader of the Opposition is up to right now. In earlier questions, when he was not successful, he started to personally attack me. Now when that did not work, he wants to pick on another minister, another ministry. He wants to ignore employment now, he wants to ignore jobs for young people for the Summer, and he wants to get personal and attack again. When the Leader of the

PREMIER PECKFORD: Opposition starts to lose, that is when he gets personal.

MR. BUTT: Right on!

MR. SIMMS: A good answer! A good answer!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman somehow or other interprets \$3 million of taxpayer money for this Transport No. 1 which is what it will cost the taxpayers of this Province, he interprets that as being personal. I believe that has something to do with the taxpayers and with this House and with public funds, Mr. Speaker.

The hon. gentleman about his apartment-

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

The hon. Leader of the Opposition is persisting in making a speech. If he continues to persist, the Chair will have to recognize somebody else.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, if you ask the hon. gentleman about his apartment, the only Premier in Canada who has an apartment paid for by the taxpayers, he says that is personal.

PREMIER PECKFORD: 'Steve', sit down. You are making a fool of yourself.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, we have a right to ask questions about taxpayer money.

Now let me ask the hon. gentleman again -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: - does the hon. gentleman condone statements of the type made by the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) about Fishery Products going into

MR. NEARY: bankruptcy ten days from the time the hon. gentleman made the statement? Or does the Premier feel that the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) should be trying to protect these jobs; that the Minister of Fisheries should be going out of his way to keep the biggest fishing company in Newfoundland afloat , to try to keep them going, to keep



MR. NEARY: Newfoundlanders employed? Should that be the job of the minister or should he be making irresponsible, wild statements about Fishery Products going bankrupt?

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker.

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

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, first of all, it was not the question of the public funds that went into the ferry that I was objecting to; it was the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) saying I was giving money to my buddy, and that is a different matter, Mr. Speaker. This government is open if anybody wants to question the expenditure of public funds. But this administration is not going to stand idly by and allow somebody like the Leader of the Opposition to drag somebody else's character down into the mire like he has tried to with other people over the years, Mr. Speaker. That we will not stand for. Number two, as far as trying to throw in the apartment and so on is concerned, I find it rather ironic that the highest paid Leader of the Opposition in Canada would make such accusations, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD: Thirdly, for the point that the Leader of the Opposition was getting at, it does not warrant an answer, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, this is the fifth time now, I believe, the hon. gentleman has defended the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) and we are beginning to wonder what the Minister of Fisheries has on the hon. gentleman.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, you talk about arrogance. It is too bad the hon. gentleman was not in his seat the other day when the Russian sailors were here so they could see a dictator in action, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, can the hon. gentleman tell the House if the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) was served a writ by Fishery Products as they threatened to do publicly? They said they were going to take the hon. gentleman to court. Did they serve a writ on the hon. gentleman? Has the hon. gentleman apologized for the statement that he made because Fishery Products came out a few days later and announced a profit of \$100,000 in the first quarter? Could the hon. gentleman enlighten the House on these matters?

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker.

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

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to answer the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) when he tries to wiggle into his questions various character assassinations and so on. I do not intend to answer. I will answer the Leader of the Opposition when he asks a clean sensible question, not when he is going to try to drag everybody else down where he is. I do not intend to .

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I have a final question then for the hon. gentleman. The hon. gentleman is being given a last chance by the President of the Fishery

MR. NEARY:

Council of Canada to write a letter of apology to accompany the letter that I wrote to be sent to the 600 international representatives who attended a meeting here in St. John's and were insulted by the behaviour of the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) in telling his ethnic jokes and his sexist jokes. Now they are going to give the hon. gentleman one last opportunity to write an apology. Will the hon.

MR. NEARY:

gentleman accept that invitation on behalf of the President of the Fishery Council of Canada and have a letter sent to the 600 international representatives from all over the world who attended this conference and make a public apology on behalf of the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan)?

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

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I have dealt with that matter and I have answered questions on it over the last two or three weeks. I indicated that I intended not to comment on it any further.

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier. In view of the fact that the Premier and the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development (Mr. Goudie) have received numerous letters and telegrams from Native Peoples in this Province, and in view of the fact that those telegrams and letters show concern that the Department of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development has not been administering federal/provincial Native funds in the proper manner, is the Premier satisfied that the funds administered by the department is to the satisfaction of the Native Peoples in this Province?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if it is to the satisfaction of the Native Peoples in this Province, they are being administered according to the agreement, whatever has been agreed to on how these funds were to be administered. That is what we are doing. I mean, we are not doing something against the agreement. Now there are different groups of Native Peoples in the

PREMIER PECKFORD: Province, You have the Micmac Conne River group, who are not aboriginal to this Province but who are covered by a Native agreement -

MR. HODDER: Says you.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Says our research and nobody has refuted it and nobody has challenged it. I ask the member for Port au Port (Mr. Hodder) to lay on the table of this House the evidence that he has to show that the Micmac group in Conne River are aboriginal to the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Lay it on the table.

I mean, for the member for Port au Port to make cheap shots, you know, saying that the Micmacs in Conne River are aboriginal to the Province without producing one slight shred of evidence seems to me to be a very superficial way for a former educator to act in this House, Mr. Speaker, as far as I am concerned.

To answer the hon. member's question, as I said, we have a Native Peoples' agreement; we are living up to our side of the bargain and I hope the federal government are living up to theirs and the Native People are living up to theirs. For a while the Native People of Conne River were not living up to theirs. The Inuit and the Naskaupi Montagne, I think, have been, but the people of Conne River wanted to spend the money however they wanted to spend the money, with no strings attached, which was coming from the taxpayers. Of course, we had to stand up and be firm and get conditions on that money so that it was going to be spent for the things it was intended for. If it was a housing allocation, then it

PREMIER PECKFORD: would have to be spent on housing and could not be spent on travelling all over Canada, as some of the members of the group had been doing. So we had to ensure that the people of Conne River, not the leadership but the people of Conne River, were actually going to get their monies' worth, that if Mr. Joe was number one on the list to get a house, that Mr. Joe got his house out of that money allocation, that that housing money was not spent for the sawmill or the sawmill money was not spent for housing or whatever. But as far as I am aware, we have lived up to the terms of the federal/provincial agreement covering Native Peoples.

MR. WARREN: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, I knew that the Premier was going to come back with an apparently rosy answer, an answer that my next question will contradict.

MR. BAIRD: Do not contradict yourself.

MR. WARREN: In the 1982/83 fiscal year, why were monies, budgeted and approved by the Department of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development and by the Native People's Committee - \$478,000 of Native People's money - not spent? Could the Premier give the reason why the Department of Rural Development would not issue this money to the Native groups?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Oh, sure. If the member had asked me that question first I would have answered him and said, yes, I will get him the reasons why that happened, to try to deduce that because there was some money left over from one fiscal year to the next, and without knowing the reason, to somehow imply in the original question that we were not living up to the terms of the agreement, are two different things. It is quite possible

PREMIER PECKFORD: for all the money for one year in an agreement not to be spent and come over, dropped balance, into the next year without the Province breaking the terms of the agreement. That is possible. But the member's two questions left the distinct impression that because there was a dropped balance the Province was not living up to its terms and conditions of the agreement. That is not necessarily a logical deduction. I will get for the hon. member the reason why the \$470,000 the hon. member mentioned was not spent within the terms of the fiscal year of twelve months and why it was carried over. Obviously there is a good reason for it and I would be only too happy to provide it to the hon. member.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe) with respect to not a new road, although it will be a new road, but an upgrading and construction project, in fact, on the road between the Northern Peninsula Highway and L'Anse-au-Meadows. Can he tell us, if he would, please, when tenders will be called for the initial work on this project, and, perhaps as part of that, could he tell us what work he envisages will be included within the initial phase of the project? Because obviously it is a two or three year piece of work.

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

MR. DAWE: Mr. Speaker, the technical committee, made up of the Department of Transport officials from the federal government and officials from the provincial Department of Transportation, have been working out the specific details and the cash flow requirements for the programme and identifying the various projects. Some of these projects have, in fact, been already submitted for review by the federal Transport people in Halifax. We are waiting to get the specific tender calls back from them to go ahead with them. One of the problems that has been created, and I hope will be overcome very shortly, is that the actual cash amounts, the actual financial arrangements from the federal government have not yet gone through their federal treasury board system. This may delay the actual tender calls for a -

MR. ROBERTS: They will go through quickly, I can assure you.

MR. DAWE: Well, I am sure that they probably will but, as of today, they have not gone through and it may be a couple of weeks. The initial stages, the first part of that project, should see, at a minimum, one-third of the project. It will depend on how they work out the cash flow on that job. It is a three-year agreement and theoretically the project will be spread over three years but, of course, that will depend upon how much can be done initially in this year. That will be worked out in the next couple of weeks and I anticipate the tenders being called within that two-week period.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the member for the Strait of Belle Isle.



MR. ROBERTS: I appreciate what the minister has to say and I will not press him on detail because, as he has told us, the detail is being developed. I think he can rest assured that the project will get speedy consideration in Ottawa by the Treasury Board of the Government of Canada. In fact, the whole thing was put together in - what? - two weeks from start to finish?, a model of federal/provincial co-operation for once in our history. But I wonder if the minister could confirm that the engineering is done? I may not have the right word on it, 'engineering'; he knows what I mean, the work that is necessary by the engineers and the technical people -

MR. TULK: Surveying.

MR. ROBERTS: - 'surveying,' my friend from Fogo says is done to the point where, let us say, the stretch of road between the main road and St. Lunaire-Griquet, which is the most Southerly portion of that road - as I guess the minister knows; he may even have been over it on occasion - but it is the first part that has to be done because it is the worst part and the part that everybody uses every day and it is also the nearest part. So for three reasons it has to be done. Could he confirm that the engineering/survey work for that portion of the road has been done so that tenders can be called this year? I ask because there is a lot of confusion and a lot of doubt, a lot of public interest, obviously, in the area. And I will leave it by saying if the minister is not sure, would he undertake to get me the answer either in the House or outside, as is convenient for him?

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

MR. DAWE: Mr. Speaker, the actual engineering detail had not been done to the point where it could be put into a tender document at the time of the signing, but it is being done as quickly as possible. I will certainly undertake to see just at what stage it is, but it is certainly our intention to have that project began this Summer and the tenders called in adequate time to allow for construction to begin and take place on time.

MR. ROBERTS: And begin at the Southern end, at the Northern Peninsula Highway going down to St. Leonard's?

MR. DAWE: That is my understanding but again I will check on it and get the information before the House closes.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Government House Leader (Mr. Marshall) if the claim on the Upper Salmon that was made by Viking Construction, the general contractor on that project, if that claim has been settled or what is the status of that claim at the present time? I understand the claim is in the vicinity of \$7 million or \$8 million over and above the original contract. Could the hon. gentleman tell the House the status of that claim now?

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, that claim is being investigated by independent professional people who are going to give us their opinion with respect to it. They have not finished their deliberations as of yet. When they do, I will advise the hon. member accordingly.

MR. NEARY: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, could the hon. gentleman tell the House what is Newfoundland Hydro's position on that claim? Are they against paying out this money? Are they saying that there is no claim under the contract? What is Newfoundland Hydro saying about this claim?

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, it is something being investigated by a quasi judicial board, as it were, to see whether or not there are grounds for paying the claim. I am not going to give the position of Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro with respect to it. The only thing I can tell the hon. gentleman is that no monies will be paid unless there is independent advice to the effect that there is substance to the claim.

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

Before we continue, I understand that we have in the galleries some twenty-one students who are winners of competitions sponsored by the National Book Festival Committee through the co-operation of the Federation of School Boards, the Department of Education and the Newfoundland Teachers' Association, and they are from Central, Western, Burin Peninsula, Labrador and St. John's. I am sure you would wish me to welcome them and extend my congratulations to them.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): I am sure you would wish me to welcome them and extend my congratulations to them.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

PRESENTING REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!  
Pursuant to Subsection (29) of The Parliamentary Commissioner (Ombudsman) Act , I am pleased to say that I have received the Ombudsman Report, the Eighth Annual Report, and I lay it on the table of the House. There are copies for hon. members.

MR. NEARY: Nice reading for the weekend.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock) addressed a question to me concerning gasoline shortages in Southern Labrador. At that particular time I indicated that while we were not aware that the problem was as acute as the hon. gentleman was painting it to be, we would have it looked into and advise the gentleman accordingly. I find , Mr. Speaker, having looked into the situation, that in fact the problem is not as acute as the hon. gentleman painted it. There are no problems in certain communities; in Port Hope Simpson and Charleston, everything is fine. The only places where there are any problems at all is in Fox Harbour and Cape Charles and Mary's Harbour.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Suprised!

MR. MARSHALL: Mary's Harbour and Fox Harbour, there are problems there. Fox Harbour's is because of the environmental problem which will be cleared up next year, but in the meantime, there is no real acute problem there, Mr.

MR. MARSHALL: Speaker. Longliners have been bringing in fuel for the past two weeks. There is no fishing being undertaken anyway at the present time. And there have been no critical complaints of any nature received at our office in Goose Bay. So I would like to draw to the attention of the House the fact that the hon. member for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock) posed that question yesterday in terms that made it sound like it was urgent and very acute which in fact it is not. The hon. gentleman is not here and perhaps his colleagues can advise him. When the hon. gentleman represents a district in Labrador, a remote rural district and he comes here and he voices his concerns he should not cry wolf once too often, because if he is going to raise matters and put them in an imperative tone as he did yesterday, the legitimate concerns of his constituents are not going to be regarded as they ought to be.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, to provide further information to a question asked on Tuesday by the member for Fogo (Mr. Tulk), while I was away from the House, it was answered by my colleague, the House Leader (Mr. Marshall), to add further information to that answer, with regard to lobster pot damage on the Northeast Coast unfortunately the ice conditions are pretty severe and the onshore prevailing winds are causing substantial damage to the fishermen's gear along the Northeast Coast and in areas of the Fogo district, in particular Musgrave Harbour and the Fogo Island area, also in the Green Bay area.

MR. MORGAN: The Fisheries Department has been assessing the damages, mostly to the lobster traps, lobster pots, and 19,000 pots are now being made available in various locations around the Province. These pots are ready for the fishermen's use, to be put in water. The price that was established on these pots this year is the same price that we established back in 1979, we have not increased the price to fishermen since 1979, it was then established at seven dollars a pot. We are now offering these lobster pots to the fishermen at seven dollars each and so far 1,000 pots have been sold to the fishermen in these areas where the storm or ice damage is being encountered. A further supply of pots, if necessary, will be taken to individual local areas, they are now in different areas like Argentia, Botwood, Cape Freels, Durrell, Musgrave Harbour, Newtown, Port Saunders, Stephenville, Trout River, different locations around the Province, but if necessary we will arrange to locate additional pots in areas where the most damage is occurring. At no cost to the fishermen we will transport and locate these pots. And, as I say again, it is difficult at this time to determine the full extent of the damage because the ice is onshore as a result of winds on shore in recent days, but the damage will be further assessed and further pots made available.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR MARSHALL: Motion 2, the Loan Bill.

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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. CHAIRMAN (McNicholas): Order, please!

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Chairman, we indicated that we had pretty well said all we want to say on this bill. We were rather annoyed to hear the President of the Council, the Government House Leader (Mr. Marshall), take to the air waves this morning and tell the people of Newfoundland that with the co-operation of the Opposition the House would be closing today, when the hon. gentleman had not had any prior consultation with the Opposition. The hon. gentleman did not have the courtesy to speak to our House Leader (Mr. Hodder), to let our House Leader know of the hon. gentleman's intentions.

MR. NEARY:

So, Mr. Chairman, I can tell the House there were no deals, there will be no deals. We intend to keep this House open as long as we can to see if we can shame the government into bringing in plans to deal with record unemployment in this Province, to deal with the crisis in the Newfoundland and Labrador economy, to try to create jobs for students during the Summer, Mr. Chairman. The House now has been open for several weeks, we have asked a lot of questions during the Oral Question Period. We have put a lot of questions on the Order Paper. Less than half the questions on the Order Paper have been answered; We have put a lot of hard questions, very penetrating questions to the administration, The quality of the questions have been superb, Mr. Chairman, it is the quality of the answers that the people in this Province should be concerned about, as we saw this morning when the Premier, who seems to be rather testy these days, by the way, seems to be uptight over something or other, maybe it is because they cannot get their way and close the House whenever they feel like it. But we intend to keep the House open as long as we can. There is a limit to what we can do, Mr. Chairman. Hon. members realize there are forty-four on that side of the House and only eight on this side, so there is a limit to what we can do. When we get a bill that we can speak on a number of times, and this is the kind of a bill, the loan bill, we can speak on this as often as we want for ten minutes at a time, back and forth across the House. When we get a bill like that, Mr. Chairman, we intend to take advantage of the debate to try to shame the administration, to try to persuade the administration, to beg the administration, to bring something into the House that we can get our teeth into, to bring something into this House - bring in some plans, some recommendations, to



MR. NEARY: try to provide jobs, Summer jobs for students, to try to provide jobs for students who are graduating at the College of Fisheries and the College of Trades and at the university, and at the sixteen vocational schools throughout the Province. One of the big tragedies in this Province at the present time, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that young people are idle, they are sitting home, they have nothing to do, no activity. They cannot find jobs. The future for these young people, a lot of them graduates of the post-secondary education institutions that I just mentioned,

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, their future is very bleak. Right at the crucial time in their lives, in their careers, when they should be working they cannot find jobs and there is no hope on the horizon. We were told by the Premier last week that there are 500 Summer jobs in the public service and the deputy ministers would assign these jobs. We know that is not correct, Mr. Chairman, we know that the ministers will try to manoeuvre their constituents into these jobs, the same as the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. Power) tried to do with the assistant forest ranger last week down at Paddy's Pond. The hon. gentleman made a noble attempt to try to get one of his constituents into the job and he failed because his constituent did not have the qualifications. There were three students from the College of Trades, forestry students, who applied for these jobs who had all the qualifications. But we know, Mr. Chairman, that these jobs are going to be passed out to supporters of the administration, they are going to be passed out along partisan political lines, that the ordinary Newfoundlander will not have a chance, will not get a crack at these jobs, Mr. Chairman. The Premier tries to portray the image of honesty and integrity and here is an opportunity, Mr. Chairman, for him to show his sincerity, to show how sincere he is about honesty and integrity in politics. All they have to do is advertise these 500 jobs and give all Newfoundland students a crack at them, give all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians a crack at these jobs. But, Mr. Chairman, they will not do that because they do not want to give up their political patronage, they do not want to give up this little perk that they have of passing out jobs to their pals, to their friends, sons and daughters of their supporters. That is

May 27, 1983

Tape No. 2634

SD - 2

MR. NEARY:                    why they will not advertise  
these jobs. That is why they will not allow these jobs  
to go through the public service, Mr. Chairman, and I  
think it is shameful

MR. NEARY:

An awful lot of young Newfoundlanders were hoping to be able to apply for these jobs. When they heard that there would be 500 Summer jobs, Mr. Chairman, we had a lot of enquiries from young Newfoundlanders who are unemployed, graduates of the University and of the College of Trades, who said that they would like to get a crack at these jobs, but they are not going to be given the opportunity, Mr. Chairman. That is integrity and honesty for you all right. Pius words is all we hear from the hon. gentleman but he never puts his words into action, So, Mr. Chairman, we intend to stay in this House as long as we can. We hope, before we are finished, to be able to shame the administration into bringing in concrete plans to stimulate the Newfoundland economy and to do something about the 60,000 Newfoundlanders who are unemployed at the present time. We hope to be able to convince and persuade the administration we can stay here long enough, of the necessity to deal with the crisis in the Newfoundland fishery, to deal with the situation in Corner Brook, the situation in Labrador West, where owners of mobile homes who have been laid off by the mining companies cannot even get assistance to move their homes to the Island. They cannot sell them. Government has abandoned the people of Labrador West, they could not get any action on contracting out now they cannot get any action on their mobile homes and they stand to lose everything, Mr. Chairman. We think the government have been in this House now long enough, We have had a Throne Speech, we have had a Budget Speech; these are two great opportunities in this House, especially the Budget

MR. NEARY:

Speech, for the government to lay out its plans for development, lay out its plans for developing our natural resources, to lay out plans for unemployment and for the fishery, for Buchans and for Labrador City and Wabush and Corner Brook and Bell Island and Happy Valley/Goose Bay and the Baie Verte Peninsula and all the other areas of Newfoundland that are on the misery list. But have they done that, Mr. Chairman?  
No, they have come in day after day with Ministerial Statements that are completely irrelevant to the problems in this Province, to try and make themselves look good. Statements like the one we had yesterday from the Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor), who told us that they had done another study and the study had shown that in the foreseeable future no aluminum smelter would be established in this Province. They spent \$500,000 on that study, Mr. Chairman, and they found out nothing.

MR. NEARY: We are about as close now to an aluminum smelter today as we were three years ago, when they started that study. It is a new technique they have now, study everthing. They are going to have the Province studied to death. And then they come in patting themselves on the back, pounding their desks over there. A minister will come in and say, "Look, here is a study, we just did a study and we proved that this can be done or that can be done, or this is not feasible, or that is feasible or that is not feasible, just completed a study."

Mr. Chairman, they will do some crowing and shouting and pounding on their desks if they ever get a project off the ground. They have not had one new industry or one new mine opened in this Province in eleven years of Tory Government.

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

On motion, resolution, carried.

Motion that the Committee report having passed a Bill consequent thereto, carried.

MR. MARSHALL: Motion 1, Bill No. 45.

A bill, "An To Amend The Gasoline Tax Act 1978". (Bill No. 45).

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, Bill No. 45 is entitled, "An Act To Amend The Gasoline Tax Act, 1978", and we are debating a resolution in regard to it which states: "That it is expedient to bring in a measure to amend the Gasoline Tax Act, 1978 relating to the imposition of a tax on marine fuel for certain boats and vessels". And, as hon. members will recall, this was indicated in the Budget Speech, that this is just about

May 27, 1983

Tape No. 2636

NM - 2

DR. COLLINS: the only new tax initiative we are undertaking in the current budget.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is not true.

MR. MARSHALL: Could the minister speak up, we cannot hear him?

DR. COLLINS: The first clause of the bill actually indicates what we are going to do, we are going to exact a tax of 1 cent a litre on all gasoline. Mr. Chairman, the second clause repeals a section of the act.

DR. COLLINS: That section at the present time exempts commercial vessels in extra-territorial waters from tax. So we had to repeal that to get our provision in place. The next section, Section 3, authorizes the expansion of regulations to allow the tax to apply to prescribed vessels and in the regulations the prescribed vessels will cover foreign vessels, foreign fishing fleets, supply vessels. It will not cover ferries, that is vessels going between this Province and other provinces, it will not cover Canadian fishing vessels and so on.

MR. WARREN: What about offshore oil rigs?

DR. COLLINS: And offshore rigs.

MR. WARREN: Are they included?

DR. COLLINS: Yes.

MR. WARREN: That is not (inaudible).

DR. COLLINS: In terms of fuel consumption, yes.

MR. WARREN: Supply ships?

DR. COLLINS: Supply ships, yes.

So, Mr. Speaker, this bill then will have retroactive effect, and the regulations will have retroactive effect to the date of the budget announcement.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that does give the details. Just to be absolutely sure I will repeat: The vessels that will be prescribed will be foreign fishing vessels - in other words, the tax will apply to them - foreign fishing vessels, offshore supply vessels, vessels operating outside waters within the jurisdiction of the Province except commercial ferries operating on regularly scheduled routes and oil rigs. So those are the ones which will be liable for this tax.

I might just remind hon. members, as I indicated in the Budget Speech, that a similar tax is in place in certain other provinces, I know in Nova Scotia and I believe also in British Columbia.



May 27, 1983

Tape No. 2637

MJ - 2

MR. WARREN:

Two provinces?

DR. COLLINS:

Two marine provinces.

MR. WARREN:

provinces.

Yes, but there are five marine

MR. HODDER:

Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward):

au Port.

The hon. the member for Port

MR. HODDER:

a lot to be said

Mr. Speaker, there is not

MR. HODDER: about this bill, I suppose it is a relief that it does not tax us, but it does tax foreign vessels in our waters.

But, Mr. Chairman, there is a word of caution, I might add, that when we are taxing particularly foreign fishing vessels, vessels which have the choice of using St. Pierre and Miquelon or the port of St. John's and the word of caution is, I believe, that we have to be very careful that we do not tax foreign fishing vessels to a greater extent than they would pay. In other words, we have to be careful that we do not lose the wharfage and the business that it brings in, particularly to the Port of St. John's, that we do not lose those vessels and the income to a port such as St. Pierre and Miquelon.

Well, Mr. Speaker, as a tax provision it is one that taxes foreign vessels, offshore rigs, and will not have an effect on the fishermen of this Province. I would say, Mr. Speaker, that when the minister introduced the bill, he said that it was the only tax provision, or one of few tax provisions that came in this Budget.

DR. COLLINS: Just about.

MR. HODDER: Just about.

I would say to the minister that it may be one of the few tax provisions, but there are other ways of raising revenue, as this government has become very creative in doing, through the raising of fees.

In the last three successive Budgets the government have continued to raise all types of fees to people across the Province, on everything from rabbit licences to motor vehicle licences, the list is endless. And I would say to the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) that this type of

MR. HODDER:                   taxation is harder on those who can afford it least. And the government have been on a trend now over the past three or four years, of raising the cost of almost every service that a person can get which is controlled by this government. And I would say to him that while this may be one of the few tax provisions, the government is really in effect taxing the people of the Province in another way, through the raising of fees and this taxation, of course, is detrimental to the low and middle income earners of this Province.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Chairman, as far as the bill is concerned, I would stress again - a word of caution - that when we impose those taxes we must be careful that we do not - and I do not think in this case we have done that, Mr. Chairman, but we must be careful that we do not drive foreigners, particularly foreign fishing fleets, to other ports.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to delay the passage of this bill, except to reiterate what my hon. colleague has just said about this tax. It goes to show how desperate the administration are for money, Mr. Chairman. They are really now down to the bottom of the barrel when they bring in this kind of a tax. They are desperate, strapped for funds, Mr. Chairman, when they will take a chance on driving the foreigners away from our ports, especially from the port of St. John's. When they will gamble the future of the port of St. John's on bringing in this tax, Mr. Chairman, it just goes to show how desperate they are. Desperate men will do desperate things, and this administration are desperate. And there is a real danger that they could force the foreign fishing vessels and other ships that come in to St. John's and into other ports in Newfoundland - that they could force them to places like St. Pierre.

MR. MARSHALL: And Halifax.

MR. NEARY: No, Nova Scotia has the tax, does it not?

MR. WARREN: To P.E.I. they will go.

MR. NEARY: Nova Scotia has the tax. They could force them to Quebec or Prince Edward Island or to St. Pierre or to New Brunswick, Mr. Chairman, any of the

MR. NEARY: ports along the Eastern Seaboard of Canada where they do not have this tax, these vessels would be encouraged in future to go.

Mr. Chairman, nobody likes paying out money unnecessarily, and I am sure that if these shipping companies and these fishing companies can find ports of call where they can get the gasoline and the fuel that they need without too much steaming time involved, that is where they are going to go, Mr. Chairman.

MR. NEARY: And so, as my colleague rightly points out, there is a real danger in this tax. Mr. Chairman, there is an expansion going on down at the CN Dry Dock, they are putting in a syncrolift. Well, let us hope that this sort of action on the part of the provincial government will not be counter-productive as far as the CN Dry Dock is concerned and the Port of St. John's is concerned.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) in his cute little way said there were only two or three tax measures in the budget and this happened to be one of them. Mr. Chairman, the hon. gentleman could not do any more damage than he has done, especially a year or so ago, when they changed the Gasoline Tax Act in this Province. One time the gasoline tax was a flat amount straight across the board. A year or so ago the hon. gentleman put it on a percentage basis so that everytime the price of gasoline goes up the provincial government automatically gets its pound of flesh. They no longer have to bring an amendment to the Gasoline Tax Act into this House. A pretty slick manoeuvre on the part of the administration. The price of gasoline and the price of tobacco, they put them on a percentage basis, they do not have to answer to this House any longer. It was a pretty slick manoeuvre, Mr. Chairman, on the part of the Minister of Finance. But I hope the hon. gentleman did not think that he was fooling anybody when he put that on a percentage basis. Now they hope and pray - the hon. gentleman must get down on his hands and knees every night before he goes to bed and hope and pray that the price of gasoline will go up. The hon. gentleman has a vested interest in inflation. They are hoping inflation will become rampant, the price of gasoline will go up, because the Province stands to get more revenue.

DR. COLLINS: That is a good debating point, but there is no validity to it.

MR. NEARY: There is validity to it, Mr. Chairman, it is not merely a debating point.

DR. COLLINS: It is the same as the Income Tax Act they tax on a percentage of your taxable income.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, there is no comparison between the Gasoline Tax Act and the Income Tax Act. That is not a reasonable comparison. The hon. gentleman can gloat now about the revenue that is coming in from the gasoline tax as a result of this change in the act, by removing the tax, which was a flat rate previously and changing it to a percentage basis. Mr. Chairman, I hope nobody in this Province is being fooled

MR. NEARY: by that slick manoeuver on the part of the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins), who no longer has to answer to this House. The hon. gentleman no longer has to come into this House to ask for amendments to the Gasoline Tax Act. He no longer has to do that, he can just sit back now, hope that the price of gasoline will go up, and watch the money roll in.

And as my hon. colleague rightly pointed out, Mr. Chairman, practically every permit and every licence in this Province has gone up in the last few years, in the last three or four years.

MR. TULK: They cannot find anything else.

MR. NEARY: As my hon. colleague for Fogo (Mr. Tulk) reminds me, they cannot find anything else to tax or to increase the fees on.

MR. HODDER: Well, of course, we realize that the people who do not get moose licences still have to contribute \$5 .

MR. NEARY: That is right. Even people who apply for moose licences now, who are not successful, have to contribute \$5 to the Public Treasury, even if they do not get their licence, even if they are not successful, just for the privilege and the honour of sending in their application,

MR. WARREN: They have to pay \$5 for it.

MR. NEARY: - they have to pay \$5 to the Minister of Finance.

MR. CARTER: For what?

MR. NEARY: Even if they do not get a licence.

MR. CARTER: For what?

MR. NEARY: For what? That is what we would like to know, for what? We have not seen any -

MR. CARTER: What licence are you talking about?



MR. NEARY: I am talking about a moose licence. They send in their money for a moose licence -

MR. TULK: For hunting dumb animals like the member for St. John's North (Mr. Carter).

DR. COLLINS: Moose do not run on -

MR. NEARY: No, the hon. gentleman made a blanket statement, a kind of general statement when he introduced this bill by saying, Oh, we have not brought in many tax measures in the last several years.

MR. TULK: Looking for licences to hunt now is -

MR. NEARY: It is a wonder the hon. gentleman is not struck down in his tracks, Mr. Chairman. It is a wonder that a bolt of lightning does not come out of the blue that would strike the hon. gentleman down. The face of a robber's horse to stand in this House and say, Well, we have not brought in many taxes. We have the highest retail sales tax in the whole of Canada, the highest personal income tax, provincial income tax.

MR. TULK: And they were the people who brought in the floating tax on gasoline.

MR. NEARY: And they brought in the floating tax, it slides up and down. The hon. gentleman hopes that it will never go down, that it will keep going up because they have a vested interest in inflation.

DR. COLLINS: Actually, it went down recently. Did you know the tax on diesel fuel went down recently?

MR. TULK: And now they are forcing the police to collect more revenue for them.

MR. NEARY: And now, as I indicated the other day, they are forcing the Newfoundland Constabulary to collect revenue. And, Mr. Chairman, I might say since I made that statement the other day that I have had it confirmed by

MR. NEARY: members of the force that they are operating on a quota. They are operating on a quota. The Minister of Justice (Mr. Ottenheimer) denied there was a quota system.

MR. MARSHALL: I know you will say there is some relevancy, but what you are talking about is a Gas Bill. What does that have to do with the Gas Bill?

MR. NEARY: Well, it is a Tax Bill.

MR. MARSHALL: It is a Tax Bill, yes.

MR. NEARY: Right.

So, Mr. Chairman, while we are not going to delay the passage of this Bill, we again have to issue a warning to the administration and to especially the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins).

DR. COLLINS: Do you want a scoop for the weekend? Now, this has not been announced, really, before. Why do you not say in the House here that the tax on diesel fuel actually went down recently because of our ad valorem tax? That would be a scoop.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, this tax could be counter-productive. It could endanger the business that we are getting now from the foreign fishing fleets and from other ships coming into Newfoundland ports. We hope that it will not. It is going to have to be watched very carefully. If business starts to drop off because of this tax, Mr. Chairman, then the administration will immediately have to take a look at it. I do not know how much money is being left in the Port of St. John's by the foreigners but I would suspect that there is a fair amount spent in the stores and in the clubs and down at the dry dock. I would imagine there is a fair amount of revenue that comes into this port and into other ports of entry in this Province. So, Mr. Chairman, we should not do anything to drive that business away from Newfoundland. God only knows we are in dire straits now. So we hope that this will be watched very carefully.

I understood from the hon. gentleman, I believe, that the CN ferries would not be liable for this tax, is that correct? Ferries operating between North Sydney and Port aux Basques would not have to pay this tax.

DR. COLLINS: No, they will not be.

MR. NEARY: And I would assume that -

MR. TULK: Now do not give them any more ideas.

MR. NEARY: - no. I would assume that companies operating between St. John's and Montreal will not have to pay -

MR. TULK: If you bring that up now  
the next thing they will tax that.

MR. NEARY: I know they are looking for  
other things to tax. I realize that.

MR. HODDER: That is the only thing they  
have not taxed yet.

MR. NEARY: They have not taxed the number  
of times you go to the bathroom yet. No doubt they are thinking  
about that too.

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

On motion, resolution, carried.

Motion, that the Committee report  
having passed a Bill consequent thereto, without amendment, carried.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, we are in  
Committee of the Whole now so I think we will call  
order 3, Committee of the Whole on the Bill, "An Act To  
Establish An Economic Council For The Province." (No. 1).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order 3, Bill  
No. 1.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I will  
wait until we get down to the proper clause in this act,  
the appointment of the members, because the Board of Trade,  
following

MR. NEARY: second reading of this bill in the House the other day, the Board of Trade in a public statement, asked about funding for this council and also cautioned -

MR. MARSHALL: Will the hon. gentleman agree that we go through the accustomed procedures and wait until we get to that section?

MR. NEARY: Yes, but I do not think there is any section in here on funding, or is there?

MR. MARSHALL: Well, I mean, when you come to the appointment of the council:

the Chairman has to call the bill first.

MR. NEARY: Call the title.

MR. MARSHALL: The title, yes.

MR. NEARY: Well, the Chairman did call the title.

MR. MARSHALL: No, I do not think the Chairman did call the title.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): No, I did not call it yet. I am just looking for a copy of the bill.

Bill No. 1.

Shall clause 1 carry?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, perhaps the two points that I want to raise can be cleared up under this section of the act. It has to do with funding of the council. One of the weaknesses pointed out by the Board of Trade that seems to make some helpful suggestions to the administration - but when they do they get pounced on for it, Mr. Chairman.

MR. TULK: Do not make him mad this morning, he is over there eating sugar.

MR. NEARY: No. Mrs. Fagan and the Board of Trade have tried their level best in the last year or two to

MR. NEARY: be helpful to the administration and all they get for it is abuse - nastiness and abuse and attacks from the administration. They cannot resist the temptation to attack somebody, Mr. Chairman.

Anyway, the Board of Trade wanted to know and we want to know, and I imagine the people want to know, what about funding for the council? And what about the appointment of the members?

MR. TULK: They will be political flunkeys.

MR. NEARY: Oh, I know. I understand that, but the Board of Trade in its simplicity and naivety, cautioned the administration about the appointments, about the caliber of people who will be put on this council.

MR. TULK: They want fair play.

MR. NEARY: They want fair play.

MR. TULK: They want to do the right thing.

MR. NEARY: The Board of Trade want to see the right thing done. But I have very grave doubts about whether the administration will agree to do that, Mr. Chairman.

MR. TULK: You do not have any choice.  
you know they will not.

MR. NEARY: I know, I know.

MR. MARSHALL: Let us get on with it.

MR. NEARY: Sure, go ahead. These are the two main points on which we want a response.

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, with respect to the funding, the funding is covered in sections 13 and 14 of the bill which provides that 'the expenses shall be defrayed out of money appropriated by the Legislature.' So each year there will be a vote come in from the Minister of Development's (Mr. Windsor) department for this amount and it will vary from year to year. I can say right now that we are going to give

MR. MARSHALL:                   it as much money as our resources allow but, as with everything else in this Province, we would like to be able to put more money into every single programme.

                                  Section 14 also says the budget will be submitted not later than September 30th in each year so there is provision for funding. As to the adequacy of it, well, that will remain to be seen. As to the hon. gentleman's - I am not going to respond. You know, the position with the Board of Trade,

MR. MARSHALL: I do not think I want to debate as to the situation with the Board of Trade except to say that in recent times certain persons in the executive appear to be taking certain positions, they are utilizing their undoubted right to criticize and the government in a democratic society exercises its equal undoubted right to return criticism when an organization says something that they disagree with and I will leave it at that.

As to the funding, as with a lot of boards and organizations which are a matter of public interest I would not think we would need a great deal of funding of the nature mentioned by the hon. gentleman. I am quite sure members of the Board of Trade themselves, if they have the interests of the community and the people of this Province in mind, that a large number of them would concur that with a council of this nature the emphasis should be on the matter of service to the Province rather than remuneration.

So, that is my response to the Board of Trade. They are very interested in everything that is going on in this Province which is their right, but this council is as much in the nature of a community service as anything else and is not to be deemed to something where somebody could get an appointment to make a lot of money.

So, in answer to the question of the hon. gentleman there is funding that is going to be provided, we are going to make it as much -

MR. TULK: Can you tell us how much?

MR. MARSHALL: No. Not at this stage, I cannot. It is going to depend on the assessment. First of all, the council has to submit a budget and then the government will look at it, but we will be as generous as we can in the circumstances.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!



On motion, clauses 1 through 10, carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Shall clause 11 carry?

MR. HODDER: Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. the member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Chairman, it is clause 11 that bothers me. Mr. Chairman, clause 11 says, "the purpose of this Act the Council shall (a) report to, advise and make recommendations to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, through the Minister". Mr. Chairman, clause 11 (1) (b), "respond to requests from the Lieutenant-Governor in Council for commentary, evaluation", again respond to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, and the following clause 12 (a) "communicate frequently with the Minister in order to mutually identify", and clause 12 (e) "report through the Minister on its findings". Mr. Chairman, this Council is not an independent body. Mr. Chairman, I see no reason why this Council should report through the minister. I mean, that is very specific, "report through the Minister". In other words, any findings that this Council comes up with, they have to report through the minister on its recommendations and findings. Now,

MR. HODDER: Mr. Chairman, these sections 11 and 12 take the independence away from the Economic Council and causes the council to become a bureaucracy. It is just another body which reports to the government. They cannot do anything, they have to report through the minister. Why is it that this government did not have the courage to form an independent body which can report any way they please? But it is very specific that they must report through the minister. They report to, advise and make recommendations to the Lieutenant Governor in Council, they respond to requests from the Lieutenant Governor in Council, and they report through the minister. So, Mr. Chairman, what kind of a body have we set up here? This is just window dressing. I mean, if these sections could be changed somewhat so that the body can become a truly independent body and report on anything they feel like. If they feel that the government is going down the drain, I would like for them to be able to report that the economic policies of the government are pushing the Province down the sink, down the drain.

Mr. Chairman, we have set up just another bureaucracy here made up of friends of the government who report and do the government's bidding. And there is nothing in here to show that - as long as they have to report through the minister there is nothing there that makes them - I know the minister there opposite wants to get up, he is itching.

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

MR. MARSHALL: I hate to, you know, cut off the rhetorical tap of the hon. gentleman but, I mean, he should read the whole bill. I mean, first of all, Clause 3 of the bill when it establishes the Economic Council says:

MR. MARSHALL: 'One of its purposes is to encourage informed public appreciation and debate of economic and social issues', then it goes on, the very clause that he points out, Clause 11 (2) says: 'The Council shall on its own initiative, or if directed to do so by the Lieutenant-Governor', but the point is, 'on its own initiative, conduct such studies, inquiries and other undertakings as may be necessary with respect to any matter coming within Section 3 or with respect to any other matter'. And then it goes on in Clause 12 (f), the very one the hon. gentleman is talking about, to say, in addition to the other duties the Council may cause to be published such studies and reports'. Now what greater degree of independence does the hon. gentleman really want?

MR. HODDER: Straight away it must report through the minister.

MR. MARSHALL: Because this is the way in which government operates, I mean, all boards and corporations have to report through a minister. That is to make a minister responsible with respect to the operation of the board and/or the corporation. Every single board or corporation reports through some minister. And that is so that the hon. gentleman there opposite can get up, you know, within the next two or three years - after that he will not have the opportunity - but he can get up and wag his finger at the Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor) and grill him on the Economic Council. If we did not have that in there would be nobody in the House to whom the hon. gentlemen could direct questions. The members of the Economic Council are not members of the Legislature.

MR. MARSHALL: That is to give it full and complete accountability. This government is completely open and aboveboard in everything. It has established a council as it has established many other boards from time to time and has given them all the independence that is necessary, and not only have we given them the independence, Mr. Chairman, we will foster that independence and we will jealously guard it to be sure that we are getting independent views from people.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, it is not the full reports of the House we are concerned about it is the appointments on this Commission.

MR. TULK: That is right.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, my colleague has a very valid point - the council reports to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. I remember previously we had a Commission set up to study the fishery on the Connaigre Peninsula. Mr. Mercer was a one man Royal Commission -

DR. COLLINS: A very fine report though.

MR. NEARY: A very fine report but the trouble is it has not seen the light of day. It has not been tabled in this House and we cannot get it tabled in this House.

MR. WARREN: Why, I wonder?

MR. NEARY: Why? I do not know why.

Well, Mr. Chairman, there is the danger in having reports submitted to the

MR. NEARY: Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

Why can we not get that report tabled in the House?

DR. COLLINS: But that is not the case here.

MR. NEARY: What is not the case?

DR. COLLINS: They make their reports to us.

MR. NEARY: Oh, I see. We take the hon.

gentleman's word for that, do we?

Mr. Chairman, here we have an example of where Mr. Mercer made a study of the fishery on the Connai gre Peninsula, paid for by the taxpayers of this Province. We cannot find out how much the gentleman was paid and we cannot get a copy of the report. Now, this is the same crowd who are now telling us, Oh, you have to trust us. How open they are, trust us. We are going to be fair, we will safeguard that privilege -

MR. TULK: Lilly white privilege.

MR. NEARY: They are so lilly white.

There is one example, We do not know how much more information they are sitting on about Bowaters and about the fishing industry and the other -

MR. TULK: They are not sitting on any information about Bowaters because Bowaters do not tell them anything.

MR. NEARY: Oh, I got a feeling they are sitting on information but, anyway, we will deal with that matter at another time. So, Mr. Chairman, how can you trust this administration? How can you trust them? The hon. gentleman can get up and tell us all he likes, Oh yes, sure, this is going to be done, we are going to do this but the fact of the matter is that this council - there is no control over the appointments to it, they could be all Tory party supporters. They could all be political hacks.

MR. NEARY: They might throw the odd one in to take the harm out of it, Mr. Chairman, That is the little manoeuvre they will use, throw in the occasional one to take the harm out of it but I guarantee you that it will be controlled, the strings will be pulled by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council is the Cabinet and the Council will report to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council and the Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor) will report to this House for the Council.

Mr. Chairman, what about the discussions in Cabinet? What about all the things that can be buried enroute to this House?

MR. NEARY: We will not be privy to any of that information. We should have the right, Mr. Chairman - let me say this, the only fair and common sense way to do it is to have this committee report to a committee of the House. We should have the right -

MR. HODDER: Say Public Accounts.

MR. NEARY: That is right, report to the Public Accounts Committee or report to some other standing committee of this House, or come before the Bar of the House. We have ample precedent in this House. We had the oil refinery when it was being built, we had Mr. Shaheen brought into the House. We have had occasions in our history when people have been brought before the Bar of the House to answer questions.

Mr. Chairman, let me ask the hon. gentleman - the hon. gentleman is turning away from me now because he cannot face the music - will we have access to that committee, will we be able to cross examine, question that committee as members of this House? The reports will be made to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, they will be debated down on the eighth floor of this building. We will not have access to the documents, to the working papers, to anything else. We will not know what is being said, Mr. Chairman, so, therefore, the dice are loaded.

The Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor) can come into this House and we can question him, he can tell us what he wants as he did yesterday with the whitewash job he did on the aluminum smelter.

MR. HODDER: Or tell us nothing.

MR. NEARY: No, it was a whitewash job. It would not be parliamentary for me, and I do not say anything that is not parliamentary, it would be unparliamentary of me to say that the hon. gentleman deliberately misled the people of this Province or misled the House, but he certainly did a whitewash job.

DR. COLLINS: You have not read 12 (f).

MR. NEARY: 12 (f), what is in 12 (f)?  
Let us have a look at it. I did not read 12 (f), I do not have my glasses this morning, what does 12 (f) say? - "cause to be published such studies", yes, cause to be published such studies, so what?

DR. COLLINS: No, carry on, carry on now.

MR. NEARY: - "and reports as are prepared by or for the Council and engage in other activities to enforce and encourage further debate and response."

MR. HODDER: They still have to report through the minister.

MR. MARSHALL: They report through the minister, they report to the minister, completely open and aboveboard.

MR. NEARY: But they do not report to this House.

MR. MARSHALL: Yes, they do.

MR. NEARY: Through the minister. We will only get in this House what the minister wants to give us. Mr. Chairman, in order to make it fair will the hon. gentleman amend this bill to make it mandatory for the council to appear before a committee of the House, a committee comprising of members of both sides of the House?

MR. MARSHALL: Perhaps we should get Mrs. Fagan in to report to the House.

MR. NEARY: That is an independent group.

Mr. Chairman, when we are debating estimates we can have the President of Newfoundland Hydro if the -



May 27, 1983

Tape No. 2647

NM - 3

MR. MARSHALL:                    You have even better than that,  
you have the minister responsible.

MR. NEARY:                    If the administration agrees  
we can have the President of Newfoundland Hydro, we can have  
the Chairman of the Newfoundland Liquor Corporation,

MR. NEARY: we can have the chairman of Newfoundland Farm Products sitting in with the minister while the minister is giving answers to questions and being cross-examined by committees. But we will not have access to this council, it will not be open, as the hon. gentleman says. It will be spragged on the 8th Floor of Confederation Building, they will throw a sprag into it and they will only give this House and give us what they want us to hear. They will only tell us the things they want us to hear. We will never know how much information is buried on the 8th Floor. So, therefore, in order to make it fair, Mr. Chairman, the council should answer to a committee of this House. It is the only fair way to do it.

MR. WARREN: That is right.

MR. NEARY: They are spending taxpayers' money, they are going to be funded by the taxpayers. Mr. Chairman, I cannot help using the example again of the Mercer report that was done on the Connaigre Peninsula. The hon. gentleman side-steps that, the hon. gentleman will not deal with that head-on and tell us why that report has not been tabled in the House.

MR. HODDER: By the way, the appointments should be made by the committee too.

MR. NEARY: That is right, the appointments should be made by this House. That is the only fair way to do it. The Board of Trade are absolutely correct. The hon. gentleman can think what he likes about Mrs. Fagan, who, in my opinion, is doing a remarkable job, a remarkable job! I must say that she is putting the Board of Trade on the map. She is fearless.

MR. YOUNG: She is flattering New Brunswick more.

MR. NEARY: The hon. the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) may not like her.

MR. YOUNG: She has one leg in New Brunswick and the other in Newfoundland.

MR. NEARY: Now, Mr. Chairman, what kind of an insult is that? You would not expect any better from the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young). You would not expect any better from the hon. gentleman, Mr. Chairman.

MR. HODDER: You would from a minister though.

MR. NEARY: You would expect better from a minister, Mr. Chairman. You would not expect it from an individual but you would expect better from a minister of the Crown. The hon. gentleman does not realize that when he just spoke, he was speaking for the Premier and for the administration.

MR. YOUNG: That was a compliment.

MR. NEARY: It is some compliment, alright.  
Mr. Chairman, the hon. gentleman says Mrs. Fagan has one leg in Newfoundland and one in New Brunswick. What an insult! What an insult, Mr. Chairman! At least she has not got one leg in the grave as the hon. gentleman has.

MR. YOUNG: She is a former Liberal.

MR. NEARY: No, Mr. Chairman, I have no idea of what the lady's politics are.

MR. YOUNG: I have. I have.

MR. NEARY: Oh, 'I have'. The hon. gentleman is a 'know-all', he knows everything, does he? I would love to have her as a supporter. I do not think the lady has ever indicated her politics to anybody, at least, not to my knowledge.

MR. YOUNG: Her mother is a big Liberal worker, you should know that.

MR. NEARY: Who?

MR. YOUNG: Her mother.

MR. HODDER: In New Brunswick? The hon. gentleman must be doing some nosing around, is he?

MR. YOUNG: No, no!

MR. NEARY: She is a very fine lady, Mr. Chairman, and I think it is beneath contempt for the member for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young) to cast aspersions on the head of the Board of Trade.

MR. HODDER: He will do that to anybody who speaks out against the government.

MR. MARSHALL: I did not know that to call anyone a Liberal was to cast an aspersion.

MR. NEARY: No, no. That is not what the hon. gentleman is inferring, Mr. Chairman.

MR. MARSHALL: This is a quote, 'The hon. gentleman is out of order'.

MR. NEARY: No, Mr. Chairman, what the hon. gentleman is saying is that she is abusing her position. That is what the hon. gentleman is saying.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. NEARY: And I am saying the hon. gentleman should apologize for making that statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member's time had elapsed.  
On motion Clauses (11) through (15),  
carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall Clause (16) carry?

MR. WARREN: Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, I want to say a few words on Clause (16). It looks like, by reading this Clause that this Council will have the authority to be a real estate agent. It is going to have the authority 'to acquire, hold, manage and dispose of real and personal property'.

MR. WARREN: Now, Mr. Chairman, it sure looks to me, and not only to me, I would say, but to every Newfoundlander and Labradorian, that the one and only intention of this government in setting up this Economic Council - and I do not know if this is parliamentary or not - is to be a bagman for this Conservative government in this Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: If Viking gets its claim settled on the Upper Salmon, they will have their election expenses for the next election.

MR. WARREN: Here is another example of where this Conservative Government is going to get its funds to carry on the next election. They will appoint sixteen good buddies throughout this Province - in fact, I already know who five or six of them are; one is their bagman in Labrador -

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible) Mr. Dobbin will be in there, Mr. Fahey will be in there (inaudible).

MR. WARREN: - and what they are doing is saying, Okay, let us start acquiring real property.

MR. HODDER: No doubt Mr. Strachan, too I guess.

MR. WARREN: Mr. Chairman, I will not be surprised to see how much Crown land in this Province will be diverted to this Economic Council and, within a matter of a year or so will be sold to private enterprise at a fantastic revenue for this council. And this is the whole intention of this government, to use this economic council to raise money in this Province for the sake of the administration, and it is as plain as the smile on the hon. member's face. We have seen the economic picture in Newfoundland go down the drain so fast during the last four or five years that there is only one alternative, one avenue open and that is for this government to try to maneuver the people of this Province to save face and to do that they are going to use sixteen individual Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. The hon. the Minister of Public Works and Services (Mr. Young) just said in referring to the President of the Board of Trade - she is a New Brunswicker, I presume - that she has one leg in New Brunswick and one leg in Newfoundland. I would venture to say, Mr. Chairman, that on this Council you will see members with one leg in Newfoundland and one leg in Scotland, and one leg in the United States and maybe one leg in Ireland somewhere. So, Mr. Chairman, you talk about people who can stretch their legs a long ways, I would say on this committee you will see members whose legs will stretch much further than from here to New Brunswick. So this is the intention of this government, to set up a high power - I do not know what you would call them, but almost like a squad, a high power squad in this Province to try to raise finances, not for the sake of the Newfoundlanders and Labradorians in this Province -

MR. NEARY: They managed to get funding for some of their buddies in Labrador before.

MR. WARREN: That is right.  
- in fact, I believe there is something like \$350,000 that has gone from this government

May 27, 1983

Tape No. 2650

MJ - 2

MR. WARREN:

to a group or company in

Labrador.

MR. NEARY:

I hope they get it.

MR. WARREN:

Well, we will never know. But

we will know, because one of those years, not too far

MR. WARREN:

down the road, the next election or so, we will know because we will come into power. Then we will find out how the \$300,000 went to an individual in Labrador to continue in business. We will find out about that. And we will find out about how this government is trying to appear nice and rosy to the people, but underneath that thick skin it is nothing but deceit to the people. And, Mr. Chairman, on Clause 16 of this bill, I would like the hon. President of the Council (Mr. Marshall) to get up and give a logical explanation why the Economic Council, which the minister said at the beginning is an arm to help government develop the Province, why government wants those sixteen people to purchase land and holdings and buildings. You know, within three or four years from now, if this bill goes through, they will own any bit of Crown land in the Province, all the Crown land in the Province will be occupied, and next year the Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor) will be saying he is going to plow roads into some cabins belonging to Cabinet Ministers-which they are already doing. In fact, out in Middle Gull Pond, Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Development has taken it upon himself, through the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe), to construct about a four kilometer road in past where the present Summer cabins are, four extra miles into the country, for four of his buddies to erect Summer cabins. Now we have almost four kilometers of road gone in past the original road for the sake of four of their buddies to erect Summer cabins. Now, Mr. Chairman, this is the kind of thing we are facing with this government and here we have another blatant attempt at blindfolding the people. I think the hon. minister should get up and explain what is the main purpose of this



MR. WARREN: bill instead of trying to raise the money for the next election for the Conservative Party in this Province?

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, he talks about Miss Fagan straddling Atlantic Canada, The hon. gentleman's tongue straddles Canada, I mean, he has to be saying this with tongue in cheek - he is laughing over there, he knows the difference. But just in case it is picked up by The Daily News, which is about the only publication that might pick up this thing -

MR. WARREN: The Daily News is a good paper.

MR. MARSHALL: - and it reports the words of the hon. gentleman that we are using this for political purposes, this is a normal procedure to put in any body of this nature, to give it the power to hold property. It also provides that they may accept money for the purpose of investment and

MR. MARSHALL: it is to be done in accordance with the Trustee Act. If the hon. member reads the bill he will see that the Auditor General audits the accounts, so it is completely aboveboard. The hon. gentleman knows the Economic Council is not for that purpose at all. The hon. gentlemen opposite are not in the position of making appointments. We are going to make appointments to this council of reputable, very highly regarded and esteemed business people, economists, and people who are concerned with the economy of this Province, and that is going to be the sole and complete criteria.

On motion clauses 16 through 24, carried.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. HODDER: Section 25, "Subject to subsection (3), the Council may cause to be published any studies and reports prepared for the use of the Council as it sees fit.

(2) "All reports and studies prepared by the Council under this Act shall be presented to the minister.

(3) "After the minister has considered the studies and reports presented to him for a reasonable period of time, those studies and reports may be made public."

Now, Mr. Chairman, I would urge, if this bill is going to mean anything at all, if this council is going to mean anything at all to this Province, I would urge the Government House Leader (Mr. Marshall) to change the word 'may' to 'shall', and that would make this bill much more acceptable to this side of the House.

MR. HODDER:

In other words,

Mr. Chairman, what this section is saying is that "the Council may cause to be published," but then the second section limits that even further, saying it "shall be presented to the minister." But it is subsection (3) of section 25 where the problem lies, the problem with the whole bill, "After the minister has considered the studies and reports presented to him for a reasonable period of time, those studies and reports may be made public." In other words, Mr. Speaker, what this section is saying is that the minister does not have to make those reports public, exactly what the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) was saying a few minutes ago, that between the time the council reports to the minister and it is hashed out on the eighth floor, by the time it gets to the House of Assembly the minister can make the decision that the report should not be made public, then it would become a secret document.

MR. NEARY: Like the Mercer report on Connaigre Peninsula.

MR. HODDER: Yes, that is exactly as the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) says, reports have been buried. Every session we run across cases where commissions are set up but never report. We have even had select committees of this House set up and then dropped when they came up with something which was embarrassing to the government. Mr. Chairman, the Government House Leader (Mr. Marshall) should consider changing one word in this particular section, that those studies and reports shall be made public.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman,

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, what the hon. gentleman should realize is there may be reports submitted by the council business activities and economic activities in this Province that the council itself may not wish at the particular time to make public because it may be detrimental to the concern upon which it is reporting. That is the reason. I can only assure the hon. gentleman that is the whole intent of this bill, "After the Minister has considered the studies and reports presented to him for a reasonable period of time, those studies and reports may be made public." Well, they may be made public by the council if it wishes to. So, you know, I mean I would not agree to change the 'may' to 'shall' because it would make it imperative and it could result in reports having to be made public which the council itself deems to be not in the public interest. But certainly the whole import of this is that the council may make it public after

MR. MARSHALL: a reasonable period of time and it is not the intention of the government to do otherwise.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. NEARY: Now we have heard it, Mr. Chairman, now we have confirmation of our suspicion about the hon. gentleman. They will not change a word from 'may' to 'shall' be made public. In other words they want to screen the submissions from the council, the papers and so forth. They want to screen it and only give the House of Assembly what they want us to hear, Mr. Chairman. That is the truth of the matter.

MR. MARSHALL: No, no, no.

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman says, 'No, no, no.' Well, what about the report on the Connaigre Peninsula, the Mercer report? What about that?

MR. DINN: Just read Section 25 into the record and you interpret it yourself.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I have read it, have it here in front of me: "After the Minister has considered the studies and reports presented to him for a reasonable period of time, those studies and reports may be made public." We say, 'shall be made public.'

MR. DINN: That is only Section 25 (3).

MR. NEARY: And the hon. gentleman now is using wishy-washy words, trying to hide behind that clause.

MR. DINN: Read the whole thing.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, the hon. gentleman just told us that there may be things that the council, may not want to make public. Mr. Chairman, I could not think of one item that the council or the

MR. NEARY:

government would not want to make public. I could not think of one item. The only reason for this wording is so that the administration will only bring into the House what they want the House to hear, what they want the members of the House to know, they will not bring anything of an embarrassing nature to the administration, they will not bring anything like that into the House, Mr. Chairman. All we are asking is one simple change, one small change, change the word 'may' to 'shall', and they will not do it. Why will they not do it? Because if we change it it would make it compulsory to have all the information made public. They want to be able to hide things. They want to be able to intercept things on the eighth floor, this great open government. They do not want to level with the House of Assembly, Mr. Chairman. This whole thing is just a charade and a farce. That is all it is. And, as I said when we were discussing the principle of the bill, it is just a move by the administration to try to make themselves look good, to try to leave the impression -

MR. WARREN:

Are we going to vote for this?

MR. NEARY:

No, we are not going to vote for this. - trying to leave the impression that they are doing something when in actual fact they are laying back on their oars, as they have been for the last three or four years, hoping that there will be an upturn in the economy in the United States that might overflow into Newfoundland.

MR. TULK:

Hoping to be rescued by the federal government.

MR. NEARY:

They are hoping to be rescued by the Government of Canada, by Ottawa. They are hoping that Ottawa and Mr. Reagan and Mr. Trudeau will be able to bring about an upturn in the economy and that is why they keep telling

MR. NEARY: their members over there, the caucus, they keep saying to their caucus, time is on our side, do not worry, boys, we have got two or three years. Things are turning around in the United States, things will turn around in Canada two or three years from now when we go to the voters, the whole thing will be completely turned around, it will all blow over, people will be after forgetting about the hard times and about the difficult decisions we have to make and about the taxes we had to put on them, and about our inactivity and our mismanagement. All that will be forgotten. That will blow over. The teachers' strike will be forgotten, the teachers will forget, Mr. Chairman, that is what they are hoping. And that is the kind of an administration

MR. NEARY:

we are dealing with so how can we trust them? All we are asking is to have this word changed from 'may' to 'shall' so that all the information will be made available to the members of the House or to a committee of the House, but they will not do it, Mr. Chairman. Why will they not do it? They say, 'Oh, that is not our intent.' Well, the road to hell was paved with good intentions.

MR. TULK: There is something wrong with the appointments.

MR. NEARY: The appointments? My dear fellow, you have not seen anything yet. This is the crowd that wrote the book when it comes to political appointments.

MR. MARSHALL: You have talked that out too.

MR. NEARY: I know I have talked it out. I mean, what else can I say?

MR. MARSHALL: The government has given you a reason why we will not do it.

MR. NEARY: Yes, the government has given us a reason, we do not accept that reason.

How may different ways can we put it to the administration? They will not listen to reason, they will not change anything, they are bullheaded, they are stubborn and contrary, they will not listen to reason or common sense, Mr. Chairman. They sit over there, arrogant, day in and day out and they will not even accept a simple suggestion from members of this House. All we want - just listen, one word - is 'may' changed to 'shall'.

DR. COLLINS: You said it twice. There are two shalls in that.

MR. NEARY: There is no shall in there, "reports may be made public." The last line of paragraph (3) of Section 25. Will the hon. gentleman agree to change that?



MR. MARSHALL: Will the hon. member sit down?

MR. NEARY: Yes, okay. If the hon. gentleman will get up and make an amendment to that section, I will take my seat.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. MARSHALL: Well, now, Mr. Chairman, the hon. gentleman can debate it from now until Doom's Day. The position the government has taken with respect to it has been stated. That is our position and we are not prepared to change it for the reason I have given. There is no intention of having reports that are made put on shelves by the government and kept aside. The determinant of that is going to be the board itself, but there may come times when the board makes a report to the government which is not in the best interest of the people concerned to make public. That is why the wording there is in such a manner that the report will be made public unless the board deems otherwise. That is the policy of government and that is our position. Now we can talk about it if you want to and we can go on talking about it from now until Doom's Day but the fact of the matter is we have heard what the Opposition said, we have responded to them, we have not yet said, 'No, no, we are not going to do that,' we told them the reason why, we think it is a good and sufficient reason and that is the situation.

MR. NEARY: Well, we do not accept it.

MR. MARSHALL: Well, you do not accept it, that is fine. But, I mean, that is democracy.

MR. NEARY: I know, but maybe in debate we might be able to persuade you to change your mind.

MR. MARSHALL: In the year 2190, when your great, great, ever-so-great grandchild might be in this House, then a Liberal Government change but until then this is the way we go.

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

MR. HODDER: There we go , Mr. Chairman,  
the arrogance of the government shown to us and displayed  
as never before, that when a Liberal government takes over,  
when our great-grandchildren are elected they can change it,  
but the government is not going to change it.

Mr. Chairman, I listened to  
the House Leader (Mr. Marshall), the member for St. John's East,  
I listened to his explanation and he said that the Council  
can decide. This section says nothing about the Council.  
That is not what the section says. It says 'After the  
minister has considered studies and reports presented to him  
for a reasonable period of time, those studies and reports  
may be made public.' That refers to the minister -

MR. NEARY: That is right.

MR. HODDER: - not the Council.

DR. COLLINS: Read 25 (1).

MR. HODDER: Now we might even accept that,  
but, you see, Mr. Chairman, the deck is stacked. First of all  
the government appoints; secondly, the minister is the person  
whom the council reports to. And if a report is prepared  
by this Council and it goes to government, it does not say  
that the Council can decide. That is what the member for  
St. John's East was saying, that the Council would decide.  
But that is not what the section says; it says the minister  
will decide.

And, Mr. Chairman,  
we are asking for a very simple thing which would make this  
Council independent. If the Council saw fit - there is nothing  
about the Council here - the Council can prepare a report

MR. HODDER: on the economy of this Province, it can wish that it be published, but it must report to the minister and then the minister decides; he may or may not make it public.

Now, Mr. Chairman, what kind of a situation can you think of where - when the member stands again, would he tell us what sort of situation, give us some specific examples, where a report which was prepared by the Council, went to the minister -

MR. MARSHALL: May I make a suggestion to the hon. member? The hon. member is being extremely persuasive in his arguments. I have not succeeded in being half as persuasive. That should give the hon. member a lot of confidence. Why does not the hon. member sit down and see whether he has persuaded other people in the House enough to carry his point?

MR. HODDER: What does that mean, Mr. Chairman?

I do not understand what it means. I thought for a minute that the member for St. John's East (Mr. Marshall) was going to stand up, that the Government House Leader was going to stand up and say yes.

MR. MARSHALL: You do not understand what it means? Why do we not put it to a vote now?

MR. NEARY: No, Why put it to a vote? The word has to filter out.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, the word has filtered out and it is 'arrogant'.

MR. NEARY: Well, we want to make sure it is understood.

MR. HODDER: No, Mr. Speaker. A very, very simple amendment, one word, that is all we ask for, one word in one section of the whole act and then we would support the government.

DR. COLLINS: In our view, you are misinterpreting it, you really are.

MR. HODDER: No, Mr. Chairman.

DR. COLLINS: Let me explain it to you.

MR. HODDER: Okay, stand up and explain it.

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

DR. COLLINS: Section

11(2): 'The Council shall, on its own initiative.' undertake studies. Okay? Not 'may', 'shall', Alright?

MR. HODDER: We can read.

DR. COLLINS: Then we go on to annual report,

24(2): 'The Minister shall cause the annual report and statements submitted,' not 'may' but 'shall'. So that says now that the council, quite without anyone's say-so, do whatever studies it says. It says it can put anything it wants into its annual report and the minister must put it into the House.

DR. COLLINS: So that gives you a lot of clearance. But 25(1) is even more important. 25(1) says: 'Subject to subsection (3), the council may cause to be published any study,' not the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may cause it to be published, the council itself 'may cause to be published any study and report prepared as it sees fit.' So it is leaving it totally in the council's hand. 'Subject to subsection (3),' now what does clause 3 say?

MR. HODDER: Look at subsection 25(2).

DR. COLLINS: No, it says 'subject to subsection (3).'

MR. HODDER: It is subject to subsection (2) as well. It says 'shall', it shall be presented to the minister. And then what does it say? It says that 'After the minister has considered the studies and reports presented to him for a reasonable period of time, those studies may be made public.'

MR. MARSHALL: What a lucid explanation! He must be roundly embarrassed.

MR. TULK: Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. TULK: Mr. Chairman, we have just heard the logic of the man again. He is beautiful, he should do it more often. I think he went through and he said the Council shall carry out studies. Yes, that is fair enough. And then I think he says, 'Who do they report to?' They report to the minister.

MR. NEARY: And the minister may make it public.

MR. TULK: Yes, may. He said they can put anything they wish in their report. That is fair enough. Then he said the council may make its report public. What Council? The council that is going to be appointed by that government, their political buddies may make the report public.

Mr. Chairman, I heard the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) just now make some disparaging remarks about the economic performance of Mr. Lalonde under his breath over there. He would do well this year, now to bring in a mini-budget, as he is going to do, but to make sure that that mini-budget contains some of the same kind of stimulative measures that were contained in the Lalonde budget so that unemployment in this Province can drop. If they are really serious, Mr. Chairman, about this economic council, the concept of an economic council is a good idea.

MR. NEARY: We have the example of the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council.

MR. TULK: That is right.

MR. NEARY: Are we still a member of that?

MR. TULK: I do not know. It is hard to say what they are members of.

The concept of an Economic Council for Newfoundland is a good one, because if you look at the performance of this government and look at what they

MR. TULK: have been doing for the past couple of years, somebody needs to plan the economy of this Province and indeed make suggestions as to how it should be run. Let me say this to that government which is so open. The President of the Council (Mr. Marshall) stands up, throws out his arms and says he is wide open. The only think he is wide open in is physically when he does that, because mentally this government has closed its mind all ready on good suggestions coming from anybody.

MR. NEARY: They will not apologize.

MR. TULK: They will not apologize.  
Completely arrogant.

I made an offer to the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) just now about the lobster pots. I have been travelling around this House making a suggestion to him. He tells me that he cannot

MR. TULK: lower the price of the lobster pots because under the Financial Administration Act they have to recover the expenses that the lobster pots cost.

MR. NEARY: Oh what nonsense! That is only an excuse.

MR. TULK: Let us suppose that is true. I said, "All right, if that is the case," I said to the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan), "if that is the case you go out, prepare a bill, and come into this House and in ten minutes this House will unanimously pass your resolution." He refuses to do it.

MR. MORGAN: \$7 is a reasonable price.

MR. TULK: \$7 is a reasonable price! Now that is not the full story. The truth is that those lobster pots that are going to cost the fishermen of the Northeast Coast something like \$10.

MR. MORGAN: \$7.

MR. TULK: No. The pots that you are talking about - do you not realize that? - the lobster pots that you are talking about have no -

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

MR. CHAIRMAN (McNicholas): A point of order, the hon. President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: Maybe I lost the trend of the relevance here -

MR. TULK: Yes, you did.

MR. MARSHALL: - but we are on a bill with respect to the Economic Council, and we are in Committee, and we are talking about the release of a report of the council. Now I suggest to you, Mr. Chairman, that in Committee certainly the rules of relevancy really have to be applied. The hon. gentleman is getting on lobster pots and all the rest of it. I mean we answered



MR. MARSHALL:

this situation with respect to it, but it has no relevancy to this, unless I have missed something, the contorted reasonings of the hon. gentleman.

MR. TULK:

Mr. Chairman, to that point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN (McNicholas):

To that point of order, the hon. member for Fogo.

MR. TULK:

I was being entirely relevant, Mr. Chairman, because what I was doing was pointing out the need for an economic council to give this government some direction and I was using the lobster pot incident that we have -

MR. MARSHALL:

No, that is not relevant.

MR. TULK:

He was talking, he should have been listening - as an example of the kind of direction that this economic council could give to this government.

MR. MARSHALL:

Well, that is a matter of opinion.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

I rule that it is a difference of opinion between two hon. members. The member for Fogo.

MR. TULK:

Mr. Chairman, as I was saying in my example, before I was so rudely interrupted by good old sweetness over there this morning - he has been eating lumps of sugar in the hope that he can stay sweet in order to get out of there, but he rudely interrupted me. Mr. Chairman, the hon. gentleman makes me smile; when I see him smile I have to smile too because it is unusual to see that happen.

Mr. Chairman, what I was saying was that here was an example of where we could have said to the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) this morning, we really could have done something for disaster areas if

MR. TULK: this government had been open to suggestions from people, as they must be open to suggestions from this economic council that they are trying to set up - or supposedly trying to set up. I do not believe that this economic council will be anything more or less than the same thing that we have got over there now. A group of people who agree with the government will be appointed those people who agree with whatever the government are doing, those are the people who we will see appointed. The President of the Council (Mr. Marshall), is going to smile again.

MR. BAIRD: That really throws you off.

MR. TULK: That throws you off when you see him smile, that throws you off. I have to tell him, Mr. Chairman, that I do not believe he is going to get out of here today, his vacation is still going to be interrupted. He may go on, I do not know, but he is going to be interrupted.

MR. TULK: Mr. Chairman, the Province does need economic direction. There is none in the hon. Minister of Finance's (Dr. Collins) Budget. He has taxed everything he can find. He has very few other sources of revenue, and we need somebody to establish a good tax base for him. We need people to come in and advise this government. But it is of very little use to have Tories advising Tories, and that is what we are going to see with this Economic Council: We are going to see Tories advising Tories.

MR. NEARY: Ask me Tory brother.

MR. HODDER: And in case there might be some little sense, the government has the ability to ignore the Council.

MR. TULK: Oh, sure! Sure!

MR. NEARY: They will toss in a couple of gentlemen to try to make it look good.

MR. TULK: They may, but I would not go so far as that. There will not be anybody on that Economic Council who is not a Tory.

MR. NEARY: That is right. Anybody on that Council will be well checked out.

MR. TULK: He would be well checked out.

MR. MARSHALL: We cannot find any Liberals in the Province except you people.

MR. TULK: I could name several for him, Mr. Chairman. I would say that a good person - and I do not really know what her politics is, I really do not - would be Christine Fagan.

MR. NEARY: Yes, without a doubt.

MR. NEARY: The member for Harbour  
Grace (Mr. Young) would be delighted.

MR. TULK: He is smiling again.  
Will you go out? You are making me laugh. You are eating  
lumps of sugar over there.

MR. YOUNG: Sweet! Sweet!

MR. TULK: He is eating lumps of  
sugar. Christine Fagan would be a good choice.

MR. NEARY: Harry Steele.

MR. TULK: Harry Steele again.

MR. NEARY: He is a good man, but he will  
not get on .

MR. TULK: Do you know what  
they believe over there about Mr. Steele? They  
are starting to believe over there these days that  
Mr. Steele is a Liberal.

MR. NEARY: Is that right?

DR. COLLINS: I am looking after him.

MR. TULK: They are suspicious of Mr.  
Steele.

MR. NEARY: They are suspicious of him  
because they cannot control him.

MR. TULK: They cannot control him.  
And what they do not know  
is that Mr. Steele is the most conservative - small 'c'  
conservative-man in this Province. He totally believes in  
private enterprise, as that government should, right? A  
Tory government should believe in private enterprise.

DR. COLLINS: What about Malcolm Montgomery

MR. TULK: Malcolm Montgomery, I met  
the gentleman, I believe, once.

MR. HODDER: And he was forced out.

MR. NEARY: You forced him out of the Province.

MR. TULK: You kicked him out. The government, through Memorial University, took away his right to work in this Province.

MR. NEARY: That is right.

MR. TULK: Took away his right to work. Drove the man out of the Province. Again, an example of a person that they did not like.

MR. MARSHALL: I tell you what we will do. We will ask John Doyle if he will come back here.

MR. TULK: Never mind John Doyle. He probably -

MR. NEARY: You might get a good man.

MR. TULK: - did as good a job as has ever been done by this government. At least John Doyle -

MR. NEARY: Created something.

MR. TULK: - created something, built something.

DR. COLLINS: He sure did.

MR. TULK: At least he built something, and they are over there busily closing it down.

MR. TULK: At least he did that much.

MR. HODDER: He created a lot of jobs in Labrador.

MR. TULK: He created a lot of jobs in Labrador. The member for Menihek (Mr. Walsh), I know, has to be very grateful for it because of the jobs he created. Mr. Chairman, I want to finish off the few remarks I am making by challenging the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) and the President of the Council (Mr. Marshall) to stand up and at least set up another mechanism for appointment of those people. Do that. That will test their mettle, that will tell what kind of a government we have. Stand up and have people appointed, for example, from the Board of Trade; say that one person on that council must be from the Board of Trade another person from the construction association, another person might be from the fishermen's union, but leave it to them as to who they are going to put on the Economic Council.

MR. HODDER: The municipalities should be represented.

MR. TULK: The municipalities might put one on. That will test the mettle of the Minister of Finance and the President of the Council and our Premier, our 'Brian.' That will test the mettle of our Brian.

MR. CHAIRMAN (McNicholas): Order, please!

The hon. member's time has elapsed.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, I will just say a few words. since -

MR. TULK: Have another lump of sugar.

MR. MARSHALL: - we are talking about Section 25, and with respect to the studies, I just reiterate again Mr. Chairman, this is a reasonable government that from time to time has accepted -

MR. HODDER: You are going to change it?

MR. MARSHALL: No.

- from time to time has accepted amendments in committee. That was completely unknown is some far off days; you would not dare open your mouth in Opposition to suggest an amendment. We have accepted amendments in committee from time to time. The hon. gentleman got up and he has given a presentation and that presentation sounds reasonable. I have gotten up and given a response, and that was reasonable. What I say to the hon. gentleman, if the word 'shall' were to achieve the purpose better we would be quite prepared to put it in. But for reasons I have already given, 'shall' does not do the trick. The way it is there, there may be times when these studies is not in the best interest of the people concerned

MR. MARSHALL: To publicize them immediately and that is why the word 'may' is in there and the 'may' -

MR. WARREN: There is nothing about immediately.

MR. MARSHALL: Or immediately after the reasonable time has expired.

- and the 'may' is in there because it is the council that 'may' put out these reports, and the import of that section is absolutely and completely clear in that respect. So, I do not see why you are debating semantics, because the government's position, for reasons given, is that we cannot accept the amendment and that is the situation. So, you can debate it all you want to, but ultimately we are going to have to vote on that section. I do not know what my colleagues on this side of the House are going to do. Maybe they have been convinced by the rhetoric of the member for Port au Port (Mr. Hodder) and his very reasoned arguments, but the point of the matter is there is reasonable answer and we are not going to do it.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, obviously the administration have dug in and they are going to force this bill through the House.

MR. TULK: Not today.

MR. NEARY: Now the hon. gentleman says put it to a vote. Ha! There is a brave hon. gentleman. Forty-four against eight, put it to a vote.

MR. TULK: What a hockey team.

MR. NEARY: What a team. You know, Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) I thought made a statement that topped them all, it had to do with Mr. Montgomery, and that is



MR. NEARY: exactly the point we are raising. Mr. Montgomery, who was a professor at Memorial, is a graduate of some of the most ancient universities on the face of this earth, who is a professor of international business, dared to criticize this administration and when he criticized the administration -

MR. SIMMS: Where is he from.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, do you have to be from somewhere now to get on this council or what?

MR. SIMMS: Answer the question, Where is he from?

MR. NEARY: He was from the other side. The Isle of Lewis.

MR. SIMMS: Where?

MR. HODDER: The Isle of Lewis.

MR. TULK: Write it down for him.

MR. HODDER: Off the island of Scotland.

MR. NEARY: Right off the coast of Scotland.

MR. ANDREWS: In the Hebrides group of islands.

MR. SIMMS: Why was he here?

MR. NEARY: Yes. Is there anything wrong with that.

MR. TULK: Is there anything wrong with that?

What are you asking?

MR. NEARY: Why this line of questioning?

As far as I know, the gentleman was a supporter of the Labour Party and the Conservative Party in Great Britain, supported both; he was here three or four years, came in here on a permit, and that is the point I am making, Mr. Chairman.

DR. COLLINS: What happened to him?

MR. NEARY: Here is what happened to him - and the same thing will happen to any member appointed to this council who dares to step out of line, he made a statement against the budget

MR. NEARY:

the hon. gentleman brought down, he said that the administration had mismanaged the natural resources of this Province. Then the word was sent from the hierarchy, from the dictator, to Memorial University -

DR. COLLINS:

That is an insult to the President of the University.

MR. NEARY:

Oh, it is an insult. I see. The word was sent down the line. Now this gentleman was working on a permit -

DR. COLLINS:

How could you make such a statement?

MR. NEARY:

- working on a permit that had to be renewed by the university, in order for him to continue his work at the university they had to pick up his permit at Immigration, and the University refused to renew the permit. So the gentleman -

MR. FULK:

What reason did they give?

MR. NEARY:

No reason. The gentleman in question could not stay in this country and work, he could not stay here without work, he was not allowed to work, so therefore he had to leave and go back to the other side.

DR. COLLINS: I have greater faith in the university than that.

MR. YOUNG:

Why do you not give him the job of organizer for the Liberal Party?

MR. NEARY:

There is the dirt, there is the low, filth from the member for Harbour Grace again, the low filth and dirt. What a minister! What a minister, Mr. Chairman! No wonder they are in such bad shape over there when they have ministers like the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan), and the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Young). No wonder they are in such bad shape. The lowest form of life, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN (McNicholas): A point of order, the hon. President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: This is not relevant to this section. I could point out that in Committee this morning the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) has styled it a supreme insult to call anybody a Liberal, i.e. Mrs. Fagan, and now on the other side of the coin to say that somebody was an organizer of the Liberal Party, and what dirt it is to be an organizer of the Liberal Party. So they have not got too high an esteem of themselves. They do not hold themselves in too great esteem, Mr. Chairman. But the fact of the matter is what I am trying to do is to break the gentleman's train of thought, it is like shock treatment what I am trying to give the hon. gentleman. What we are on, as I say, we are on section 25 of the bill. What we are debating is whether or not the word 'shall' should go in there in subsection (3), and I fail to see how this has anything to do with Mr. Montgomery, or sullying or insulting anybody by calling them a Liberal in any case.

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. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) was merely pointing out what could happen to anyone who speaks out against the government. We are debating a bill and we are setting up an economic council of Newfoundland and Labrador and the council is being totally controlled by government. These people will be allowed to make studies but the government has the right to suppress them, and

MR. HODDER: the Leader of the Opposition  
(Mr. Neary) was merely pointing out that in one case it  
already happened in the Province -

MR. NEARY: That is right.

MR. HODDER: - of a person who was an  
economist and probably would have been a very good person  
on this council, that when he spoke out against the govern-  
ment he got insulting phone calls from the Minister of  
Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) -

MR. NEARY: Right on!

MR. HODDER: - and then suddenly he was booted -  
out of the Province. Now, Mr. Chairman, I mean, what could  
be more relevant to this group of economists and businessmen  
who are going to be appointed here?

MR. CHAIRMAN (Dr. McNicholas): To that point of order,  
I do feel the hon. the Leader of the Opposition is straying  
somewhat from the debate; however, on this particular individual  
I think he was provoked by comments on Mr. Montgomery. So  
I call on the hon. the Leader of the Opposition to continue.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, so much for academic  
freedom in this Province. My colleague just reminded me,  
the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) by the way - another  
example of the behaviour of the Minister of Fisheries -  
called up this gentleman and insulted him on the phone,  
Mr. Chairman. But it is an indication of what can happen  
to members of this council. If they dare step out of line  
they will be whipped back in line fast or they will find  
themselves out in the cold.

So, Mr. Chairman, the hon.  
gentleman can lecture us all he wants about how the  
government are going to dig in, they are going to vote  
one way and we are going to vote another way. Let us  
have the vote.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, the hon. gentleman does not believe in debate, the hon. gentleman does not believe in the powers of persuasion. The hon. gentleman is going to make his people on the benches over there toe the party line, we know that. There may be somebody over there - and we know, Mr. Chairman, there are a number of dissidents in the caucus. We know it would not take very much now, Mr. Chairman, in that caucus over there to see a palace coup on the other side. So, Mr. Chairman, why should we not continue to debate? Somebody over there might have pangs of conscience, somebody might rebel.

DR. COLLINS: Are you open to a deal?

MR. NEARY: Well, the deal is, change the word 'may' to 'shall'. That is the deal.

DR. COLLINS: Well, how about we want and see. Why do you not let it go as it is and if the council does not work, in a couple of years time we will amend the act.

MR. NEARY: 'Out of the mouths

MR. NEARY: of babes, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, let it go. Look, anything the hon. gentleman has to do with we would not let go. We have no faith, no confidence at all in the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins), none at all. And the hon. gentleman can get up in his pious way and say, 'Well, let it go, trust us, give us a chance and we will amend it the next time.' Mr. Chairman, my answer to that is by the way that the rule changes in this House were made for one year and the administration agreed to come back after one year and review the rule changes.

DR. COLLINS: No, we did not.

MR. NEARY: Oh, that is what they did.

MR. HODDER: That they did.

MR. NEARY: We have it in writing and they did not do it and now the hon. gentleman is asking us to trust him again, trust the administration again. You can not trust them as far as you can throw them, Mr. Chairman. And what will happen is that this council will report to the minister, the minister will take his time and weed out the embarrassing parts of the papers and of the reports and toss them aside and come into the House of Assembly and tell us the things that he wants us to hear. Now that is what is going to happen. So, maybe we will take the vote, maybe everybody is exhausted, they cannot think of a new way to put it. I am getting stuck for words myself. I have put it in language that, even with the mentality for the member of Harbour Grace (Mr. Young), he could understand it, even with his mentality. The hon. gentleman can get up and joke. With the mentality of the Minister of Public Works will laugh at it.

MR. HODDER: That was a terrible thing he said about Christine Fagan. One leg in New Brunswick and the other in Newfoundland.

MR. NEARY: Yes, it is a terrible thing he said about Christine Fagan.

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman gets up and he tries to make his jokes, the hon. gentleman does not really have a sense of humour but, with the mentality of the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Young), he may get a snicker and a grin from that hon. gentleman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (McNicholas): Order, please!

On motion, clauses 25 to 28 carried.

A bill, "An Act To Establish  
An Economic Council For The Province." (Bill No. 1).

Motion, that the Committee report  
having passed the bill without amendment, carried.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, this morning the  
hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) indicated  
that when the time came he would give the Minister of  
Culture, Recreation and Youth (Mr. Simms) the opportunity  
to make a statement, which he is now ready to give.

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

MR. SIMMS: Mr. Chairman, I want to thank hon. members for reverting to Statements By Ministers. I want to make a statement with respect to the visit of the Royal Highnesses, the Prince and the Princess of Wales. Statements have now been released in London and in Ottawa and the final confirmation of the visit of the Royal Highnesses to Newfoundland has now been received, and this visit, scheduled to take place from June 22 to June 25 is part of a three week Canadian Royal Tour and the Newfoundland portion comes mid-way in the visit.

The Prince and Princess of Wales will arrive in St. John's at 4:45 p.m. on June 22 onboard a Canadian Forces aircraft from Ottawa. During their stay in Newfoundland, they will undertake a varied programme of events designed largely to ensure that the people of this Province will have as many opportunities as possible to see them in person and through the media.

The events scheduled for this visit to Newfoundland by the Prince and Princess include a reception for heads of municipal governments, from all incorporated communities throughout Newfoundland and Labrador, participation in the First Festival of Youth at King George V Park, and as well at the Memorial Stadium, and a visit to the Janeway Children's Hospital. The Prince of Wales will also make a presentation of new colours to the Royal Newfoundland Regiment where members of the Royal Canadian Legion will be presented, and some of those Legionaries will also have an opportunity to meet the Prince of Wales during an informal inspection.

One of the highlights of this Royal visit will be the official opening of Newfoundland's 400 anniversary celebrations scheduled to take place on Friday, June 24, Discovery Day, in special ceremonies scheduled



MR. SIMMS: to take place at the Canada Games Park. The Royal couple will also travel to Cape Spear National Historic Park where they will take part in ceremonies marking the official opening of this very popular facility which attracts so many visitors each year. They will then travel to St. John's City Hall for an informal civic luncheon. There will also be the "Beat The Retreat" Ceremony as performed by the Royal Marine Band on the dock adjacent to Her Majesty's yacht Britannia. The Royal yacht will be used as the official residence for the Prince and Princess of Wales during their visit.

The Britannia will sail from St. John's in the late evening of June 24, that is, Friday, for Conception Bay, contrary to some comments that were made in the media earlier. The Royal couple will come ashore then in Carbonear on Saturday, June 25 at 10:15 a.m. They will then drive to Harbour Grace where they will be taking part in a programme of activities designed to help celebrate that historic community's own 400 anniversary this year. Following an informal civic luncheon the Prince and Princess of Wales will embark on the Britannia at Harbour Grace on route to Prince Edward Island.

I am sure that all of the people of

MR. SIMMS:

Newfoundland and Labrador will be pleased that it has been possible for their Royal Highnesses to come to Newfoundland on their first Canadian visit and to be participants in the start of our 400th. Anniversary celebrations. A full programme of events and motorcade routes will be published in advance of the visit. Attached to the statement, Mr. Chairman, is an itinerary as well and I will be following this up with a press briefing shortly, to go through some detailed questions that the press might have. Again I thank the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary).

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, we thank the hon. gentleman for supplying us with this information of the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales. According to the agenda that was just presented by the hon. gentleman, no doubt they will have a very busy schedule, starting out their visit to Canada here in this Province. We are all looking forward very much to meeting the Prince and the Princess and we are awfully disappointed that they could not bring their son. Mr. Chairman, I am sure that I express the views of a good many Newfoundlanders when I say that we were disappointed that they had to drop their son from the visit to Canada. It is too bad that while the Prince is here that he does not have the power to dismiss a government, or dismiss a premier, Mr. Chairman, but I want to remind the House -

MR. MARSHALL: Come off it!

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman should be able to take a little joke. Have they lost their sense of humour over there, Mr. Chairman? I would like to remind the hon. gentleman, I do not know if it is too late because I realize

MR. NEARY: the complications of getting the agenda changed, the procedure that you have to go through, but hon. members must realize that this is the 150th. Anniversary of the House of Assembly of this Province -

MR. HODDER: Democracy.

MR. NEARY: - when democracy came to this Province, this old rock. And I believe, Mr. Chairman, as I suggested in the case of the visit of His Holiness the Pope, that it might be worthwhile to convene a special session of the Legislature so that the Prince could come and address the people's House on the 150th. Anniversary of the House of Assembly in this Province.

MR. NEARY: It is something that has not been recognized by anybody so far in this session of the House, Mr. Chairman. I mention it now but it is probably too late to do anything about it. But it does have some significance.

MR. HODDER: More significance than Sir Humphrey Gilbert being here.

MR. NEARY: That is right, more than Sir Humphrey Gilbert landing here. Perhaps the Government House Leader (Mr. Marshall) if he is not in too much of a hurry to shut the House down, might wish to recognize this historic fact sometime before we adjourn the House. Nevertheless, we are quite pleased about the agenda, especially the type of exposure that the Prince and Princess will get. We realize that it is a short visit, not long enough. I suppose these kinds of visits never will be long enough, but we are pleased that the Prince and Princess will have an opportunity to visit other parts of the Province and will get as much exposure to the ordinary people as possible. That is very important, that the ordinary Newfoundlander and Labradorian - and again, I must express disappointment that Labrador is not included in the tour, Mr. Chairman. There will be a civic reception, I think the hon. gentleman said, for heads of municipalities. Maybe some of the heads of the municipalities throughout Labrador will get an opportunity to come to the Island to meet the Prince and the Princess.

So we are delighted with the agenda, Mr. Chairman, and we are all looking forward to their visit beginning June 22nd.

DR. COLLINS: Congratulate the minister.

MR. NEARY: No, the minister had nothing to do with this. The minister is merely conveying

MR. NEARY: information to the House.

It is Government House that arranges the agenda and it is done in conjunction with the provincial minister and the minister in Ottawa.

MR. SIMMS: It has to be worked out between -

MR. NEARY: Pardon?

MR. SIMMS: - the department and Government House.

MR. NEARY: And it all has to be processed through the system. But if the hon. gentleman is entitled to any credit, I congratulate him, Mr. Chairman. And we are all eagerly looking forward to the visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Dr. McNicholas): The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Mr. Chairman, I have the answer to a question asked by the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren). I will just table it. It is related to that \$470,000 that was not spent and so on, and the reason for it, from the parliamentary secretary to the minister.

The major cause of a shortfall in expenditure under the Labrador agreement was a problem with implementing the housing programme. There is no local mechanism in place for the delivery of the housing programme in the designated communities. Without such a mechanism, the department was unable to pay out the money allocated. The problem is a complex one requiring a local agency to construct the houses and administer the programme. The Inuit communities are now in the process of setting a local Housing Corporation to fill this need. It is very important to note that any short fall of funds under the Native People's agreement in any one fiscal year is carried over to the next fiscal year; therefore, there is no money lost because it was not expended in the time frame that was given. So it

PREMIER PECKFORD: will be spent on housing in the upcoming year and the only reason it had not been spent is the agency had not been put in place by the Native Peoples but they are now in the process of putting that agency in place so that money can be spent and it will not be lost.

MR. MARSHALL: Order 4, Bill No. 9.  
A bill, "An Act To Amend The Pharmaceutical Association Act." (Bill No. 9)  
On motion, clauses 1 through 8, carried.

Motion, that the Committee report having passed the bill without amendment, carried.

MR. MARSHALL: Order 5, Bill No. 24.  
A bill, "An Act To Amend The Co-Operative Societies Act." (Bill No. 24).  
On motion, clauses 1 through 10, carried.

Motion, that the Committee report having passed the bill without amendment, carried.

MR. MARSHALL: Order 6, Bill No. 30.  
A bill, "An Act To Amend The Pippy Park Commission Act." (Bill No. 30)  
On motion, clauses 1 and 2, carried.

Motion, that the Committee report having passed the bill without amendment, carried.

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

On motion, clauses (1) through (9) carried.

Motion, that the Committee report having passed the bill without amendment, carried.

A bill, "An Act Respecting An Increase Of Certain Pensions". (Bill No. 35)

On motion, clauses (1) through (4) carried.

Motion, that the Committee report having passed the bill without amendment, carried.

A bill, "An Act Respecting An Increase Of Certain Pensions For Transferred Employees". (Bill No. 36).

On motion, clauses (1) through (4) carried.

Motion, that the Committee report having passed the bill without amendment, carried.

MR. CHAIRMAN (McNicholas): A bill, "An Act To Amend The Uniformed Services Pensions Act." (Bill No. 41).

Motion, that the Committee report having passed the bill without amendment, carried.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee rise, report progress with respect to the passage of Motions 1 and 2 and Orders 3 through 10.

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

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!  
The hon. the member for St. John's Centre.

DR. MCNICHOLAS: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of the Whole have met and considered the matters to them referred and report having passed certain resolutions and bills consequent thereto, without amendment (Bill Nos. 37 and 45), and Bill Nos. 1, 9, 24, 30, 39, 35, 36 and 41 without amendment and ask leave to sit again.

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

On motion, Bill Nos. 37 and 45 ordered read a first, second and third time now, by leave.



RESOLUTION

Be it resolved by the House of Assembly in Legislative Session convened, as follows:

That it is expedient to bring in a measure to authorize the raising from time to time by way of loan on the credit of the Province the sum of Two hundred and twenty million dollars (\$220,000,000) and such additional sum or sums of money as may be required to retire, repay, renew or refund securities issued under any Act of the Province.

On motion, resolution read a first and second time.

On motion, a Bill, "An Act To Authorize The Raising Of Money By Way Of Loan By The Province", read a first, second and third time, ordered passed and its title be as on the Order Paper. (Bill No. 37)

RESOLUTION

Be it resolved by the House of Assembly in Legislative Session convened, as follows:

That it is expedient to bring in a measure to amend The Gasoline Tax Act, 1978 relating to the imposition of a tax on marine fuel for certain boats and vessels.

On motion, resolution read a first and second time.

On motion, a bill,  
'An Act To Amend The Gasoline Tax Act, 1978", read a first,  
second and third time, ordered passed and its title be as  
on the Order Paper. (Bill No. 25)

Motion, second reading  
of a bill, "An Act To Amend The Attachment Of Wages Act".  
(Bill No. 40)

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, on behalf  
of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Ottehneimer) who is presently  
with the Commonwealth Parliamentary delegation, the  
Canadian Branch, I introduce this bill. The purpose of  
the bill is fairly simple, Mr. Speaker. Under The Attachment  
Of Wages Act there had been certain limitations on a person's  
salary or on a person's commissions that they received, which  
could not be taken by way of attachment on judgement debts.

What had been done and  
had been done in the past was that these amounts were  
set by the Legislature from time to time. In order to  
give more ease for the government to be able to operate  
in an easier manner with respect to that the Act is being  
amended to provide that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council  
may from time to time increase the amount of exemption.

So if that is the purpose  
of the bill I would draw to the attention of the House that  
the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may not decrease but  
it may increase and it will from time to time as the  
circumstances require.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for the  
Strait, of Belle Isle.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I will be just  
as brief as the minister, although we on this side as a  
principle do not like legislation which confers powers

MR. ROBERTS: upon the Governor in Council that ought to be reserved to the House. I think this is one of the examples of the situations where legislation ought to confer powers upon the Governor in Council. I assume and it is not written in the legislation, and I am not sure how it could be. I assume it is the Cabinet's intention to increase the amounts exempted from time to time in keeping them in step with the basic social service assistance allowance. That is how the rates have always been determined in the past. And the section which we are repealing is the current - or before the most recent budgetary adjustments was the current allocation made under the basic social assistance programme. That has always been the standard. In effect, you are allowed to keep free from your judgment creditors you are allowed to keep an amount equivalent to that which you get from welfare, the able-bodied relief in the old days.

So I would hope the minister when he closes the debate could confirm that that is the ministry's intention so we at least have it as a matter of record.

The other point I would make is one of administration,

MR. ROBERTS:

but one which I draw to the minister's attention both in his capacity as a solon here in the House but also in his capacity as one of us grubbing around at the bar for a living. The attachment of Wages Act is a piece of legislation which does come up from time to time in the course of one's professional career, you are asked for advice on it, you are asked what amounts are exempted. Up to now it has been relatively easy you simply look up the act you realize there are amendments, you check the amendments and then you give advice to your client that the following amounts are protected. We are now moving to the era where the amounts to be protected or exempted will be set by Cabinet order. Fair enough, but there has got to be a mechanism. I suggest to the minister for making the order public and also for making sure that those concerned know about it. Now there is no requirement in this Act the minister will note, that the order be gazetted. If my friend from Bellevue (Mr. Callan) would speak a little more softly I should be grateful. The end of the week it is hard to emote on such an emotional subject. The Minister, I am sure, will see what I am getting at. There is no requirement that that order be placed in The Gazette and an Order in Council can be made without being gazetted and it is still effective. Now that is point one. I am not suggesting that we amend the Act although he might want to speak to the draftsmen perhaps in committee they could bring in an amendment and deal with it in that way. But more importantly can the minister undertake to put into place some machinery to communicate to anybody

MR. ROBERTS:                    who has got a legitimate interest in it, the solicitors in the Province, only a couple of hundred, the courts in the Province, the credit bureaus in the Province, these bloodsuckers, the credit bureaus I have no use for them, they are legitimate gentlemen doing their business but they are bloodsuckers, these credit counselling agencies, I do not think anybody who is involved in the sheriff's office obviously because attachments are often carried out through the sheriff's office perhaps the Manufacturers Association or the Boards of Trade, that kind of people, the Labour Unions the people who are interested in this kind of matter. Can the order be communicated

MR. ROBERTS:

because it is quite possible, Mr. Speaker, now when this bill is adopted, as it will be, and when it becomes law, as it will, that the Cabinet could make an order increasing the exemption - and a good thing it is to increase the exemption - and that would be legally in effect even though there might be large numbers of people who would have no access to the information. I will not belabour the point, but I think the minister will take it. I am sure he understands it. I hope he will agree to act upon it. Surely, we can work out some machinery to inform those who should know. It should go in The Gazette, but simply putting something in The Gazette is not enough, in my view, to meet the situation here. This is a piece of legislation which affects a great number of people from time to time. It is one that is often called into play. It is a good idea to amend the Attachment of Wages Act and it is a good idea, in my view, to let the Cabinet amend it from time to time by increasing the exemption amounts by Order-in-Council. What we do need is a mechanism to ensure that those who are affected are aware of the amendments. It is one thing being in the House is that in the House you are aware of it, you know it. The acts are there, they are published and they are widely available. An Order-in-Council, with all respect, as I think the minister would agree, is not. But subject to those comments, Sir, we do support the bill.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, I just want to say a few words. When the member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Roberts) was speaking, he jogged my memory. He reminded me when he mentioned the collection agencies in this Province - and I believe the member for the Strait of Belle Isle

MR. HODDER: called them bloodsuckers.

MR. ROBERTS: That is a parliamentary word,  
I can point it out for you.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, I had a situation where a couple of my constituents whom I know very well, had a problem with a house which had been built through the rural, remote programme with Newfoundland and Labrador Housing. They had expended some moneys on this particular home personally, but the money would be coming back to them and they were waiting for the money to arrive through Newfoundland and Labrador Housing. In the meantime, their names were put in a collection agency. Mr. Speaker, even though I, as the member, spoke to that particular collection agency, even though the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation had said that they would refund this money, the collection agency paid no attention. They paid no attention to logic. I told them what the situation was. I told them that they should contact the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation, that there was a problem. The people I speak of would not have been rich by the very fact that they qualified for a rural and remote home.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, at the time I spent some time with these people and I actually made notes of the type of calls that they were receiving, harrassment day and night from a collection agency here in St. John's. And, Mr. Speaker, when I spoke to these people they were as rude with me as they were with the people they were harrassing. They harrassed these particular individuals so badly that they paid the money, and then there was another problem. But, Mr. Speaker, some of the language that was used, both to myself and to the individuals, was abusive. At one time I sold a business and when I sold the business there was a matter of a credit card which had been used for business gasoline but it happened to be in my name, the people who took over the company that I sold, told me that this would be looked after but they had to have their auditors go through and check certain things out. In the meantime I guess my name got placed with a collection agency, Mr. Speaker, the low down tactics that these people used, and logic means nothing to them, the attitude that some of those collection agencies take is that we are going after this person and they go after them in the worst sort of a way. I mean the modus operandi I suppose of those companies is to harrass and torment until people become so tired of their calling and complaining and everything else that they force people to pay.

Mr. Speaker, while it is not much to do -

MR. CALLAN: Germane.

MR. HODDER: - germane I suppose, the member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan) is helping me with my words - but while it is not perhaps germane to this bill I think that the government should look at some of the practices of those collection



MR. HODDER: agencies, Mr. Speaker, because I think most members of this House, a lot of members, have had this sort of problem, or have had constituents who have had this sort of problem. And, Mr. Speaker, I think that there has to be some sort of code of ethics or guidelines for the collection agencies whereby they can be regulated so that when a person has a genuine problem and there is a solution to that problem, that the companies can be brought into line. Mr. Chairman, the word bloodsucker is certainly an appropriate one as far as these companies are concerned.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): If the hon. the President of the Council now speaks, he will close the debate.

The hon. the President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I am in agreement with the member for Port au Port (Mr. Hodder). I think all members of the House will agree with the comments that he has made because we have come upon it from time to time. I can say that the government through the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Justice has moved in recent years to see what they could do and what could be done to curb such practices by a collection agency, and I think considerable progress has been made. But in the meantime, if members have any specific complaints of that nature, I think the best thing to do is report them to Consumer Affairs and if they do not get satisfactory response, let us know and can see what can be done to alter the situation. Because, as I say, the history with respect to collection agencies has not been admirable.

The hon. the member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Roberts) mentioned just a couple of things I would refer to. The social assistance rates, he mentions as having been the historic tag for the amount of the exemption under the attachment of wages. Certainly it will continue at that rate and it may go even higher.

As to the business of promulgation of the order, we will certainly look at that, but I can advise the hon. member, I think certainly as he would know, that these exemptions are normally handled through the sheriff's office; every time there is an attachment, it goes through the sheriff's office and when the sheriff places his attachment, on the back of the attachment are

MR. MARSHALL: instructions with respect to the amount of exemption. So certainly, that machinery will continue and continue in place, but at the same time, his comments are well taken that there should be promulgation and we will certainly look at the situation.

With those words, Mr. Speaker, I move second reading.

On motion, a bill, "An Act To Amend The Attachment Of Wages Act," read a second time, ordered referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow. (Bill No. 40).

MR. MARSHALL: Order 39.

Motion, second reading of a bill, "An Act To Amend The Insurance Companies Tax Act And The Insurance Premiums Tax Act, 1978," (Bill No. 46).

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

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, the explanatory note that is an integral part of the document - it is not an integral part of the bill, obviously, but it is an integral part of the document to which the bill is part, I think lays out the reason for this bill.

DR. COLLINS: I could just read that I think. The bill will amend the Insurance Companies Tax Act by changing the date from the 31st of March to the 20th of March, on which an insurance company must file a return.

MR. NEARY: We can read but why are you doing it? That is what we want to know.

DR. COLLINS: And pay the appropriate tax to the minister without incurring a penalty.

MR. NEARY: He does not know.

DR. COLLINS: Now, Mr. Speaker, the reason why we do that is that 31st of March of course is the end of the fiscal year, and when there are delays that can cause difficulties because the revenue will not come in during the fiscal year.

MR. ROBERTS: You could leave the accounts open for a month, that is what you could do.

DR. COLLINS: But you do not do that, you see, for revenues. Not for revenues.

MR. ROBERTS: Yes, you do.

DR. COLLINS: No, you do not. You do it for expenditures but not revenues.

Now many companies actually put in their returns well before the 31st of March, but there is no obligation laid upon them. So this will then actually allow a ten day or an eleven day period for the mails to operate and get the taxes in on time. And the same reason is why we want to amend The Insurance Premiums Tax Acts.

The hon. the member for the Strait of Belle Isle, he is quite correct when he says that we can keep the books open for expenditures but in actual

DR . COLLINS: fact, the Financial Administration Act does not allow us to do that for revenue. So this is why we bring in this amend to make the keeping of the accounts of the Province more efficient and less complicated.

So with those explanatory remarks I move the bill.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, far be it from those of us on this side to object to such a major reform in the fiscal management of the Province. There will be a meeting tonight in Northeast Crouse in my constituency a public meeting to pass a resolution congratulating the minister on this. It is going to be an unusual meeting because people left Northeast Crouse eight or ten years ago.

MR. NEARY: Sea gulls.

MR. ROBERTS: But there will be a meeting I am sure.

MR. TULK: A meeting of the sea gulls.

MR. ROBERTS: There will be dancing in the streets doubtless in Lewisporte, Your Honour. Your Honour may be even leading the dancing in the streets. And over in Norris Arm , both North and South, I am sure there will be bonfires, there will be public celebrations from headland to headland from Chidley to Cape Race and from out on the Bill of Cape St. George, if we can ever find that last forgotten fisherman that Bill Keough knew then he too would be exulting tonight with this. You know, I am not going to get into a debate with the minister on the Financial Administration Act that would be the blind leading the blind, and I do not propose to take the time of the House for that. The change is of utterly no significance, what counts is that the revenue comes in and what counts is that the insurance tax is

MR. ROBERTS: too high in this Province in that this is the only Province I recall, now I could be wrong, I have not checked it out, but when we pay our insurance premiums here we then add on 12 per cent to the government and that means the cost of insurance is 12 per cent higher here than it need be if it were not for the government's greedy exactments from the insurance purchasers in the Province.

You know it is utterly irrelevant. When the revenue comes in what counts is that it does come in and what counts is that the tax is too high.

MR. ROBERTS:

The sales tax is payable on the 20th day of the month on the other hand the income taxes and the corporate taxes and the financial capital tax and everything else are payable on differing dates, they are all taken into revenue. The minister really should be ashamed of himself for having to put his mind and asking the House to put our minds to such a major step because after all, Mr. Speaker, if it comes in on the 31st day of March and the minister for his own reasons does not want to credit it to the fiscal year which ends on that day then it comes into the next fiscal year. All we are doing is simply changing it from one fiscal period to another, we are not increasing anything, we are not decreasing anything. I think it is a waste of time.

MR. NEARY:

What is the real reason for it?

MR. ROBERTS:

Well, the real reason for it is the government have nothing better to do by way of a legislative programme than this. We can hear them prating now - we will call it one o'clock in a second, well, Your Honour leaves the Chair automatically at one o'clock so I will just carry on until Your Honour calls it one o'clock - the ministry will tell us in their prating way of the vast numbers of bits of legislation which this House has processed this year, 99.94 per cent of the legislation of which we will deal will be just as important as this. This is a bill without significance, without importance, without merit and here we are they are so anxious to keep the House open, they have got so much important business with 60,000 unemployment with the cost of living rising constantly with the economic opportunities drying up and shrivelling, with the Finance Department down there not able to collect the sales taxes, with the Tourism Department lashing out \$1 million on the dead down at Murray Premises -

MR. MARSHALL:

Mr. Speaker,

MR. ROBERTS:

Do you want to call it one o'clock.

MR. MARSHALL:

I mean, the hon. gentleman obviously wants to speak his whole half an hour on such an unimportant bill I suggest to him that he adjourn the debate.

MR. ROBERTS:

I will solve my hon. friend's problems. I would not dignify this particular bit of legislation with any more breath. As far as I am concerned if the House wants to move to vote on it, Sir, I will not say any more. Let us vote on it and we will let the government have their great legislative reform of the day, a bill, An Act To Amend The Insurance Companies Tax Act And The Insurance Premiums Tax Act, 1978. Let this be John Collins's memorial, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell):

If the hon. the minister speaks now he will close the debate.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, this is part of democracy, it may not be a great bill but this is how democracy works that when there have to amendments to the statutes of the Province we bring them before the people's House be they big or be they small and that is what they are doing here today and I move the bill.

On motion, a bill, "An Act To Amend The Insurance Companies Tax Act And The Insurance Premiums Tax Act, 1978," read a second time, ordered to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow. (Bill No. 46),

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

It is only now that I am in a position to announce the composition of the Electoral Boundaries Commission. As hon. members know every ten years



MR. SPEAKER (Russell): the Commission is to be announced to review the electoral boundaries. Under the act of course the Chief Justice is to appoint a judge of the Supreme Court or if there is not one available then a District Court judge. I wish now to announce that the Chief Justice A. S. Mifflin has appointed Judge Rupert W. Bartlett, judge of the Brigus District Court to be Chairman of the Commission and under the act of course the Speaker is to announce the appointment of the other three members of that Commission. The other three members of that Commission are Mr. Francis Shortall, Mr. Finton Alyward and Mr. Rupert Short. They are required to report to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Ottenheimer) by December 31st. of this year.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker,

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

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

On motion, the House at its rising adjourned until tomorrow, Monday, May 30, 1983, at 3:00 p.m..