

VOL. 2

NO. 35

PRELIMINARY
UNEDITED
TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
FOR THE PERIOD:
10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Friday, May 6, 1983.

The House met at 10 A.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, by way of a statement I have a telex that I want to read, the text of a telex that was forwarded yesterday prior to the re-commencement of drilling and the hon. gentlemen there opposite will be very disappointed to know that Mobil actually contacted the Provincial Government prior to re-commencing drilling. Anyway, this is the text of the telex that was sent to Mr. William Mason, the President of Mobil Canada, yesterday morning which reads as follows: " The stop-drilling order issued by the Provincial Government on February 23, 1983, has now been raised.

"This decision has been made on the basis of technical information and advice formulated and rendered through the professional staff at the Petroleum Directorate.

"We cannot see this order lifted without once again pointing out that natural events proved beyond doubt that our action in issuing the order was correct. The fact that you were forced to cease drilling and apparently have been unable to contemplate resumption until now demonstrates beyond doubt the wisdom of our action. To us the fact that ice conditions continued until early May bears out information available from

MR. MARSHALL: scientific and professional services upon which we based our order. This information, now verified from experience, was available to all and it was unfortunate that only the Province of Newfoundland was prepared to heed the ominous warnings obtainable from it. The attitudes and reactions to that order by other concerns responsible for offshore activity will hang like a dismal pall in the history of offshore exploration off this Province.

"Now that the perceived threat to safety has been removed, the Province's objection to drilling is withdrawn. We trust activities offshore can now resume in the same positive climate that existed prior to issuance of the stop-drilling order."

Mr. Speaker, I would like also, just by way of comment, to point out as well, that at this end of this particular chapter in the story of the offshore exploration off this Province, that I feel it was a tragedy that order had been countermanded and equally a tragedy, that the countermanding of the order appears to have been accepted as many things seem to be accepted in this Province in a very acquiescent manner. If we do not watch out, one of these days, the old adage 'Lie down, roll over and die', we are not going to get the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to roll over because 'zap' we are going to be dead.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, what a joke!
It is really laughable, Mr. Speaker. The rigs were on the site yesterday at 3:00 P.M. ready to start drilling.

MR. WARREN: Yes, they flew over.

MR. NEARY: Yes! Rigs cannot fly, they have been on their way back to the site now probably for the last seventy-two hours. Certainly they were on the way to the site twenty-four or forty-eight hours before the hon. gentleman sent off his telex, Mr. Speaker. What they are trying to do now is climb aboard the bandwagon. Mr. Speaker, it is laughable and amusing.

MR. WARREN: A cover-up.

MR. NEARY: Well, it is not a cover-up, you could not call it a cover-up. They are running like lap dogs. Do you know what they remind me of, Mr. Speaker? Crackies in a sausage factory! Yap, yap, yap! All they are doing is yapping like crackies in a sausage factory. They have no authority, there is no dialogue, no communication, just -

MR. WARREN: Send a telex.

MR. NEARY: - send off a telex. Now, that is something for this Province that said several years ago, they owned the offshore and nobody would dare to intrude in their jurisdiction. Now they are sending off little telexes -

MR. WARREN: After the fact.

MR. NEARY: - after the fact, Mr. Speaker.
Why do they not just admit they have been a complete and utter failure in this matter, they have not been able to deliver on their mandate, and get back to the negotiating table and try to get this matter resolved as quickly as

MR. NEARY: possible, because that is what the people want. The only reason that crowd over there exist today is because of that one issue in the last election, to negotiate an agreement on the offshore, and they have been unable to deliver on it, Mr. Speaker. They should admit man-fashion they are a failure instead of coming in with these little foolish telexes. They are running just to keep up with what is going on. Mr. Speaker, it is shameful and contemptible.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I have a question or two for the Minister of Health (Mr. House).

In view of statements of a serious nature that are being made by the Newfoundland Medical Association and the Newfoundland Hospital Association, is the hon. gentleman going to continue to bury his head in the sand like the proverbial ostrich, or is he going to admit that he has goofed and made a colossal blunder in connection with the delivery of health care in the hospitals in this Province and try to turn it around, do something about it before something serious happens? Is he going to admit his blunder, Mr. Speaker, and do something about it or is he going to continue to bury his head in the sand?

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

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, what a question to ask. He does not know any of the details or any of facts and he comes with a stupid question like that.

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is I have been dealing with this particular matter for three weeks to a month now, this very specific matter about what hospitals will be doing to live within their budgets. We have visited with every hospital board prior to the budget giving them some knowledge of the kind of increases they would be given. We gave roughly 12 per cent increases to all hospital boards and we have asked them to try and live within that amount of money. And I might mention, Mr. Speaker, that is the biggest increase any hospital group in any province got this year. The maximum they are getting is less than 10 per cent across Canada. As a matter of fact, they are getting 6 per cent in Manitoba, 7.9 per cent, I believe, in Ontario. So it is a matter of them living within the parameters of the budget that we have given them.

Now, one of the things they said to me, Mr. Speaker, was let us have the budget at the beginning of the year so that we can adjust and put our programmes in place, and that is what is happening now. Of course, one of the problems, as I stated in the House the other day, is that they are coming with good programmes, and some hospitals are coming in and saying, 'We can live with this and we can have slowdowns at particular times.' One of the real problems with that, and it is one that we are trying to face up to if we can get them together to agree with it, is the fact that everybody wants to do their compressions of the budget at the same time, everybody wants to have the slowdown in the Summer, and that can create some problems and it may create some problems. That is why we

MR. HOUSE: are setting up meetings jointly with some of the hospitals in close proximity to one another to try and stagger some of the impact.

So, Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that we are not hiding our head in the sand; the fact of the matter is that we are doing everything we can to help the hospital boards in every way to ease this problem. We know that there is a shortfall compared to what they wanted, I am not so sure there is a shortfall compared to what they need, but it is certainly a shortfall compared to what they wanted and we acknowledge that. I think the hospital boards

MR. HOUSE:

were in error when they said we did not. Because I stated that here is the budget, here is what we are setting up here, we are setting up a Commission to look at health care cost in the Province. Also adjust your programme and we will put in place a monitoring committee to monitor the impact.

Now there is nothing put in place yet to monitor, so the Impact Committee members have not yet met. And when they do, Mr. Speaker, we will be listening to what they have to say.

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

MR. NEARY: We have a new word now introduced in the vocabulary of this House by the hon. gentleman 'compression', a new word 'compression' of the budget. The only compression we have is compression of the thinking of the administration, Mr. Speaker.

Now we are told by the Newfoundland Hospital Association, which made a public statement on this matter, I presume, as a result of the minister down-playing the serious nature of this situation in the hospitals the other day in this House, that 300 beds will close in the next couple of weeks, and a lot of these beds may not reopen for some time. Three hundred beds all closed at once, and the hon. gentleman says, 'This is not a serious matter'. Now, Mr. Speaker, how can the hon. gentleman stand in this House and admit that 300 beds will be shut down in hospitals all over this Province in the next couple of weeks without having a serious impact on the delivery of health care in the hospitals? How can the hon. gentleman tell us that people will not suffer, the sick will not suffer unnecessarily because of the hon. gentleman's actions?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Health.

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, the member is talking about 300 beds closing down in the next couple of weeks. I just made a statement -

MR. NEARY: Some of them have already closed.

MR. HOUSE: - and I used the word 'compression,' that they want to put all of their downtime in a very short period, and therefore they would be closing fairly large numbers of beds for two months, three months, or a month in a couple of cases. What I am saying is to compress it all in that time it may create problems. That is what we are looking at, Mr. Speaker. That is why we have to meet with the hospital boards. If you do an analysis of the closures that they are talking about, it is about 2.5 per cent of beds, it would be less than 100 spread over the year. So I do not think that would create a lot of problems. I know of a number of years when there have been more than 100 closed throughout the Province, when you look at 3,300 acute care beds.

MR. HOUSE:

Each individual hospital board has not come back to me and said this is going to be a problem, They are coming back and saying to me we can live with this. But I am saying to them that if we close the whole 300 beds possibly it could create problems. And that is why, Mr. Speaker, I want to meet with the hospital boards jointly here in this city. As a matter of fact, this is where the biggest problem is going to be because, of course, of the close proximity of hospitals, and if they will want to close down at the same time it is going to, possibly, create a problem. But it is not necessary for that problem to be because they can spread it over a longer period of time or work in unison, one hospital with another. That meeting is coming up. When we talk about 300 bed being closed, it is for a short period of time, and if you look at that spread over a year, it is less than 100 beds.

MR. NEARY: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman mentioned the figure of 100 beds have been closed down previous to this crisis, this chaotic situation, that the minister has developed in delivery of health care in this Province. There is a big difference in 100 and 300. Now, will the hon. gentleman tell us who is on that monitoring committee? Who is reporting to the hon. gentleman? Is it a committee of officials? Do the registered nurses, for instance, does the Newfoundland Nurses' Association have a representative on that monitoring committee? Does the Newfoundland Medical Association have a representative on it or is it just a committee of officials of the hon. gentleman who will tell him what he wants to hear? Can

MR. NEARY: the hon. gentleman answer that question for us?

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

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, you do not deal with these problems in that way, by trying to hide things away. I want to make clear what the monitoring committee is. The Department of Health meets with the hospital boards from time to time. I met with them myself yesterday. But the department and the hospital boards meet to look at the problem.

The monitoring committee is a committee that we have put

MR. HOUSE:

in place to assess the impact of any cutbacks or any approach that any hospital or Board takes. So they are not an administrative committee in any way.

Now the members of the committee come from the Newfoundland Hospital Association and the Newfoundland Medical Association and the department. Now one of the people the Hospital Association appointed to that committee is a nurse. So the three major groups involved will be monitoring this and making recommendations to us.

Now they have not met and made any decisions. They are not decision-making, they are advisory. They have not met to advise me as yet because there is nothing to advise on. None of the actions have been taken yet.

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

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman has to be out of touch completely because two of the three groups that he just mentioned have gone public and talked about the serious crisis in the hospitals, the chaotic situation as a result of the shortfall in their budgets. The hon. gentleman kept referring to the committee, and that is why I asked him who is on this monitoring committee. And now he tells the House that two out of three, the Newfoundland Medical Association and the Newfoundland Hospital Association, are on that committee and they have not met, they have not monitored anything yet. What a bluff, Mr. Speaker.

Now let me ask the hon. gentleman this question, Mr. Speaker. Two out of three have gone public and said the situation is very serious. Now when does the hon. gentleman intend to sit down, as he should have done weeks and

MR. NEARY: months ago, with the hospital boards? Now he tells us there is going to be a meeting, I presume that will be an emergency meeting, to determine how they can avert any further deterioration of the situation in the hospitals, because obviously closing 300 beds is bound to affect health care and cause people to suffer unnecessarily. When will this meeting take place and will the minister guarantee that he will act on the recommendations of the boards if they have any when they get together? When will this meeting take place?

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

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, I suppose I have to put it in baby talk because the hon. member does not know what he is talking about. He is up there floundering saying that I have not met with boards. We have met with every hospital board. As a matter of fact, I met with a board again yesterday on matters other than dealing specifically with this particular matter.

MR. HOUSE: The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, the two groups went public. Perhaps that is a little unfortunate, particularly when they are not reporting to their advisory committee. There are no actions yet, Mr. Speaker, to report on. There are no beds closed down as yet.

MR. HODDER: There are beds closed.

MR. HOUSE: There are no beds closed down as a result of this. The reports that I have in now are saying this is the kind of thing that we anticipate we will be doing as of a certain date, and I have advised them of certain things that we would want to recheck. Now I have stated categorically that we are trying to set up a meeting with the city hospitals to discuss their actions jointly, because what they are doing is they are overlapping and there are some problems going to be created there. And whatever steps are taken we have to co-ordinate them with the city hospitals particularly. So, Mr. Speaker, it is nonsense for him to say the Medical Association came out yesterday and stated that they are losing specialist doctors because of the actions of this budget. I put it in their lap; I asked them to document for me any doctors who have left this Province because of this particular action in this last budget. I have not received a word back from them. I then contacted every hospital, or had somebody do it, and in the last year there have been seventeen specialists left the Province. Not one left for monetary reasons, not one, when I checked.

MR. NEARY: How do you know?

MR. HOUSE: Because they gave their reasons. Now, Mr. Speaker, to counteract that, nineteen new ones came into the Province, two more than were here last year. And not only that, Mr. Speaker, but, recognizing that we have problems obtaining the services of

MR. HOUSE: specialists,
we have put in place a bursary programme. Of course,
we have new specialists coming in all the time. So
right now, right at this point in time, there are more
specialists in this Province than there ever was in the
history of the Province before. And, as I said, the people
who have left are people who came here for two years.
Some have gone back to their homes, Hong
Kong and parts of the United States. Now,
the other question I would, of course, ask the Medical
Association is with other hospitals across Canada only
getting a 6 per cent increase, everybody less than 10
per cent, where are the doctors going to go if they leave
a place getting a 12 per cent increase?

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman said that it is unfortunate that two of the three groups who make up the monitoring committee went public. I would say it is a good thing they did. What does the hon. gentleman want them to do, wait until people start dying like flies before the hon. gentleman does something about it, Mr. Speaker? That is obviously what the hon. gentleman wants, Mr. Speaker.

The hon. gentleman told us a couple of days ago in this House, yesterday or the day before, that he was going to meet with the administration of St. Clare's Hospital. Now, has the hon. gentleman met with St. Clare's? Could he tell us what plans they have, what the situation is at St. Clare's, where it seems, as of the latest information that we have, that sixty beds would close down for an indefinite period, five months or longer? Now what is the situation on St. Clare's? Did the hon. gentleman have his meeting? Is he satisfied with the meeting? Has he been able to do anything to stave off a very critical situation that is about to develop at St. Clare's Hospital?

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, the staff of the department I think have met with every hospital board across the Province. In some cases I get invited to attend the occasional one and, if I can attend, I do. I met with the Grace Hospital a couple of weeks ago and yesterday I met with the hospital board of St. Clare's. We had a very good meeting. We discussed a number of things. The board may release what was discussed, it is not for me to release it; it was not my meeting, it was their meeting, and anything that comes out of

MR. HOUSE: that meeting they will be reporting. These boards are autonomous. Let me say the meeting was not just related to immediate action. The board has stated - it is public knowledge what they stated - what they are going to try to do is to compress their budget, as it were, within a short period of time. But nothing has been decided yet because we are meeting jointly with all the boards.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman said in his answer that he attends the 'occasional meeting.' He said that the meetings are going on continuously between his officials and the boards and the hon. gentleman just drops in occasionally, that is the impression that he left. Mr. Speaker, in view of the serious nature of this situation, that people are likely to die as a result of the hon. gentleman's policy - and the government refusing to acknowledge that this is a very serious matter - should the hon. gentleman

MR. NEARY:

not be down there night and day with these boards, trying to find solutions to this problem? Mr. Speaker, we are talking about human lives, and the hon. gentleman just brushes it off by saying that he attends the occasional meeting. Mr. Speaker, should the hon. gentleman not call these boards into an emergency session to try to cope and deal with this situation rather than just shrug it off and downplay it, as he has been accused of, by the Newfoundland Hospital Association?

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

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, I suggest we could put another \$100 million in the health care field and we will still have people die. For a person to get up and say people are going to die because of this! I recall first when the budget came down, Mr. Speaker, there were comments being made by various people and, I guess, it was the Executive Director of the Hospital Association who stated categorically the quality of care, of the work we do will remain high, we will be doing all emergency work, but he said, it will take us a little longer for other things.

Now, as I said before, we did acknowledge that there may be some problems and as I said, that is why we took the initiatives we did to get that information back to us. And, of course, the person from the Medical Association going on the air yesterday and talking about losing specialists and that kind of thing without a jot of documentation in my estimation, perhaps it was unfortunate he did it that way.

As I said,

Mr. Speaker, everything is being done. We are on this night

MR. HOUSE: and day. Now I do not go around attending technical meetings of hospital boards, neither do I go around involving myself in areas where it is not necessary, but, as I said, I met with the Hospital Association - I meet with them once a year at their annual meeting - I meet with the Newfoundland Medical Association, too, about two or three times a year.

The hon. gentleman knows when you get involved in things that do not belong in your jurisdiction, he knows

MR. HOUSE:

He knows full well that it may become subject of a Royal Commission or some kind of a Mifflin report if you start interfering with things that do not pertain to your particular job.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman again is treating these matters as routine, just saying, 'Oh, I meet once a year with the Newfoundland Hospital Association, I meet annually with the Newfoundland Medical Association.' What I am suggesting to the hon. gentleman, Mr. Speaker, is that if he is not prepared to get his head out of the sand and deal with this critical situation, then he should turn in his resignation to the Premier. The hon. gentleman knows full well that when specialists resign they are not going to -

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

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

MR. MARSHALL: I realize the hon. gentleman is irritated by a reference made by the Minister of Health and it has put him into fits of flight and fancy, but the hon. gentleman is making a speech and it is a supplementary question that is in order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: To that point of order, I would ask the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition to direct his question to the Minister of Health.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I feel sorry for the hon. gentleman and his references. It just goes to show how low and what they will stoop to.

Mr. Speaker, does the hon. gentleman expect specialists when they resign - and the hon.

MR. NEARY: gentleman is asking to have things documented - does he expect specialists to say, 'Well, the reason I am resigning is because of the cut in the provincial government budget'? Does the hon. gentleman really, down in his heart, feel that that is what they would put in their resignation? Does he not agree that the Newfoundland Medical Association and the Newfoundland Hospital Association would know the real reasons why these specialists have resigned and are going to greener pastures? Is he saying that they do not know that? The hon. gentleman is asking an unfair question of the Newfoundland Hospital Association and the Newfoundland Medical Association when he asks to have these things documented, when it is virtually impossible for them to document it. Maybe in some cases a specialist may be brave enough to put that in his resignation.

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

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

On a point of order, the hon. the President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: I do not understand if the hon. gentleman is on Question Period or if he is making a speech. We are in supplementary questions to the main question. He has already asked about five or six and he should get on with his question.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! To that point of order, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) has asked several questions.

MR. NEARY: Yes, that is fine. I will wait for the answers, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, I have asked for documentation because a statement was made for which there

MR. HOUSE: was no background, as far as I am concerned. We have been dealing very closely over the years with the problems of specialists in the Province. The hon. gentleman knows, of course, that the only job that Ministers of Health used to have back a few years ago was going overseas and trying to recruit doctors. It is a little more complicated than that now.

MR. HOUSE: In the department we have people, when called on, assist in the recruitment of specialists. We have put programmes in place, and, Mr. Speaker, we do not put programmes and bursary programmes in place to encourage young Newfoundlanders to become specialists without doing some research. We have looked at the reasons, of course, why specialists come and go, and the reasons, in most cases, are very personal. We have, I guess, as much documentation of these kind of cases as does the Medical Association. And you might bear in mind too, Mr. Speaker, that a lot of the problems in retaining specialists are not only financial, but involves a lot of medical politics as well.

MR. NEARY: What an insult.

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, it is not an insult. I stated at the beginning we are not closing specialists as a result of this action right now. I do not think the doctor who is the PR man for the Medical Association said that either. I think he might have said we may lose them, because the documentation is not there. I just stated that the figures I have are there where seventeen who left in the last year - neither one, to my knowledge, left in the last month - and the other thing is that nineteen new specialists come here, Mr. Speaker, than we ever had before. As a matter of fact, there was available in this country one radiologist and practically every province was after that particular person, but this was the Province that got him by going and diligently offering him what we thought was a very good deal. They are not saying we have increased that particular

MR. HOUSE: capacity by 50 per cent in the last year. So, Mr. Speaker, there is no shortage of specialists now. And, of course, we have two neurosurgeons in the Province, we cannot sustain three and there is a little bit too much work for two, so you get a little bit of a backlog.

So, Mr. Speaker, what I said, and I still stand by it, is that there is no specialist who has left the Province because of this issue right now. There may be in the future, I do not know, but certainly the documentation that I have been able to get does not indicate it now.

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins). During the past three weeks when the teachers were in a lockout position or labour dispute, it was calculated that roughly \$20 million was saved from their payroll allocation. Now that the government has saved approximately \$20 million, knowing the serious conditions that we may be encountering in the health field in our Province with the potential closing of hospital beds and hospitals having to cut back their budgets, would the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) consider transferring most of this \$20 million into health care in the Province? I am sure that the teachers who were locked out would very much appreciate saving the lives of other people with this \$20 million they lost.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, a few inaccuracies in the question there: There was no lockout, there was a strike. Everyone knows that.

MR. WARREN: It was not a strike.

DR. COLLINS: Everyone agrees with that. Lawyers on the other side agree with it. Our lawyers agreed with it. If it had not been a strike there would have been action against government in the courts. There was no such action. The federal government agrees with it because they would not give unemployment insurance to those people who were not working. I mean, you know, to go on with the ridiculous comment that there was a lockout is just nonproductive, Mr. Speaker. There was a strike, everyone knows there was a strike and to continue to say otherwise is just plain foolishness.

DR. COLLINS: In regard to the health question, the Minister of Health (Mr. House) is doing an excellent job, as his answers indicated, and I am sure that if the minister has any matter to bring forward it will be brought forward in the appropriate fashion.

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

MR. LUSH: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour and Manpower (Mr. Dinn), and it is related to this MED programme which is a prerequisite to getting a job on the offshore and other related marine activities. I wonder if the minister can indicate just what agency does the selecting for getting into these MED programmes and what the criteria are? Mr. Speaker, it is one of the most frustrating things for young people, I suppose I do not get any more enquiries about anything that I do about this MED programme. People are frustrated. They cannot get into the programme. So can the minister indicate which agency does the screening and what criteria are used in the selection?

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

MR.DINN: Mr. Speaker, that is a very, very good question. I was asked a similar question yesterday and at that point in time I did not have the accurate, up-to-date figures. The MED course has been expanded about four times since its inception. We started off with the course way back when it was used for fishermen who trained in lifesaving, firefighting, rescue and survival first aid, that kind of thing. We had about one course a year for about twelve people. Of course, in 1979 with our regulations for offshore, there was quite a demand for the course and that demand keeps rising. Basically the way that the courses run is right now we have about 108 students each week who go into the three week course. It is broken down into 33 per cent of these students are selected through Canada Manpower, or CEIC, in the Canada Manpower offices. The problem with that is that a lot of times people are selected for the courses and do not have a job to go to, so some of these are basically, in a sense, wasted and it is frustrating for people who, first of all, try to get the course, then get the course, and then they do not have a job to go to. The other 22 per cent is basically done through the provincial government and most of these people are fisheries people who, over the years required this course. So the remaining group, 45 per cent, are paid by the companies. In other words, they have jobs which people can go directly in the offshore or the supply vessels or what have you, and they train their own people. You might have a crew out there now that is not completely trained, for example, and

MR. DINN: when they come in for their twenty-one days off period, or one month off period, they go in on the course. It is arranged by the company. So 45 per cent is arranged by the company and 33 per cent is arranged through CEIC and 22 per cent by the Newfoundland government.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please! The time for Question Period has expired.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Yesterday in the point of order raised by the hon. the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey) there was some question as to the remarks he made when he raised it. The Minister of Social Services was supposed to have said that the hon. the member for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock) was not telling the truth. On re-reading Hansard I see that these words are not there so it was a difference of opinion not a point of order. Although the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) questioned it, I find no unparliamentary language used in the statement.

NOTICES OF MOTION

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker.

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

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow move that this House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider certain resolutions related to the guaranteeing of certain loans under the "Local Authority Guarantee Act, 1957", and I give notice that I will on tomorrow move that this House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider certain resolutions related to the advancing or guaranteeing of certain loans made under the "Loan and Guarantee Act, 1957".

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker, just to give the hon. the Leader of the Opposition a complete answer to a question he asked yesterday in the House - he asked, 'How many people went through the MED course from 1978 -

MR. NEARY: How many were on the waiting list is what I wanted.

MR. DINN: Well, I will give you that also.

- from 1978 to 1983 it was 2,417, and so far this year, up to April, we have had 1,039 and on the

MR. DINN: waiting list there is approximately -
because you have to check all the Canada Manpower Centres
throughout the Island - there is approximately 1,500 on
the waiting list.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. MARSHALL: Perhaps we will do a few first readings
before we go to the Budget Debate.

Motion 5.

Motion, the hon. the Minister
of Finance (Dr. Collins) to introduce a bill, "An Act To
Provide For The Portability Of Pensionable Service Between
Certain Pension Plans Guaranteed By The Province," carried.
(Bill No. 39).

On motion, Bill No. 39,
read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

Motion, the hon. Minister
of Finance to introduce a bill, "An Act Respecting An
Increase Of Certain Pensions", carried. (Bill No. 35).

On motion, Bill No. 35,
read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

Motion, the hon. Minister of
Finance to introduce a bill, "An Act Respecting An Increase Of Certain
Pensions For Transferred Employees", carried. (Bill No.36).

On motion, Bill No. 36,
read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

Motion, the hon. Minister
of Finance to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The Uniformed
Services Pensions Act", carried. (Bill No. 41).

On motion, Bill No. 41, read
a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

Motion, the hon. Minister of
Justice to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The Attachment
Of Wages Act", carried. (Bill No. 40).

On motion, Bill No. 40, read
a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

Motion, the hon. Minister
of Justice to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The Judicature
Act", carried. (Bill No. 43).

On motion, Bill No. 43,
read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

Motion, the hon. the Minister of Finance to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The Liquor Corporation Act, 1973," carried. (Bill No. 47)

On motion, Bill No. (47) read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

Motion, the hon. the Minister of Finance to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The Insurance Companies Tax Act And the Insurance Premiums Tax Act, 1978," carried. (Bill No. 46)

On motion, Bill No. (46) read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

MR. MARSHALL: Motion 1, Budget Debate.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Motion 1, When the House last adjourned I believe the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) adjourned the debate.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, first of all let me say that this is day seven, I believe, in the Budget Debate and so far I am the only member who has participated in the debate. I am exercising my right and my privilege under the rules of this House to take as much time as I want to speak in the Budget Debate. As I indicated yesterday it is not a filibuster. I hope to be able to bring my few remarks to an end before the present sitting of the House ends today.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I started my few remarks on unemployment. Hon. members will recall yesterday I reviewed the figures on unemployment in this Province and I ended up late yesterday evening, before the House closed, accusing the Premier of the Province of not having a social conscience. The hon. gentleman may be a well-meaning fellow, Mr. Speaker, he is an expert at playing

MR. NEARY: childish, political games.

He is trying to portray the image of a fighter, but the real problem with the hon. gentleman is that he is unable to administer the affairs of this Province and he has no social conscience. Now, why do I say that the hon. gentleman has no social conscience, Mr. Speaker? Well, all we have to do is look at the record unemployment that we have in this Province. We have the worst unemployment in Newfoundland and Labrador since the great depression. Now, has the hon. gentleman who heads the administration brought plans into this House to deal with that problem, which is the number one problem in this Province and in this Nation? Has the hon. gentleman produced plans, brought in plans in the Budget Speech or in the Throne Speech, or brought in plans period to deal with this very, very serious problem, the worst problem we have in this Province? It is the worst problem. It is a matter that should be given top priority by the administration. Now, Mr. Speaker, I ask hon. gentlemen on the benches there opposite to just reflect back over the thirty-six or thirty-seven days that this House has sat so far and ask themselves one question, 'Where are the plans, are there any plans to deal with high unemployment in this Province, especially record unemployment among young people.'?

MR. DINN: Sit down and we will tell you.

MR. NEARY: Sit down and they will tell me? They have had thirty-six or thirty-seven days to tell the people of this Province, to tell the construction workers, to tell the people who live in Labrador West, to tell the people in Buchans, to tell the people in the fishery, to tell the office workers who are unemployed, the white collar

MR. NEARY: workers who are unemployed.
Sit down, the hon. minister of Manpower (Mr. Dinn) says and they will tell me. They have had thirty-six or thirty-seven days to tell this House. They have not produced anything that resembles a plan to deal with the economy or to deal with record unemployment. Mr. Speaker, we can only assume that the government have no plans to deal with this problem, they have no plans. If they did have a plan, would they not have spelled it out in the Throne Speech or in the Budget Speech? Would they not have told the House about it in the thirty-six or thirty-seven days that this House has met so far

MR. NEARY: They have no plans to deal with anything, Mr. Speaker. Therein lies the problem. Now we can only assume that there are no plans and that they are unwilling or unable to produce plans. We hear that the hon. the Premier - and this may be the reason for it - we hear the hon. gentleman is not going to run any more. Rumours are rampant that the hon. gentleman may resign before the end of this year. We hear of dissension in the Cabinet, we know there is dissension in the backbenches, we know that, we have evidence of that, testimony to that from the member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry) who has challenged the policy of his Party on more than one occasion, and now we hear snarky remarks being made by backbenchers on the government side that the Premier will not tolerate this very much longer, that the member for Mount Scio will get the flick. I do not think that is going to happen, Mr. Speaker, at least I hope it does not. But we hear backbenchers on the government side, when they are outside the House, making snarky remarks about the member for Mount Scio for standing up for what he thinks is right, for standing up for his principles, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member for Mount Scio is only, I would say, a symptom of what is going on in that caucus.

Now the hon. the Premier, Mr. Speaker, has not denied that he is only going to be a two-term Premier. As a matter of fact, he has admitted publicly that people should only stay on as Premier of this Province for two terms, that a man or woman should only head an administration for two terms and then quit. Well, the hon. gentleman is now into his second term and the hon. gentleman may be thinking about quitting, retiring from public life. Rumours are rampant that the hon. gentleman may do it before the next election, may do it as early as this year.

MR. DINN:

That is only wishful thinking.

MR. NEARY:

No, Mr. Speaker, that is not wishful thinking on our part. Confidence in the administration has been shattered, the Premier's own image has been battered and bruised in the last several months. The hon. gentleman, I suppose, could be called the rapier, he has fallen on his own sword. The hon. gentleman is unable to deliver, no doubt he is frustrated and confused and bewildered, and the hon. gentleman does not know what to do except to lay back and hope that things will blow over,

MR. NEARY: hope that there will be an upturn in the economy of Canada and a little bit of it may spread over into Newfoundland and Labrador - like we saw the other day, the hon. gentleman trying to take credit for the upturn in the steel industry, when the hon. gentleman announced that the Wabush mine would have less down time this year than was planned. Now, the hon. gentleman may try to ride it out, to weather the storm, Mr. Speaker, ride it out until there is an upturn in the economy in the United States or in Canada, as a result of the Liberal policies in Ottawa. The hon. gentleman may try to weather the storm, ride it out, Mr. Speaker, and hope that he will be allowed to go in peace at the end of this year or before the next election, whenever he chooses to retire.

It is not a matter of keeping us on our toes. We could not care less what the hon. gentleman does. He is a Premier on the run anyway, his administration is on the run, Mr. Speaker. So what I am saying to the hon. gentleman is that confidence in the administration is non-existent at the present time. People have lost hope - people who are unemployed, young people who cannot find jobs. Mr. Speaker, we are swamped in our office with requests from people looking for jobs. The situation has never been as bad since the Great Depression as it is in this Province at the present time.

Now, Mr. Speaker, is it going to get any better? I have been arguing for some time that, as the experts say, even when the economy bottoms out

MR. NEARY: we are still going to have high unemployment, Even if prosperity does ever come again, we will have record unemployment in the midst of that prosperity.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let us take a look at the situation in Newfoundland according to APEC, the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council, in their April report. Let us see what they said about various projects in Newfoundland that the Premier has been telling us that will be the end all and be all of the Newfoundland economy once they come on stream. Now APEC have placed the various projects in different categories, and they have given them a high, medium or low rating. Now, let us look at the mega projects in Newfoundland.

PREMIER PECKFORD: That is filled with all kinds of inaccuracies.

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman will have a chance to reply and he will be able to straighten out APEC. Now he is disagreeing with APEC.

PREMIER PECKFORD: Thank you.

MR. NEARY: Disagreeing with everybody. We expect that, Mr. Speaker. We have learned to live with that. The hon. gentleman no doubt now will be out on the television and radio ranting and raving and telling the experts, the APEC people, that they do not know what they are talking about, Mr. Speaker. We expect that of the hon. gentleman.

But let us see what they say about the projects in Newfoundland. The projects are listed and they have the starting date and the date they expect to end and the probability of these projects going ahead this year. Now, Mr. Speaker, let us see; these are major projects in Atlantic Canada. Well, the aluminium smelter for Labrador: Let us put that one to rest right off the bat. The aluminium smelter, not only for Newfoundland, I suppose, but for Labrador.

MR. NEARY: Well, the Atlantic Provinces Economic Development Council gives that very low priority, low priority. 'To use Churchill Power a decision to build a smelter in Quebec will effect decisions to develop, feasibility study almost complete. Low probability. Very low probability.

MR. WINDSOR: We will see.

MR. NEARY: And the hon. Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor) says, 'We will see', and he laughs at it. Very low probability.

Now what about the Bowater Newfoundland modernization in Corner Brook, Mr. Speaker, involving \$120 million that they started a year or so ago before they announced the shut down of No. 7 paper machine? What about that?

MR. NEARY: Well, that has very low probability. 'Closure of paper making plant in 1982 makes progress doubtful.' Another one gone, Mr. Speaker. Now let us see about the offshore development on the Grand Banks. And this is what hon. gentlemen have been hanging their hats on for years. They put all their eggs in one basket, in the offshore oil basket and that basket is quite leaky at the present time.

DR. COLLINS: That is a mixed metaphor.

MR. NEARY: It is a mixed metaphor the hon. gentleman says and that is right. They put all their hopes in a leaky offshore oil basket, Mr. Speaker, and now they sit over there, they sit in their offices not knowing what is going on offshore. They seem to be greatly relieved since the Newfoundland courts decided the ownership question. They threw it over to the court, they gambled and they lost and they seem greatly relieved because now they do not have to do anything. They do not have to do anything except blame others, blame things on others, Mr. Speaker. Now, remember eleven years ago when the Tories came to power in this Province and we have had two Premiers under a Tory administration. Hon. gentlemen should not have to be reminded. I am not going to waste the time of the House going back over the history of offshore. I only have to deal with one or two items in that regard. Let us go back eleven years, turn back the hands, turn back the clock, Mr. Speaker, to eleven years ago, January 18, 1972 when the Tories took over in this Province. What were we told about offshore resources? We were told by this administration that they would not talk or deal with anybody on the offshore because they owned it, because Newfoundland owned it. The member for Baie Verte-White Bay (Mr. Rideout) felt so

MR. NEARY: strongly about that that he deserted the Liberal party and went scooting across the House, because the Liberal Opposition, of which the hon. gentleman was a member, had taken the position that there should be an negotiated agreement on the offshore. The member for Baie Verte-White Bay (Mr. Rideout) felt the Opposition was being weak and because we did not advocate ownership the hon. gentleman went scooting across the House like a little weasel. And now he is sitting over with an administration that has forgotten all about ownership altogether. They have shifted their grounds so completely, Mr. Speaker, that we cannot keep up to them.

MR. HODDER: He had better not try to come back.

MR. NEARY: They have shifted their grounds. Remember, now, first they spent millions of taxpayer's dollars even though they had a report in their files that was done by the Dean of Law of a Western university, a man who was regarded as a top constitutional expert in Canada,

MR. NEARY: They had that report and they knew what the findings of that gentleman were but they wanted to bluff, they decided that they would bluff, gamble, and they kept bluffing until they were boxed into a corner and then like cowards they threw it over to the court. They took the offshore resource, they brought it and they gave it to the Newfoundland Appeals Court and they said, here it is, three Newfoundlanded judges, you decide who owns it, after telling the people of this Province in three successful elections that they owned it that nobody was going to dare to intrude in their jurisdiction, they owned it; the member for Baie Verte (Mr. Rideout) scooting across the House because he was brainwashed - obviously he was conned by the rhetoric, the political rhetoric of the day - and gave up his principles and deserted his party. I do not suppose you could do anything worse in political life, Mr. Speaker, than knife your colleagues in the back and desert your principles and your party. Is there anything lower that you could do apart from, I suppose, insult -

MR. RIDEOUT: One other thing and that would be to stay on, with somebody like you as Leader.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the only other thing that you could do that could be considered to be so low, I suppose, would be to insult a member's mother here in the House, as the Government House Leader (Mr. Marshall) sitting over there did when he was over here. That is about the only lower thing you could do, I suppose, and that happened in this House, by the hon. sanctimonious Government House Leader.

MR. NEARY: The next lowest thing I would say that you could do would be to desert your party, to forego your principles in anticipation of favours in the future, Mr. Speaker.

DR. COLLINS: How about a party deserting a Province, how would that be?

MR. NEARY: Yes, we have a party over there now, the hon. gentleman is right, we have a party which has deserted 150 -odd thousand Newfoundlanders who said yes, we will give you a mandate to negotiate an offshore agreement, negotiate. Not put it to the court, that is not what the Newfoundland people said.

MR. SIMMS: We had an agreement.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman said 'we had an agreement', the hon. gentleman is so naive and so wishy-washy and so weak that the hon. gentleman could be convinced to believe anything.

MR. SIMMS: That is the only comeback you have. Attack somebody personally. You have no comeback otherwise, have you?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is so naive, so naive that I really think he believes what he says. We had an agreement the hon. gentleman said, we had an agreement.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, there was an agreement back in January thanks to Mr. Chretien. The hon. gentlemen would not accept it. It was a very generous agreement. The hon. gentlemen would not accept it and they - while the Minister responsible for Energy in this Province (Mr. Marshall) was negotiating with Mr. Chretien the Premier and one of his senior advisers were across the street in another hotel with a pair of binoculars watching what was going on, watching the minister from this Province. You talk about trust and good will, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RIDEOUT: You talk about imagination. What an imagination.

MR. NEARY: And the Premier pulled the carpet out from under the feet of his minister. That agreement would have been a very, very generous agreement by the way. And, Mr. Speaker, do we now -

MR. HODDER: They were afraid they were going to overheat the economy, was it not?

MR. NEARY: That is right. They were making statements like, "We only want eight oil rigs out there because we are afraid we might overheat the Newfoundland economy." What silly nonsense, Mr. Speaker. What foolish statements from the lips of the head of the administration who had told the people that we were going to have a negotiated settlement.

But anyway I am not going to go over the history of the offshore, I wish I could, I will leave that to some of my other colleagues, Mr. Speaker. But I merely want to remind hon. gentlemen that it was this administration that took the offshore and gave it to the Newfoundland Appeals Court and they said, "Here, you decide who owns it," after

MR. NEARY: telling us for ten or eleven
years that Newfoundland owned it.

DR. COLLINS: Do you think we do
not?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, we have always
contended that we owned it but the trouble is that you could
never prove - how could you prove you owned it? That was
the problem. And so this government, this administration,
the Tories, put the matter before the courts and they seemed
to be relieved after the court handed down its decision. So
they can go on playing their federal politics, they can go
on with the federal election campaign. Mr. Speaker, is it
any wonder that the member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry) is
so disgruntled and so disillusioned and is complaining publicly
about the policy of his own party? Is it any wonder? Is it
any wonder we hear reports of dissidence in the Cabinet and in
the backbenches?

 The hon. member for Mount Scio
is not the only one. There are others over there who are pretty
worried and pretty angry with the Premier for the way he has
handled not only the offshore but other major matters concerning
the future of this Province and the development of this
Province. Now, Mr. Speaker, they are trying to get the
House closed before the Supreme Court of Canada

MR. NEARY:

hands down its decision on the offshore. One of the reasons I would suspect that they are trying to get the House closed, among others of course - they cannot cope, they cannot stand criticisms, they have no plans to deal with the major problems we have in this Province - I would suspect they want to get out of here before the Supreme Court of Canada endorses what the Newfoundland Appeal Court decided.

MR. SIMMS:

When is that?

MR. NEARY:

That should be some time this month.

MR. SIMMS:

Before the end of May?

MR. NEARY:

Well, it could be before the end of May, it is due.

When the Supreme Court of Canada -

MR. RIDEOUT:

How do you know when it is due?

MR. NEARY:

Pardon?

MR. RIDEOUT:

The Water Reversion Act was referred a year ago, that is not even down yet.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, I have no idea how the courts operate.

MR. RIDEOUT:

That is right.

MR. NEARY:

It is pure speculation on my part. I would think that the Water Reversion Act might be a little more complicated.

DR. COLLINS:

Then why pick on the courts?

MR. NEARY:

The offshore, I would say, is a little more clear-cut than the Water Reversion Act and the hon. gentleman, like myself, is not a lawyer.

Mr. Speaker, anyway, I am saying that maybe before the end of this month you will have a ruling from the Supreme Court of Canada which will uphold the ruling of the Newfoundland Appeal Court, but in the meantime, Mr. Speaker, what worries me, what concerns Newfoundlanders, the Board of Trade, the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour, the offshore petroleum organizations,

MR. NEARY: what worries everybody in this Province is that since the Newfoundland Appeal Court decision there has been no dialogue, no communications, no input from this Province on the offshore resources. None. They sit over there day in and day out like dummies, zombies not knowing what is going on with this great resource lying off our shore, because they have no agreement, nobody will talk to them, they have been rude and insulting to everybody in sight, the oil companies, the Government of Canada, Quebec, Nova Scotia. And that is frightening, Mr. Speaker, when you think about it. Just think about it, Your Honour. This great resource, the development, the exploration going ahead, the wells being drilled and pretty soon production plans will be put in place and

MR. NEARY: this Province has no input, no communication, no dialogue. Does that concern Your Honour? And the Premier sits over there and says, 'Oh, we are not going to give anything away.' Mr. Speaker, the court already decided on the ownership.

DR. COLLINS: That is not true.

MR. NEARY: That is true. And they proceeding the same as eleven years ago, they are proceeding on the same policy that failed, one failure after another up to now.

MR. SIMMS: You want us to sell out.

MR. NEARY: Sell out, Mr. Speaker! Is that what the hon. gentleman thinks?

MR. SIMMS: That is what you want.

MR. NEARY: That is what I want?

MR. SIMMS: Yes.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I, like every other Newfoundlander, want an agreement. It is the administration that has sold out.

MR. SIMMS: We had an agreement.

MR. NEARY: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMMS: Talk to your buddy, Chretien. Get him to come through on his agreement. That is the answer to it.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, it is the hon. gentleman's leader who sold out when he took the matter and gave it to the Newfoundland court. There was the sell-out.

MR. SIMMS: We had no choice.

MR. NEARY: Now, Mr. Speaker, the ball game is changed completely. Now what we have to get is an agreement. We have to get the best agreement we can for Newfoundland. And that is going to be very difficult now under the circumstances. The Newfoundland Supreme Court decided in favour of Canada, if the Supreme Court of Canada

MR. NEARY: decides in favour of Canada, it is going to be very difficult, is it not, Mr. Speaker? They can sit back and sulk all they want. They can be stubborn and stupid and they can say, 'Well, we will retaliate by throwing obstruction in the way of development onshore, because onshore comes under the provincial government,' or they can threaten to arrest rigs or they can say, 'Well, we own the jurisdiction inside the three mile limit.' They can say all that, they can throw obstruction in the way, they can make it difficult. Will that accomplish anything, Mr. Speaker? Will it? Will it create any good will? Will it be good for Newfoundland, their obstruction tactics, their playing federal politics, hoping that the Government of Canada will change, gambling again, Mr. Speaker?

The provincial Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) is going around telling everybody that if Mr. Crosbie gets elected Leader of the Liberal Party - Tory Party - he was a Liberal when he started; that if Mr. Crosbie gets elected, the Minister of Fisheries is going to quit provincial politics and run federally, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it is sad, it is very, very sad the impasse, the state

MR. NEARY: that we have reached in the offshore which was supposed to be the saviour of Newfoundland, our last opportunity. I remember the Premier making statements like 'have not will be no more, we will have our day in the sun'. And now they are sitting over there like zombies. In the meantime, the federal government have moved in COGLA, they have rented space down in Atlantic Place, 5,000 square feet, COGLA, which hon. gentlemen know is the federal equivalent of the Petroleum Directorate and they are going ahead, and thank God somebody has sense enough to go ahead, with the development. We hear via the grapevine that there may be twelve or fourteen rigs on the Grand Banks this Summer in spite of the tactics of the hon. gentleman. Mr. Chretien says that he is only interested in creating jobs and business for Newfoundland, that they are going ahead full speed with the development while this administration just lie back on their oars. And as I have said so often in this House, Mr. Speaker, they may as well have been down with Senator Kennedy last night in Boston watching a hockey game. They cannot participate in the game, they cannot participate in the development. They are just there like spectators at a hockey game, like the good senator last night, watching the plays going back and forth, they cannot participate, they can only be spectators. It is sad, Mr. Speaker, it is sad when you think that 150,000 Newfoundlanders and Labradorians put blind faith in the Premier and in this administration and gave them such an overwhelming mandate over a year ago to negotiate an agreement on the offshore and now they cannot deliver. We will eventually get an agreement, I have no doubt about that. There will be an agreement eventually.

DR. COLLINS:

And a good one too.

MR. NEARY: 'A good one', the hon. gentleman said. The hon. gentleman now will be lucky to get the Nova Scotia type of agreement.

DR. COLLINS: Not another Churchill Falls type agreement but a really good one.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, they had it in their hands and they blew it, one failure after another.

Now let us see what APEC says about this project, this offshore that was supposed to be the saviour of Newfoundland, we were all going to have two cars and a boat and a trailer parked outside our doors. We were all going to be rich from oil. Offshore development Grand Banks, 1985 to 1990, Mr. Speaker, listen to this; 'The probability only medium',

MR. NEARY: medium probability, that between 1985 and 1990 this project will go, centered on Hibernia reserves. All need access to Southern markets under terms favourable to various people. A medium probability.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what about the Gull Island project in Labrador, what about the Lower Churchill that started back in 1974? Now remember, Mr. Speaker, we are not talking about oil now, we are talking about a hydro project that was started at tremendous expense to the taxpayer - \$300 million or \$400 million borrowed to set off explosions on either side of the Strait of Belle Isle prior to the 1975 election.

DR. COLLINS: There is a smidgen of exaggeration there.

MR. NEARY: Where is the exaggeration? I challenge the hon. gentleman to tell me, where is the exaggeration?

There is a hole down in St. Barbe in the ground and a hole across the Straits over on the Labrador side, Mr. Speaker, to prove that these explosions - well, you do not have to prove it because the money was spent on it. The tunnel underneath the Strait of Belle Isle, the commencement of the Lower Churchill has cost the taxpayers of this Province, I would say, right up to the present time, about a half billion dollars, about \$500,000 million. The money had to be borrowed at high interest rates for the last eight years, Mr. Speaker, you are talking about, I would say, \$400 million or \$500 million of taxpayer money. Is it any wonder that electricity rates go up in this Province?

Now, Mr. Speaker, remember that project was started, that project was officially started,

MR. NEARY: a former Premier went down, set off the explosion and shortly after the election the project was cancelled. Now, what does the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council say about that? Gull Island, Muskrat Falls, Hydro Labrador, the probability to get that started, medium. We all thought it was finished. We thought it was started in 1974, eight years ago. Eight years later after spending, squandering, wasting taxpayer money, eight years later we hear that the project is not completed, and the probability, of it starting is only medium.

MR. NEARY: The Upper Churchill Hydro expansion, medium; Hydro transmission lines, medium. Listen to this one, Mr. Speaker - offshore Labrador development, the probability is low, cost will be much higher than \$1 billion; Lake Micheal Hydro, low; Dry Pond Hydro, low; the Lavalin Building, St. John's, low; Southside Hills and Storage Cavern, St. John's, low. So, Mr. Speaker, according to the Atlantic Provinces Economic Development Council the outlook for megaprojects in this Province to create large numbers of jobs is very low indeed - it goes from medium to low. So the outlook for the people who are unemployed, Mr. Speaker, is very, very bleak indeed. And in addition to that we are told that once the economy bottoms out and if prosperity is ever restored, ever returned, that we are going to have large numbers of people who will be unemployed right in the middle of that prosperity.

Now, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I have taken the position and we have been espousing and promoting our position on the offshore, the member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry) has been doing likewise, Now he has called for the administration to forget the political slingshoting and get back to the bargaining table. This will have to be done, Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, somewhere along the line. We need that agreement, our economy needs that agreement, the fishing industry needs that agreement and the economy, as I say, in general needs the agreement.

MR. NEARY:

There are over 50,000 Newfoundlanders looking for work at the present time. That is quite a lot, Mr. Speaker. That is a lot of pain and anguish. And do not forget, Mr. Speaker, that 50 per cent of the 50,000 or so Newfoundlanders who are unemployed are between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five, young Newfoundlanders and Labradorians unemployed at a time of their lives when they should be working and making careers for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I would say that we have two big problems in this Province - I do not know which category I would like to fall in - loneliness and unemployment. I think I would rather be unemployed than to be lonely. Two great curses, one is the result of the other, lonely and longing for action and hoping for action. Loneliness, Mr. Speaker, as psychiatrists will tell you, is one of the greatest illnesses, greatest curses of our society - loneliness. People are lonely for a friend, they are lonely for some form of indication from this administration that there is hope on the horizon. There is no hope. One goes with the other, Mr. Speaker. The experts are now saying that there will always be a significant sector of our population chronically unemployable unless something is done to help them. That statement, Mr. Speaker, is depressing when you look at it closely, because it means that even when the recession ends and we find ourselves amid relative prosperity, there will be a large sector of the economy that will be unemployed. Mr. Speaker, this is the greatest ailment, as I indicated, of our people. This is the one thing that will ravage the human spirit and devastate the hearts and souls of Newfoundlanders, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: Men and women who cannot support themselves in even the most basic of ways, Mr. Speaker, become easily depressed and demoralized. Because they cannot generate salaries and incomes, they cannot feed themselves and their families, they cannot clothe themselves, they cannot feed their loved ones and their dependents. They cannot stay alive on their own because in our society there is no place for them and their skills.

Mr. Speaker, these people live or endure a living death and consequently experience the erosion of their individual spirit. To put it more bluntly, Mr. Speaker, the hearts are taken out of these Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. And sometimes, perhaps, some of them may even lose the will to live.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest, with all the sincerity and vigor that I have in my veins, that it is the most primary and holy duty of this administration to offer some hope to these people who are unemployed in this Province, to bring into their dreams and into their minds some hope and some light. It is our duty and it is the duty of the administration to put an end to this curse, this cancer, this unemployment, especially among young people. It is more important, Mr. Speaker, to deal with that problem than it is to fight inflation, in my humble opinion. And I have on more than one occasion, inside of this House and outside of this House, made the suggestion that we work together to try and cope with this problem, that we put aside the slings and arrows, Mr. Speaker, and we take on this great battle that is confronting this Province.

Mr. Speaker, an awful lot of these people that I am speaking about today, and I could relate many personal stories that have been brought to my attention, Mr. Speaker, are beginning to feel inferior. The unemployment has crept into the middle-class people, people are being laid

May 6, 1983

Tape No. 1867

NM - 2

MR. NEARY: off and unemployed who have
never been unemployed before in their lives. And they are
getting the

MR. NEARY:

feeling that the country, the Province is against them and that they are inferior in our society. I do not think this is an exaggeration, Mr. Speaker. Probably hon. members there opposite are getting the same stories. There is already a widespread distaste within the working class for many of the unemployed who have been forced onto the roles of social assistance. These unemployed - a lot of people on welfare have been labeled as being too lazy or too stupid to work. I am sure that all hon. members, Mr. Speaker, have heard these slanderous phrases, 'Look at that fellow, too lazy to get off his butt and go look for work,' or, 'them welfare people, all they are interested in is getting their dole to buy a bottle on a Friday night.' Mr. Speaker, that is a bigotry of another kind and it just is not rational. Hating a man or a woman because he is on welfare, Mr. Speaker, is no different than hating a person because of the colour of his skin. This must end. There are people who will say, well, our high unemployment rate in Newfoundland is there because people are too lazy to work when in actual fact, Mr. Speaker, that is not true.

Mr. Speaker, if we accept the premise of the experts, and we accept the fact that chronic unemployment will be with us even when the economy bottoms out, then I would suggest in the best interest of this Province and of our country as a whole that we take a different approach, that we stop burying our heads in the sand, Mr. Speaker. And I would suggest that in the interests of this Province and of this nation that we could better serve our people by

MR. NEARY: establishing new techniques and new ways to deal with this problem . I have suggested on a number of occasions, both inside and outside this House, that one of the ways to approach the chronic unemployment problem is to establish some form of federal/provincial organization, Crown corporation, for the lack of a better word, to carry out individual major projects in various parts of this Province and hire from the ranks of the jobless workers for specific lengths of time. Not only , Mr. Speaker, would this result in a much better type of project as compared with the present make work projects, the phony make shift projects, but it could insure that both the managers and workers on such projects were properly selected instead of , as often happens now, being the prerequisites of lobbyists.

MR. NEARY: So, Mr. Speaker, the first thing we have to do is accept the fact that because of technological change, in many cases employers have now discovered that they do not need as many people on their payroll. Having been forced to lay off employees, the employers have now discovered, Mr. Speaker, that they do not need to take a lot of these employees back on, and my words, Mr. Speaker, were confirmed in an article in The Globe and Mail on May 4, just a couple of days ago, when I read an article which said that between one million and two million jobs in Canada will disappear by 1991 because of technological and structural changes in the economy, according to a confidential federal study that was done. The study done for the Economic Development Minister, Donald Johnston, predicts that between one-quarter and one-half of all jobs in manufacturing and one-quarter of the jobs in business and financial services will be eliminated by the end of the decade. So you can see, Mr. Speaker, that I am not the only one who feels that by the year 2000, 30 per cent or 35 per cent or 40 per cent of our people will be unemployed, the result primarily of advancing automation and technological change.

And what I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is that we must face up to that fact. We are already far, far into the second industrial revolution, and the government has a responsibility to cope.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the types of projects that I am talking about have to meet a very important criteria. They have to have a useful economic purpose, perhaps serving in the long-term for future development of this Province, and as a consequence, create more jobs and more jobs, spinoff jobs from these projects.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, for instance, hon. members have heard me on a number of occasions talking about a Trans-Labrador highway, a tunnel underneath the Strait of Belle Isle to link the Island of Newfoundland with the mainland part of the Province, Labrador, which would open up the rich Labrador interior and coast to development and, as well, open up the region, Mr. Speaker, to valid spinoff development from offshore oil and gas.

There is then, Mr. Speaker, the matter of the immediate development of the Lower Churchill River and the other rivers with headwaters in Labrador flowing into Quebec. This development - and this offer has been made by the Province of Quebec who want to enter into a package deal, joint ventures or otherwise, with this Province - this development, Mr. Speaker, would create thousands of jobs now and result in more jobs when the energy becomes available for new industries.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, this is the only way, in my opinion, that we can improve the present situation for the people who are unemployed in this Province and get her rolling again. I no longer believe, Mr. Speaker, that private enterprise will provide the jobs although private enterprise has a job to do. Mr. Speaker, I think the mechanism should be put in place through joint ventures, provincial/federal ventures, either through a federal Crown corporation or some other agency. The mechanism should be put in place at once, Mr. Speaker, to try to deal with this situation, this terrible cancer in the long term. So, Mr. Speaker, I say to the administration instead of trying to close up the House of Assembly let us get our heads together. I have thrown out now what I consider to be a very positive approach to the number one problem in this Province - high unemployment. I have thrown out a few ideas. I have not yet heard any ideas from the administration or any plans of how they intend to deal with this situation, Mr. Speaker. So what I say is let us get together, do not close the House, on the idea that I just threw out and some other ideas, and let us examine them and let us see if they are worthwhile, Mr. Speaker, in the best interest of all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

MR. SIMMS: What does Mr. Montgomery think of it all.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Muntgomery will be leaving tonight for Great Britian, thanks to the administration who have managed to persuade the powers that be, the hierarchy of the university, not to renew his contract because the gentleman would dare to question the Premier of this Province or the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins). We are losing a good man, we are losing a brain, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: So I think I have made by point as far as unemployment is concerned, Mr. Speaker. I could go on and I could bring up letters from my office, I could talk about phone calls, meetings that I have had with people who are unemployed. I really do not feel that is necessary, Mr. Speaker, because I am sure that all hon. gentlemen, the member who represents Labrador West, Menihek, Mr. Walsh, for instance, I am sure that if he wanted to he could tell a lot of stories about the drastic situation in Labrador West, Wabush and Labrador City. If the member for Windsor - Buchans (Mr. McLennon) was worth his salt in this House, and we have not heard him say a word yet about the horrible situation in Buchans where a mine closed last year. - have not heard a word about it. Maybe the administration are hoping that it will just disappear and go away. The only thing we heard about the oil refinery in Come By Chance, that this administration closed down, was what the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) told us the other day. And now, Mr. Speaker, in the last twenty-four hours I have information

MR. NEARY: that confirms what I said when the hon. gentleman made that statement in this House about dismantling part of the refinery, that that is the beginning of the end for that refinery. There would have been blue murder if Petro-Canada had said, 'We are going to dismantle it and take it away'. They used the hon. gentleman as a messenger in this House, to come into the House and say they are only going to take away one part. They are taking away, Mr. Speaker, the most important part, and that refinery will be dismantled and scrapped and taken away.

Mr. Speaker, how hon. gentlemen can be used, used, by Petro-Canada. Used! A Minister of Finance being used by Petro-Canada. Only a couple of years ago they told us that Petro-Canada should be scrapped, dismantled, should be disbanded. Now, Mr. Speaker, now they are allowing themselves to be used like little school boys, messengers, coming in to the House announcing that, Oh, they are going to take away a couple of items, a couple of parts from the oil refinery and they are going to use them in refineries elsewhere in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, they did not have the courage, Petro-Canada did not have the face to come in and start scrapping it, because there would have been blue murder, so they used the minister to announce the news. Mr. Speaker, that the refinery will be scrapped and taken away, because all Petro-Canada ever wanted in the beginning anyway was the wharf and the storage tanks. The hon. gentleman is too green to see it.

DR. COLLINS: You do not mean to tell me the federal government would let one of its agencies hurt this Province, would it?

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, that is one time they used the hon. gentleman to do it. Used him. A hired gun. That is what the hon. gentleman was like, a hired gun. You often see in these movies, Mr. Speaker, where you hire someone to go out and do a job for you. The Minister of Finance, a hired gun for Petro-Canada to come in -and the hon. gentleman came in in his simplicity, took great pride in announcing this, instead of saying to Petro- Canada , Look, do not touch a nut or a bolt out of that refinery. No, he did not do that. Then they talk about giving things away. A \$500 million plant, it is probably more than that now, the replacement value of that plant, \$600 million or \$700 million.

DR. COLLINS: No, over that, I would say.

MR. NEARY: Over \$700 million the hon. gentleman says. I believe it is more than that too. It is probably \$800 million or \$900 million. So they are going to take it away, scrap it, dismantle it. They lay back, slouch in their seats, do nothing, do not lift a finger, let her go, tear it down, close everything down, let Bowaters do what they like in Corner Brook. The Iron Ore Company of Canada do not even tell the administration when they are going to lay people off.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible) again today, are you?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman thinks it is funny, thinks it is very funny. Well, the people in Come By Chance and in that area do not think it is funny. And the hon. gentleman is playing with taxpayer money. There is close to \$50 million of taxpayer money in that refinery and if anybody is going to scrap it, recover their money, it should be taxpayers of this Province. The hon. gentleman thinks that is very, very funny indeed. But, Mr. Speaker, that is the kind of policies that this administration have been following. I cannot think of one new mine they opened in eleven years. I cannot think of one new industry that started in this Province in the last eleven years under the Tory Administration, Mr. Speaker. They have not had an original idea and I am sure the media will come out and say, "Well, we heard the Leader of the Opposition say that before."

Mr. Speaker, look back over twenty-three years of Liberalism in this Province, the development of industry, the development of the fishery, the development of municipal government, the development of farming, the development of transportation. We had a very different province twenty-

MR. NEARY: three years after a Liberal Government took over, after Confederation.

Mr. Speaker, there was no road across this Province. Nine hundred communities were isolated. There was no pavement worthwhile, only about 2,000 miles of roads over which a motor vehicle could manage to travel and only 100 miles of that was paved in 452 years, up to 1949. All the governments between them had spent a total of only \$36 million to build, repair and maintain roads, Mr. Speaker. Electric lights were only in one-half of the dwellings in this Province. A total of 2,400 teachers were receiving an average salary of \$862 a year or \$16 a week, and only 100 of those teachers had university degrees.

MR. NEARY: Twenty-three years of Liberalism, Mr. Speaker: At the time of Confederation there was only eighty-four indoor toilets out of 1,187 schools. Water and sewerage systems only in nine of 1,300 communities. There were only twenty-six public libraries, six radio stations, not one school bus, only three public parks and only four modern hotels.

MR. MARSHALL: You are reading from I Chose Canada.

MR. NEARY: No, Mr. Speaker, I am not reading from I Chose Canada.

Mr. Speaker, when the Liberals took over in this Province they made a determined effort to develop on every front. What have we seen in eleven years of Toryism? One failure after the other, industries shutting down. I am just looking for some examples of the kind of development that I am talking about - farming, Mr. Speaker, the Liberals brought into this Province some of the most outstanding industrialists in business and industry in the whole world.

DR. COLLINS: The Liberals brought in potato wart too, did they not?

MR. NEARY: Well, the same way as you could say the Tories brought in the spruce budworm. The first outbreak of spruce budworm in this Province was in 1972, shortly after the Tories took over in this Province, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think I have dwelled long enough on unemployment, I think I have made my point. If it has not registered with hon. gentleman there is nothing I can do. There are forty-four of them over there there are only eight of us, they can decide the issues to be debated in this House. We have no control of the agenda

MR. NEARY: for this House. Whatever we debate in this House is decided by hon. gentlemen there opposite. Now, Mr. Speaker, I know they will get up when I take my seat and I can tell you what the strategy will be. They will attack me personally, they will attack the member for Port au Port (Mr. Hodder) and my colleagues and the media will fall for it. The attack on us is a red herring because really, Mr. Speaker, when you get down to it we are not in a decision making capacity, we can only make speeches and suggest and put forward positive ideas and concrete suggestions for the development of our Province and of our natural resources. So, the hon. gentleman, the President of the Council (Mr. Marshall), the Government House Leader, can get up and squirt his poison and his venom and he can attack me all he wants but what will be achieved by

MR. NEARY:

that, Mr. Speaker? Maybe he will get his jollies out of it, Maybe that is his sadistic nature, he can get his jollies out of it, He gets a little quote in the press and he and his colleagues will get together and snicker as they look, See what they said about the Leader of the Opposition! Maybe their morale will come up a little bit because they attacked me, because I am going to bear the brunt of the hon. gentleman's attack. I would submit to the hon. gentleman that instead of attacking the Opposition, show us your plans to deal with high unemployment, high electricity rates, the crisis in the fishery, the crisis in the mining industry, the crisis in the pulp and paper industry. The hon. gentleman will say, of course, 'Some of the responsibility for this is outside our jurisdiction, we cannot help it, problems in Labrador West;

Maybe they will take the attitude the Premier took the other day, 'There is nothing we can do about unemployment,' he said. Mr. Speaker, if the hon. gentleman wants to get his kicks and his jollies, and to satisfy his ego and his sadistic nature by attacking the Opposition -

DR. COLLINS: Are you saying that you have heard his speech already?

MR. NEARY: Yes, I have heard it.

Mr. Speaker, I can read their minds, I can tell you what they are going to say. They are going to go back to the Smallwood years, they are going to say, you gave everything away, you gave away this and you gave away that and you did not do this and you did not have democracy and you did not have this and that and the other thing, Mr. Speaker,

MR. NEARY: Then the hon. gentleman will turn on me and he will play politics and he will say, well, he is only an interim leader or he is going to retire or he is going to the Senate or he is going to do this or he is going to do that. I can hear it all now which will have nothing at all to do with the real issues, the real problems in this Province. I hope, Mr. Speaker, for the first time in their lives that the media will not allow the wool to be pulled over their eyes. They cannot wait to get their little quotes down, their little darts, their little poison, little venom coming from the hon. gentleman. What I would like to see them get down is: Where are the plans to put people back to work? Where are the plans to investigate the mismanagement and incompetence of Newfoundland Hydro that has caused high electricity rates to consumers of Hydro in this Province? Where are the plans that diversify the economy of Corner Brook, Labrador West, Buchans, Bell Island, Happy Valley/Goose Bay? Where are the plans to deal with the crisis in the Newfoundland fishery? Where is the provincial money in the estimates to restructure the processing sector of the Newfoundland fishery? Where is the money or is it just all lip service? Is there any wonder that the Provincial Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) is getting ready to bail out? I have to say this about the Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Speaker, the stories that I have heard about the hon. gentleman's performance at the Fisheries Council of Canada would make you ashamed of your life. The minister was invited down for the opening of the Fisheries Council of Canada, you had

MR. NEARY: people there from all over the world, since it was a conference international in scope.

DR. COLLINS: He got a standing ovation, did he not?

MR. NEARY: That is what he did not get, a standing ovation. He nearly got the boot.

MR. BAIRD: Where?

MR. NEARY: This was an international conference and the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) was invited for the opening. Now what did he say at the opening of that great international conference? People from all over the world, influential people in the processing and harvesting of fish from all over the world, and the Minister of Fisheries for this Province went down and condemned the Newfoundland fishery, criticized the quality of the Newfoundland fish, questioned the management of the plants in this Province and told how the plants were on the brink of bankruptcy, nailed Fishery Products -

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

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): A point of order. The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. MORGAN: The hon. gentleman is now reverting to his same old tactics. Since he cannot draw attention by making truthful statements in debate, he is not making deliberate untruths in his debate. The hon. gentleman should know that what I had to say to the conference at the Holiday Inn of approximately 500-and-something delegates from around the world was covered on the front page of both print media in

MR.MORGAN:

St. John's. None of what he is saying now was included in the text of my statements or made anywhere near the conference of the Fisheries Council of Canada.

MR.NEARY: To that point of order.

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

MR.NEARY: That is not a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR.MORGAN: Tell the truth.

MR.SPEAKER: To that point of order, it is a difference of opinion between two hon. members.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR.NEARY: The hon. gentleman, Mr. Speaker, went to this great international conference, ridiculed -

MR.MORGAN: You are a liar.

MR.NEARY: Now, Mr. Speaker, of course, you have to ask the hon. gentleman to take that back.

MR.SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR.MORGAN: Stop lying.

MR.SPEAKER: I have to ask the hon. minister to withdraw the statement that he made.

MR.MORGAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, what does a member do in this House when someone stands and lies about him? What does he do? The hon. gentleman is not telling the truth.

MR.SPEAKER: Order, please! I ask the hon. minister to withdraw his statements.

MR.MORGAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, I have to obey the rules of the House and obey your order. And,

MR.MORGAN: based on the fact it is a rule of the House that I have to withdraw, I withdraw. But I will say outside the House what I just said in the House.

MR.NEARY: Take your seat.

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

MR.NEARY: Mr. Speaker, what the hon. gentleman did -

MR. TOBIN: You are down in the mud again where you belong.

MR. MORGAN: That is right.

MR.NEARY: Now if the Government House Leader wants this debate to end today he better try to control his caucus.

MR. MORGAN: You thought I was gone away from the House again. You started to lie about me again in the confines of the House. You would not say it until you thought I was gone.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I have touched a nerve with the hon. gentleman.

MR. MORGAN: You are a vicious, dirty little politician.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman went down to this great conference. The hon. gentleman knows he did wrong.

MR. MORGAN: He is lying all the time.

MR. NEARY: Now, that has to be taken back, Mr. Speaker. That has to be taken back, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

The hon. member has left the floor. I will take it under consideration.

MR. NEARY: Alright, Mr. Speaker. The hon. gentleman cannot be allowed to take this House on his back.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what the hon. gentleman did was he went down to an international conference of the Fisheries Council of Canada and he made a speech ridiculing and knocking the industry, saying we have poor quality fish, we have poor management, our fishery is in deep trouble, Mr. Speaker. He said that.

MR. TOBIN: He did not say it.

MR. NEARY: He did say it. The hon. gentleman was not there, he was down at the People's Conference, where I was.

MR. TOBIN: And how do you know it?

MR. NEARY: Because I have been told, because I had calls from Newfoundlanders who were there who were ashamed of their lives! Now, Mr. Speaker, what a picture! What an image to create, what a picture to develop for these people who represented companies and

MR. NEARY: the industry from all over the world! And the hon. gentleman made a statement about Fishery Products and is likely to be sued for it. I do not know whether or not the summons has been delivered yet.

MR. MORGAN: It was not made at the Fisheries Council, boy! Come on, get your facts straight! You were so lost in trying to play politics with Richard Cashin and them and failed - that is what happened to you - that you got lost, so lost you went over to the other hotel, Airport Inn. They would not meet with you.

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

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

MR. NEARY: Does the hon. gentleman have to withdraw his statement now, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

I will check Hansard to see what remarks are recorded so that I will get the exact wording and I will rule on it at a future time.

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: God! That has got to be something else!

So, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman went down and painted this

MR. NEARY: bleak, gloomy picture of the Newfoundland fishing industry.

MR. MORGAN: Where?

MR. NEARY: The Fisheries Council of Canada.

MR. MORGAN: I am glad to say it was carried by the media.

MR. NEARY: Let me say something else, that night the hon. gentleman spoke again at the Fisheries Council of Canada. Now what did the hon. gentleman do this time?

MR. MORGAN: I only spoke once at the Fisheries Council.

MR. TOBIN: He got a standing ovation at the People's Conference.

MR. NEARY: He told a joke that stank of racism, Mr. Speaker. Newfoundlanders at that conference came away ashamed, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MORGAN: I am not going to sit here and listen to your old trash.

MR. NEARY: He was trying to be funny and told a joke, with all these international people, people from Africa and all over the world.

MR. CARTER: Tell us the joke.

MR. NEARY: I would not dare repeat it. I would not lower myself to repeat it. It was insulting to the intelligence of these people, Mr. Speaker. What a display of ignorance on the part of the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) of this Province.

MR. CARTER: I bet you do not remember the punch line.

MR. NEARY: I certainly do remember the punch line.

MR. TOBIN: It must be some bad that you would not tell it. It must be some gross.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, remember that this hon. gentleman was representing this administration, and that is about the level of this administration, that is about their speed; they are uncouth. They have no class except the member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry), who is trying to

MR. NEARY: get up out of the mud that he has been in with this crowd. The hon. gentleman was not here earlier when I told the House about some of the remarks that we have been hearing about the hon. gentleman, that if he continues he is going to get the flick. The Premier is getting fed up with him.

MR. CARTER: It is very easy to get a new Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, they can pick a new Leader of the Opposition if they want to. They seemed to be terribly worried about my leadership and that is why I said earlier -

MR. TOBIN: No, boy. We want you to stay there.

MR. NEARY: - Mr. Speaker, that the attack will be one me, if I criticize, then I have to bear the brunt of the attack. But it should not be that way. I am merely criticizing for lack of action and unemployment, Mr. Speaker. So my leadership is not in question, not in doubt. I have not decided whether I am going to continue in this job or whether I am going to quit, I have not decided. But hon. gentleman seem to be very worried about it. Oh, Mr. Speaker, would they not love to see me gone! Above anybody else in this world, in this House, would they not love to see me out.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No way. No.

MR. NEARY: Well, try again, Mr. Speaker. They can try all they want. Mr. Speaker, when hon. gentleman are responding to me in this debate, it is not my leadership that is the question,

MR. NEARY: whether I am going to stay, and they hope I am not going to stay. I am beginning to like the job, you know, Mr. Speaker, I am beginning to like this job.

MR. BUTT: I am beginning to like you too.

MR. NEARY: Not a bad job, pretty good pay. I like it.

MR. TOBIN: You do not have to worry about us it is your own colleagues you have to worry about.

MR. NEARY: But, Mr. Speaker, the tragic part of it is that we have people like the provincial Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) who went down and made a holy show of himself down at the Fishery Council of Canada. I would not mind if I had one call, one person approach me, all the Newfoundlanders there were ashamed of themselves. You would not know, Mr. Speaker, but our fishery was the lowest, and our fishermen were the lowest form of life. They are not interested in what the hon. gentleman had to say about the Newfoundland fishery. The trouble is, Mr. Speaker, they have no stature. They have no stature, they have no manpower, they have no brains. They are very low on manpower for the Cabinet. They have no stature. That is their problem. And the Premier thinks it is great the Minister of Fisheries - that type of behaviour is great. The damage that it does to the reputation of Newfoundland and Labrador, Mr. Speaker, you cannot measure it.

MR. TOBIN: The people of Newfoundland thinks he is a good minister. When he stood up the other day the people gave him a standing ovation,

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I have to laugh, I have to laugh. Down at the People's Conference I had to laugh, here they were, the member for Burin-Placentia West (Mr. Tobin), the member for St. Mary's-The Capes (Mr. Hearn), the member for Grand Bank (Mr. Matthews), the member for this, the member for that, seven or eight members from the other side. It was all orchestrated, they had it all pre-planned. Who were

MR. NEARY: the first on their feet to give him a standing ovation? Who were the frist?

MR. TOBIN: The Mayor of Burin.

MR. NEARY: The worms! The worms!
Mr. Speaker, I have to restrain myself.

MR. TOBIN: And Father Foley.

MR. NEARY: I have to be kind now when I talk about the Mayor of Burin. Ask me Tory brother, that is all I can say to the hon. gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, like worms, they were just like worms.

MR. TOBIN: The Mayor of Burin started the clapping.

MR. NEARY: They stood up, dragged up a few people. Two-thirds of the people - I was sitting in the back - did not move out of their seats.

MR. TOBIN: You stood up.

MR. NEARY: I certainly did not stand up.

MR. TOBIN: You did so stand up.

MR. NEARY: I certainly did not, Mr. Speaker. It will be some day when I give a standing ovation to the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) in this Province. It will be some day. It will be a frosty Friday, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TOBIN: You stood up and so did the member for Burin-St. Georges (Mr. Simmons).

MR. NEARY: So I went down to the Fishery Council of Canada - it was shameful I am told. Shameful!

MR. NEARY: Especially the story that had to do with racism. The hon. gentleman thought it was funny,

MR. TOBIN: Why did your colleague not answer the question when he was asked it?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, we have already seen rules of this House broken there a few minutes ago and now the member for Burin-Placentia West (Mr. Tobin) is breaking the rules again. I wonder if Your Honour could bring him to task. Name him if - the weekend is coming up and the hon. gentleman can go other places and carry on like he is doing now. The people's House is not the place to do it.

So, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) really did it this time, really, really did it this time. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Fisheries really put his foot in it this time, and I guarantee you that there are an awful lot of Newfoundlanders who felt pretty bad about that, pretty bad about it, thought he was being smart and funny. The hon. gentleman, I do not know what is making him so testy today. Obviously I hit a nerve with the hon. gentleman. I do not know if he has had his summons served on him yet by Fishery Products, Mr. Speaker. That is another matter, I will not refer to that because that may be before the courts. I am not sure.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I was getting off the subject of record unemployment, but before I take my seat I want to deal briefly with another matter that has come up in recent days that has to do with spraying chemicals on our forests in this Province.

MR. HODDER: And Labrador.

MR. NEARY: Yes, I have a few things to say about Labrador. We have been told by the administration that they are going to spray 2,4D again this year in this Province and

MR. NEARY: the people of Millertown are getting reading to -

MR. ANDREWS: The administration has not said that.

MR. NEARY: They have said it.

MR. ANDREWS: Abitibi-Price have said it and they have not even asked us yet.

MR. NEARY: Well, Abitibi-Price can only say it with the approval and the blessing of the administration.

MR. ANDREWS: They have not asked for a permit.

MR. NEARY: They have not asked for a permit? Well, I am surprised that the hon. gentleman has not taken them to task.

MR. WARREN: He has not even written them.

MR. NEARY: No, that is right, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ANDREWS: I cannot take them to task until they ask and we do not give them permission until they put an application in.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, they will knuckle under the big companies, you need not worry, because the history of this administration is to come down on the side of the big companies. That is their whole history. And they will knuckle under. And if Abitibi-Price says publicly they are going to spray 2,4D, they are going to spray 2,4D and the only way it will be stopped is if the people steal it like they did last year and hide it away. But the minister will not lift a finger to stop it.

MR. WARREN: I think the minister knew about that last year.

MR. NEARY: No, he did not know about it. No, I would not say that.

MR. WARREN: Yes, Sir, he knew all about it.

MR. NEARY: People of Millertown are regrouping to fight the spray programme. But, Mr. Speaker, what is more alarming is the fact that a study group in New Brunswick, where matacil was first used for spraying against spruce budworm, just announced - these are scientists, these are not politicians. The Government of New Brunswick has been spraying matacil now for the last fifteen or twenty years, no further ahead. They have a super spruce budworm now, They do not have the ordinary spruce budworm, they have become immune to the spray - they have super budworms. And, Mr. Speaker, the people have complained bitterly about the spray programme in that province and the government over there finally came to its senses and they appointed a study group to look at matacil. What were the results of the study? The scientists said that it cannot be proven that matacil affects people's health, you cannot prove that, but neither can you prove that it does not affect their health. There is not enough known about matacil, the chemical we have been dropping on people around this Province, spraying communities and water supplies.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, these scientists

said - listen to this, I am sure the member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Butt), is very concerned about this, This is not politics. The scientists said, 'They do not know enough about matacil to determine whether it affects people's health. And they do not know enough about it to determine whether or not it affects people's health.' That is a pretty serious situation. So what did this administration do? They came down on the side of the big companies and said, 'We will take our chance'. So as a result of this they are taking a second look at spraying matacil in the Province of New Brunswick. And when asked about Newfoundland the scientist in his wisdom, and rightly so, decided that he would not comment. He was not asked to do a study on Newfoundland, he was only asked to do a study on New Brunswick, the effects of the spray programme in New Brunswick.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I think we should follow the example of New Brunswick and before the Minister responsible for the Environment (Mr. Andrews) issues any permits this year to spray, to the paper companies, before he is taken out, trotted out and wined and dined by the paper companies, the hon. gentleman should think about the health of our people, the lives of our people.

MR. ANDREWS: The economic life is important too.

MR. NEARY: Their economic life is important too, Mr. Speaker, I would submit that if I had a choice between the health of our people and whether or not we should spray to save the forest for the paper companies, I think I know where my choice would lie.

MR. ANDREWS: That has never been proved.

MR. NEARY: No, it has not been proved that it damages peoples health, but it has not been proved that it does not damage people's health either.

MR. ANDREWS: Yes, it has.

MR. NEARY: Oh, no, it has not, Mr. Speaker.

Not according to the scientists in New Brunswick.

MR. ANDREWS: You can pick any scientist you want.

MR. NEARY: Oh, you can pick any scientist you want. Mr. Speaker, how weak can you get? The hon. gentleman is getting ready now to come down on the side of the big companies again, Mr. Speaker.

So, I would hope that before any spray programmes are approved this year that a study group of independent scientists and experts will be allowed to take a look at the situation and that the programme be put on hold, because after all, Mr. Speaker, we had a report from the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. Power) last year who told us that the egg count is down anyway, that nature seems to be taking care of the spruce budworm programme. Nature has a way of taking care of itself, it seems to be taking

May 6, 1983

Tape No. 1881

MJ - 2

MR. NEARY:

care of that programme.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to mention that before I took my seat.

I also want to have a few words about Labrador and what is happening in Labrador, Mr. Speaker. This administration have a history of not being able to negotiate with anything or anybody, they have a long history of failures behind them, not one success.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, when the matter came up about the caribou meat that was stranded in Labrador, North of Nain, who had to come to the rescue of the people in Labrador North, the hunters whose Ski-doods and sleds had been left isolated, stranded out in the wilderness? Was it this administration?

My colleague was travelling in Northern Labrador. He called me long distance. He was very concerned and the people were very concerned that the meat was going to spoil. On the advice of my colleague, I came into this House to ask some questions of the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development (Mr. Goudie) on this matter. And what was the result, Mr. Speaker? Well, the administration did not lift a finger. They did nothing. And only for my colleague being able to go and, through his own initiative, negotiate with the German air force, who are carrying out manoeuvres in the area, and fortunately they are there earlier this year than in previous years - only for my colleague, Mr. Speaker, being able to do that through his own initiative, that meat would have spoiled, the hunters would probably have lost their Ski-doods and their sleds, their tents and all the other gear and equipment that they had in the country.

My hon. colleague, in no official capacity except that of being the member for the district - the government, the official body governing this Province would not even approach the German air force. It took the good work on the part of my colleague to get that done. Now, that is the respect and the regard that the administration has for the people of Labrador and the native people of this Province, Mr. Speaker. That is a typical example.

May 6, 1983

Tape 1882

EC - 2

MR. NEARY: I commend my colleague.

I take my hat off to him. And I commend the German
air force.

MR. WARREN: Sealand and Universal helped too.

MR. NEARY: And Sealand and Universal
Helicopters companies played a role.

MR. WARREN: Petro-Canada gave free fuel.

MR. NEARY: And Petro-Canada gave free fuel.
What did this administration do?

MR. WARREN: Not one thing.

MR. NEARY: Can the hon. member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Butt) tell me what the administration did in that serious situation that developed in Labrador North? What did they do? A big goose egg, zilch, nothing, zero, that is what they did. That is the kind of regard and consideration they have for Labrador and for the native people in this Province. I take my hat off to my colleague, he will never be defeated. God, I only wish that I had another twenty or thirty members like him, Mr. Speaker. He did a good job and I commend him for it and the people, I am sure, will remember him. Just like the teachers will remember, they will remember. Now what about the cost of food in Labrador?

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I think all members of this hon. House were shocked beyond words to discover the cost of grapefruit and the cost of eggs and the cost of living in the community of Rigolet in Labrador. Just listen, hon. members will not believe it. I have to repeat it again. I heard it this morning on CBC and I still could not believe it. One grapefruit in Rigolet, \$1.44 - one grapefruit. Potatoes, \$1.05 a pound and here in St. John's, thirty-four cents a pound. This is worth repeating, Mr. Speaker. Salt beef - \$3.70 a pound, \$1.43 here; chicken legs - \$2.50 a pound, \$1.58 in St. John's; cabbage - \$1.29 a pound in Rigolet, thirty-three cents here; turnip - \$1.16 a pound in Rigolet; hamburger meat - they do not have many barbecues down there, Mr. Speaker, or very much Mary Brown or Kentucky Fried down there with the price of chicken and hamburger meat; hamburger meat - \$3.93 a pound. It is just like gold dust, \$1.18 here on the Island.

MR. WARREN: Three times as much.

MR. NEARY: Three times as much.

May 6, 1983

Tape No. 1883

SD - 2

MR. NEARY: Apples - thirty-seven cents each;
Sunkist oranges - forty cents each; milk - \$2.95 a litre, here,
\$1.06 a litre; listen to this, Mr. Speaker, eggs - \$3.45
a dozen and here on

MR. NEARY: the Island \$1.59. And I could go on, and on, and on, Mr. Speaker. The point is that this administration have turned their backs on Labrador.

MR. WARREN: They take everything out and they do not put anything back.

MR. NEARY: That is right. I used to hear, when hon. gentlemen were on this side of the House criticizing the former Liberal administration, take everything out, put nothing back. What have this crowd put back? What have they done for the people in Rigolet and the other communities in Northern and Southern Labrador where the cost of living is astronomical, Mr. Speaker? The Minister of Justice (Mr. Ottenheimer) has been sending people around the Province or he has his flunkies, his little political hacks, out in the various communities calling in prices -

MR. TOBIN: That is not true.

MR. NEARY: It is true. Calling in prices and then he puts out a statement saying the lowest food prices in Newfoundland and Labrador are in Glovertown. Hurrah, hurrah! How often have we heard it. Glory alleluia. The lowest prices in Newfoundland are in Glovertown. Good for Glovertown. What is he saying, that we should all move to Glovertown? That is due in the main, I would think, to the enterprising business people of Glovertown. It has nothing to do with the administration, Mr. Speaker. But what are they doing about it? Nothing.

What else is happening in Labrador that they have - Oh, yes, we heard the other day about the fish camp, this camp that was built out of Native funds, built in Voisey Bay, built by a Tory administration without prior consultation with the people as to whether or not their money should be spent on this fish camp up in Voisey Bay. And, Mr. Speaker, I had to laugh, I could not

MR. NEARY: believe what I was hearing the other day when a minister who was answering questions from my dear colleague here said that after they got the camp built they discovered there were no salmon in the bay, no salmon, all they had was Arctic char and trout. And they were hoping to attract fishermen from all over the world and all over North America. They spent \$200,000 to build this luxurious lodge in Voisey Bay and after they got it built, they opened it, and there was nobody booking reservations there, nobody wanted to come and fish, they discovered that there was no fish there. No salmon.

Mr. Speaker, that takes the cake.

MR. WARREN: They built a bathhouse in Davis Inlet and there was no water.

MR. NEARY: That is right. I saw the bathhouse they built in Davis Inlet and there was no water to use in it. This camp must be something else. We were told that it was built for training purposes. Not one person was trained, not one that we know of.

MR. WARREN: There was nobody there to train them.

MR. NEARY: Nobody there to train them.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would submit that the government, the administration, the Tories, built that camp at the time hoping that nobody would notice it away up there, out of sight out of mind.

MR. MORGAN: It is a federal camp.

MR. NEARY: It is not a federal camp. It was built out of ninety per cent federal funds but the initiative had to be taken by this Province. The decision was made by the Tory Administration and they were hoping, out of sight out of mind, that they would be able to get aboard the government plane and fly into Goose Bay and get aboard a helicopter and go up, do their salmon fishing -

PREMIER PECKFORD: No salmon there.

MR. NEARY: - and they discovered there are no salmon there. That is what I just said, before the hon. gentleman came in.

MR. ANDREWS: That is what is called the Fisheries responsibility.

MR. NEARY: That is the Fisheries responsibility. I see. That is the Tory policy, Mr. Speaker. What a policy! Look, the editorial writers in this Province could have a field day if they wanted to, instead of worrying about my suggestion that we have a one day work stoppage to protest the inactivity of the provincial and federal governments, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TOBIN: That was not your suggestion. You tried to be a hero, that is all.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, instead of paying attention to that what they should be doing is writing editorials about building \$200,000 luxurious lodges for themselves so they can go salmon fishing and then when they get it built discover there are no salmon in the Voisey River.

MR. TOBIN: That was a suggestion from the same man who asked you where was the Liberal policy on the fisheries.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, is that not just great? Is that not great? And this is the same administration that talk about megaprojects like the offshore. They cannot even look after a little \$200,000 lodge.

MR. SIMMS: Listen to him blabbing on.

MR. WARREN: What he is talking about makes more sense than all of you over there.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, that is their policy for Labrador.

MR. TOBIN: (Inaudible).

MR. WARREN: The Premier told you to shut up.

MR. NEARY: Yes, and I do not blame the hon. gentleman for clamping down on the rudeness and the nastiness of the hon. member for Burin-Placentia West. That is one time I agree with the hon. gentleman, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Labrador has been neglected under this administration. It is like a cow path I am told, the road now from Churchill Falls to Happy Valley.

MR. WARREN: One hundred and eighty miles of road.

MR. NEARY: One hundred and eighty miles of road that was built by a Liberal Administration, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WARREN: A little bit of maintenance each year is all it gets.

MR. NEARY: All it gets is just a little few maintenance dollars every year.

The fact of the matter is that my hon. colleagues from Labrador may as well face up to the situation. They have no policy. They are not coming to grips with the serious economic problems in Labrador West where

MR. NEARY: people are economically marooned. If you do not work for one of the mining companies in there you do not work. They have not been able to deal with the contracting out. The Minister of Labour and Manpower (Mr. Dinn) went down, threw up his arms, did the same thing the Premier did regarding high unemployment in this Province and said, 'There is nothing I can do, work it out amongst yourselves.'

MR. WARREN: By the way, the Minister of Labour and Manpower and the member from Menihek (Mr. Walsh) had a rough time the other evening at a meeting in Labrador City.

MR. NEARY: That is what they did get a rough time and it is going to get rougher, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this government has failed the recent provincial budget causes much alarm, much anxiety for the people of this Province because of something that most critics have so far failed to observe. There is an important two-sided aspect to any budget, Mr. Speaker. This budget virtually rules out the possibility of growth in our Province's business and financial sector. There is, on the one hand, a great list of areas where government is raising money through taxes mostly - 18 per cent of our revenue comes from the retail sales tax, 14 per cent from the personal income tax, 30 per cent from tax equalization, established programmes, and the rest from other areas.

Mr. Speaker, let me say this to the hon. the Premier: The next time he wants to get up, or if he is ever seriously thinking about having a referendum on separation, or if the hon. gentleman on the spur of the moment, off the cuff sometime, as he does, make irresponsible and erratic statements, when the hon. gentleman starts making anti-Canadian statements again aided and abetted by the President of the Council (Mr. Marshall), the Government House Leader when they try that again, Mr. Speaker, let them remember one point, one

May 6, 1983

Tape No. 1886

MJ - 2

MR. NEARY: significant fact, let them remember one fact and one fact only, that 60 per cent of the revenue of this Province comes from the Government of Canada, comes from the people of Canada, 60 per cent of the Premier's salary and my salary and members' salaries comes from the Government of Canada. I hope the member for St. Mary's - The Capes (Mr. Hearn), every time he

MR. NEARY: stands up to lambaste Ottawa, to do a little fed bashing himself, will remember that 60 per cent of his salary and his expenses comes from the Government of Canada.

MR. WARREN: And the work projects in his community.

MR. NEARY: I am not talking about work projects or anything else, I am just talking about revenue, straight revenue going into the Consolidated Revenue Fund. And when the President of the Council stands again to ridicule and blaspheme and condemn and slander and libel the Government of Canada, that he will remember, Mr. Speaker, that 60 per cent of his salary and his expenses and his income comes from the Government of Canada, and his boss, the Premier, 60 per cent. Sixty per cent of that apartment that is being paid for by the taxpayers comes from the Government of Canada. Sixty per cent of Your Honour's salary comes from the Government of Canada. Sixty per cent of the salaries of public servants, of teachers, of nurses comes from the Government of Canada. Sixty per cent of salaries of the staff of the House comes from the Government of Canada.

So the next time they start like seals to pound their desks when someone scores a little political Brownie point, says something funny about a minister or about the Government of Canada, let them remember that one fact alone. I do not have the time today to go into all of the other things, Mr. Speaker.

Sixty per cent of the hon. gentlemen's salaries and expenses, the operation of this House, the operation of the Public Service in this Province comes from the Government of Canada. Mr. Speaker, in other words, our government gets 60 per cent of its financing from the taxpayers of Canada, the federal government. On the other hand then, Mr. Speaker, the government dishes out money on education.

MR. NEARY: I suppose education and health take about almost 50 per cent of current account expense, and then there are debt charges, other financial expenses - about 13 per cent in transport and communications, I believe 16 per cent goes out in debt charges and so forth, policing and general government, I would say, about 6 per cent, natural resources, development, trade, industry, and agriculture about 10 per cent, and about \$201 million for welfare recipients.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, what I am saying here is that there are two actions that government are involved in, two actions taken by the government: Government takes money from the taxpayers and Ottawa and government dishes out money, mostly for services and paying bills and welfare, and that is it. There is no middle ground, Mr. Speaker. There is really nothing else that government does to justify its existence. And I am not saying or implying in any way, shape or form, Mr. Speaker, that any government today has it easy, they do not, but at least an administration can try. This administration tries nothing. It has no middle life. It takes money, it spends money on services and, therefore, maintains the status quo and the underlying theme then is no growth, no growth whatsoever, Mr. Speaker. There should be a middle life for this government but something definitely is missing. And, incidentally, I might say that many critics, many people in this Province say that this administration is doing a very poor job at just these two activities alone. For one thing, we are told in the latest budget, there is a prediction that the current account deficit of \$28 million, which is high, Mr. Speaker, we are told that by mid-year or by the end of the fiscal year that that will grow to \$100 million. That is devastating, Mr. Speaker, and, therefore, I cannot blame the Board of Trade or anybody else for being as concerned as we are about the state, the fiscal state of this Province and the state of the Newfoundland and Labrador economy, Mr. Speaker. They did not like the criticism they received from a highly respected professor of international finance at Memorial University who called the budget

MR. NEARY: the most inept document of its kind that he had ever seen. Many others have condemned this document, Mr. Speaker, for unwise predictions and, indeed, brutal and callous consequences on the people. The Medical Association and the Newfoundland Hospital Association have condemned it and say that sick people will get sicker before they can get a hospital bed. Hospital beds will indeed close down and Fraser Marsh, the President of NAPE, says that people may die because of the lack of medical delivery financing. The students are outraged because their continuing education, Mr. Speaker, in the post-secondary field is being placed in jeopardy. Four thousand of them, if hon. gentlemen will recall, only recently marched on Confederation Building to object to their treatment at the hands of an administration which a little over a year ago promised Newfoundlanders and

MR. NEARY:

Labradorians the world. Mr. Speaker, hon. members will also remember that this same administration, the Premier and his team, promised that 'have not' will be no more. Now, did we make that promise on this side of the House? All we offered to the people of this Province, Mr. Speaker, was hard work. 'Make work', we said, 'not war'. That was our slogan.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I have said on a number of occasions, I like the Premier. I know of no one, myself, who wishes him ill will. Why should they? He is a good Newfoundlander. And as you and I know, Mr. Speaker, he is loved, he is very popular. But sadly for you and I and for many, many more Newfoundlanders and Labradorians we are now finding out that although he is a great charmer he is at the same time a hopeless manager of our affairs, a destitute administrator, totally bereft of ideas, initiative or imagination with which to stimulate growth, develop industry, attract industry or even help keep on-stream the industry we now have. As I said, Sir, I like the Premier but I weep inside like many more Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, when I see what he has done to our economy and even more at what he has not done with it.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, the budget does not address the third aspect of government. I mentioned the two activities of government - the government takes money from the people, hands money out and that is it. But there is something terribly wrong with this, Sir, there is something missing and I will tell you what I think that something is, if members do not already know, and that is that there is no third life in the budget that speaks for creating jobs other than employment for people on welfare and unemployment insurance exhaustees. There is no address to

MR. NEARY: the concept of attracting new industry. There is no plan to build an economy of any kind. The only plan, Mr. Speaker, is to maintain the status quo with drastic reductions in health and education and with a \$28 million deficit at the starting line. It is like starting off a boxing match with twenty-eight direct hits to the head and body already. It is liable budgeting, Mr. Speaker, it is liable to put us under, it is liable to make us bankrupt, it is liable to see our Province passed over to a third party of American bankers who have come to collect on their overwhelming debt.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the newspapers that carried the Budget highlights the very next day after it was issued had as one of its highlights this headline, "Slow growth and persistent high unemployment predicted." And here is another headline they used, front page coverage, "Total public sector debt rises to \$3.39 billion from the \$3.13 billion." And another headline, "Freeze on 450 government jobs." Not one of those headlines had anything like "Government unveils plans to create 1,000 new jobs in private enterprise." Not one of those headlines read "Government announces five year plan of economic recovery for the Province." Not one of those headlines had anything at all like this, "Government trying, trying, trying". Or the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) making statements that he is going to try one last time to stimulate the Newfoundland economy by announcing federal/provincial funded projects, etc., etc. But there was nothing, Mr. Speaker, and we needed a lot more than just something.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know if I should carry on much longer. I cannot say that I have not exercised my right as a member of this House, as Leader of the Opposition to try to rivet the message home, to get the message through to the administration, Mr. Speaker, sometimes I feel as if I am talking to the dead. I could go on and on and on and talk about initiatives that I know, Mr. Speaker, we could undertake in this Province that will be helpful to our people, to our unemployed, help to stimulate the economy.

Mr. Speaker, let me first summarize what I am saying and what I have been saying, the theme of my remarks for the last six or seven days.

MR. NEARY: What I am saying to the administration, let us forget elections for the moment. I know the Premier finds that difficult on times, when he flings out the challenge. He thinks this great but it does not accomplish anything. Let us forget campaigning, Mr. Speaker. There are no provincial elections for another three or four years yet. This is the middle period, the time when politicians are supposed to be delivering on their election promises. Now, the Premier made one promise, to deliver the offshore. He has not done that and I am demanding that he get back to the bargaining table and deliver on his promise. But that is just one thing he must do, Mr. Speaker. He must first of all stop campaigning for elections that do not exist, he must take economic initiative to save our Province. I have given him a number of ideas to work with. All our talk on this side of the House is not negative; a lot of positive suggestions, constructive ideas have been brought before this House by the Opposition, we will continue to do so, Mr. Speaker. The only thing we are asking the Premier and his administration to do is to take our ideas and study them. All I am saying is there is a lot we can do if we try. Mr. Speaker, we cannot lie down and die. That provincial budget that was brought in a few weeks ago by the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) should be burned at the stake and rewritten. Consideration for the kinds of projects and the kind of thinking that I have outlined in the last six or seven days must replace the Minister of Finance's predictions of slow growth and unemployment. We can beat slow growth, Mr. Speaker, and we can stop driving Newfoundlanders out of our Province if we would only use a little initiative, imagination, energy and most of all, Mr. Speaker, a desire to succeed, a real deep-seated concern and desire to succeed and concern for the people of our Province.

May 6, 1983

Tape No. 1681

MJ - 2

MR. CROSS:

Mr. Speaker,

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward):

The hon. the member for Bonavista North.

MR. CROSS:

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in this debate. If I could I would not be as long as the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary), but I have a few words to say and I want to refute a few of the things that he has said.

This morning the hon. the Leader of the Opposition spoke about the hon. member for Baie Verte - White Bay (Mr. Rideout), his crossing the floor, and

MR. CROSS:

sort of held him up to a little bit of ridicule.

But, Mr. Speaker, we all know that the hon. member for Baie Verte-White Bay (Mr. Rideout) is a good man.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. CROSS:

He was a good man when he sat in Opposition and he still is. The man did not change, the man did not change, the man changed his political party. The man did not give up any of his principles in doing so, he was only giving up a dying party.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) for speaking for seven days, but in many things that he said he was trying to lead the people astray. I sat in this House as much as any member in the last seven days and listened to the hon. Leader of the Opposition. He spoke of the good things that were done under the Liberals during their administration. I will not argue with him that much good was done during the Liberal's twenty-three years.

But, Mr. Speaker, what I want to take issue with and will take issue with him on is this: He speaks of the years since the PCs have been in power as the do-nothing years, a time when there has been no progress, no programmes. I do not believe that, Mr. Speaker. And I also believe that the district that I have the honour of representing in this hon. House now does show that great progress has been made over the past ten years. Whether you speak of education, health, the fishery, transportation or municipal affairs, in the district that I represent great progress has been made. And I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that every member in this hon. House could speak and give his

MR. CROSS: list of the things that
have been done in every district and the list would be impressive.

Mr. Speaker, looking at education
in the district of Bonavista North: In the last eleven years, if
I were to speak like a former, former Premier of this Province,
I would say not one, not two, not three, but four new schools
have been constructed costing not \$1 million, not \$2 million,
not \$3 million, not \$4 million but \$5 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CROSS: Bayview Heights Academy in Gambo, William Mercer Elementary at Dover, Heritage Academy at Greenspond and a new elementary school in Centreville. And while that has been going on, Mr. Speaker, there have been improvements and additions to all other schools in the district.

Mr. Speaker, if we look at health in the district of Bonavista North, there has been an extension to the outpatients clinic at Brookfield Hospital. There has been a new doctor's residence built there. There has been a new clinic built in Greenspond and a new clinic for Centreville. The number of doctors in the Brookfield Hospital has increased from two to four and on occasion, five. Again, we do have a new home for senior citizens in Bonavista North, built in 1979. And here again many, many dollars, many, many programmes.

Mr. Speaker, if we look at transportation, again the list is very impressive, what has been done in the past eleven years. I know hon. members might say to me, yes, there have been a great many federal dollars included. But what is wrong with spending federal dollars? What is wrong with getting federal dollars? The hon. leader talked about the 60 per cent that comes from Ottawa. I would like to ask the question, do we not make some contribution to Ottawa? Do not some of our taxes be passed in in one hand and passed out to the other? I do not think we are destitute in Newfoundland and I do not think that we should hide away when we talk of federal dollars, because many of them are our own coming back to us.

Getting back to transportation, Mr. Speaker, the Bonavista North Loop Road in the last eleven years has been completely upgraded and paved. Branch roads to Dover, Valleyfield and Newtown have been upgraded

MR. CROSS: and paved. Community roads in Newtown, Templeman, Pound Cove, Wesleyville, Brookfield, Badger's Quay, Valleyfield and Centreville have been paved, and some of the major community roads in Gambo. The main road through Indian Bay Wareham and Dover paved. The road to Shamblers Cove built in that time, the road that made way for the causeway to be constructed to Greenspond - no road, there would be no need for the causeway. You had to have the road before you had the causeway.

MR. CROSS: So again there the list is impressive and the number of millions of dollars that have been spent is great.

Mr. Speaker, if we look at the fishery, the fish plant in Valleyfield was one time an experimental plant employing some forty or fifty people. In 1967 that plant was taken over by private enterprise. When it was taken over it employed some 150 to 160 people. Today, Mr. Speaker, extensions and expansion - I have seen a crab plant added, a meal processing plant added, a herring plant added, freezing capacity expanded and presently not 150 people are working there but 450, and up to 500 people in peak periods during the year.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) mentioned where new plants and new community stages had been built. I do not believe, I listened as much as anyone while he spoke, but I do not believe he spoke of the building of a fish plant in Greenspond that was built under a Liberal administration. And maybe he conveniently omitted it, Mr. Speaker, because the plant that was built in Greenspond was closed out under the same administration and sold for \$1.00. In the past three years another plant has replaced the old plant in Greenspond, a community, Mr. Speaker, and I do not want to be always talking about resettlement but I think I have to speak about it here again, a community that was slated for resettlement when in 1966 a former administration built a road, built a wharf on the back of Greenspond Island, and the first thing that crawled over it was a new tractor, a brand new tractor, "Here boys, here is a new tractor for you." But what was the tractor supposed to be used for? Not for the good of the community but, resettlement was taking over, to haul

MR. CROSS: your houses down to the landwash, to put them on and move out, an old historic community.

That is what happened,
Mr. Speaker. Greenspond was supposed to be left to die. But last year, Mr. Speaker, with all of our unemployment in Newfoundland, when this government did provide money to extend a new school, Heritage Academy, there were three carpenteres needed and a labourer was wanted. But Mr. Speaker, the school board was contracting the job itself.

MR. CROSS: The carpenters did not come from Greenspond. There were five good carpenters, they did not need the work. They were busy working, Mr. Speaker, not in Grand Falls or Corner Brook or St. John's or Gander, busy working, building homes for people and so on in Greenspond. So, what happened? Three carpenters had to be imported, two from Badger's Quay, one from Centreville, to build that school. A labourer, Mr. Speaker, was wanted, Certainly the first preference went to Greenspond if there was a labourer there who wanted the job. Result: No. A labourer, lo and behold, was hired from outside the community, from Valleyfield. That is the kind of community, Mr. Speaker, that fourteen or fifteen years ago an administration was trying to relocate, trying to resettle.

We can go to Cape Freels North - the hon. member spoke of a community stage that was built in Cape Freels North, Mr. Speaker. He omitted to say that there was also a fish plant or a community stage built in Cape Freels South. The one in Cape Freels North is still going because the people did not leave. The one in Cape Freels South has been torn down long ago, because the people there decided to follow the Premier of the day and resettle. The people in Cape Freels North did not and I like to wonder which is the better off, Cape Freels North or Cape Freels South?

Mr. Speaker, I can remember back in 1976 when I was supposed to have made some adverse comments about the people of Dover. There was no economic base in Dover at all at that time, many of the people were on Social Services. The fact is true today that there are people on Social Services but, Mr. Speaker, there are not as many because a multi-purpose fish plant was built in Dover and last year, Mr. Speaker, sixty people worked there, seasonal jobs it is true, but sixty

MR. CROSS: seasonal jobs are better than no jobs at all and at the present time expansion, not to increase production but to improve upon production, is going ahead.

Again, progress, Mr. Speaker.

So, we can go on. Yes, we can look at water and sewer projects. In the last eleven years may I say out of that eleven years I guess I have been there seven and a Liberal member, in Opposition, has been there four.

MR. SIMMS: And you will be there another seven too.

MR. CROSS: Certainly water and sewer completed in Indian Bay, water and sewer completed in Hare Bay, Dover just about completed,

MR. CROSS: Gambo: While much has been done, water and sewer extensions are ongoing. Ironic, Mr. Speaker, that back some years ago, when the little man from Gambo was a representative of Bonavista North water and sewer did not come, and it took a little man from Badger's Quay to stand up and ask that the people would get water and sewer.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CROSS: Trinity: Four phases completed and ongoing. Badger's Quay, Valleyfield, Pool's Island: a phase started last year, ongoing. Wesleyville: A new water line completed in the last eleven years, for \$980,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CROSS: And a new water line for Templeman.

Some of it done in my time,
Mr. Speaker, a lot of it done in my time.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Most of it! Most of it!

MR. CROSS: Most of it possibly, but some done when there was a man in the Liberal Opposition there.

MR. SIMMS: There is something wrong there.

MR. CROSS: I think the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) can try all he likes to present the false picture, but the facts are there and I do not think he can mislead the people of Bonavista North.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CROSS: I have mentioned, Mr. Speaker, the district that I represent and I am quite sure that every member in this House could stand in his place and tell of the millions of dollars that have been spent over the past eleven years.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CROSS: The hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) spoke of good things under the Liberal administration. I think, as I have already stated, he failed to mention the negatives. He said nothing of the fish plant, again that was built in Greenspond, because he would have had to say that although it was built by Liberals it was destroyed by Liberals.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CROSS: Again let me repeat, he said nothing of the community stage in Pound Cove, because although that stage was built by a Liberal administration that stage is no more.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CROSS: And again he said nothing of the community stage in Cape Freels South, not one thing. So you can talk of the positives, you also have to talk of the negatives. You cannot confuse the facts, Mr. Speaker, you cannot conceal the issues.

Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition also, when he spoke, started from year one and talked of the good things that came with Confederation, but

MR. CROSS: again he missed out. He missed out on some of the negative things. He said nothing, Mr. Speaker, of the catastrophe that was experienced in the Labrador fishery in 1951 when at least 500 schooners, old and new, were put on the mud to die and a callous Liberal Government at that time, when fishermen came, flocked to see the Premier of the day, turned them down, gave them a deaf ear, told them to go home and live on welfare because the fishery was gone.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Shame! Shame!

MR. CROSS: I do not disbelieve the fishermen, Mr. Speaker, when they tell me that. I know some honourable fishermen who have given me the story. And, Mr. Speaker, I was a member of the crew of a schooner that sailed to Labrador in 1951. The year before, we fished, came back from Labrador and cured our fish and took it to the merchants to sell it. What did we get? - \$12.25 a quintal. We went to Labrador in 1951 bringing home the biggest voyage that my father had ever brought - and, again, I was a member of the crew. What were we told? How much would we get for this great load of fish? "We are going to make a nice bit of money this year."

MR. SIMMS: Twenty dollars.

MR. CROSS: No, not twenty, not fifteen, not ten.

MR. CALLAN: Five?

MR. CROSS: More than five - seven dollars a quintal, a drop of \$5.25, Mr. Speaker. And in those days when the fight was on for Confederation - I have the confederate paper home now - oh, the millions of dollars that Ottawa right away was going to begin to pump into the fishery. The fishermen would never be poor anymore. But, Mr. Speaker, that \$5.25 of a drop was not really a

MR. CROSS: drop, because the former government, although it was a Commission, was subsidizing the fishermen to the tune of \$5.25 a quintal. But that was gone. The Newfoundland Government, the federal government - I could have understood it at that time as a fisherman if the federal and provincial governments said to the fishermen that year, 'Boys, we cannot pay you \$5.25 as a subsidy but we can give you \$4.00 or \$3.00,' but they did not. Not one red cent came back to help the fishermen when they direly needed it, Mr. Speaker. That was in year two of Confederation.

MR. CROSS: I do know what was told the fishermen at that time, and I know I am not speaking any lies. Last year when I spoke in this House and told the facts, told no lies, told it as it was, the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) followed me in the debate and all he could say then - he could not pick too many holes or he would have picked them - all he said then, I was giving the House a lesson in ancient history. Be that as it may, Mr. Speaker, and let the facts fall where they may.

MR. SIMMS: He did not want to hear it, that is all. He could not stand the truth.

MR. CROSS: Again I have to mention this one and I have a few other words to say - it is almost one o'clock, maybe I could adjourn the debate?

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. member for Bonavista North (Mr. Cross) has adjourned the debate.

The hon. President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, before I adjourn the debate I would like to observe the member for Terra Nova (Mr. Lush)-there is one person in the Opposition listening to the member for Bonavista North, no person in the Opposition listened to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary).

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

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