

PRELIMINARY
UNEDITED
TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
FOR THE PERIOD:
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 1984

The House met at 10:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Rural Agriculture and Northern Development.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. GOUDIE: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of my statement today is to bring all members of the House of Assembly up to date on the status of negotiations with the Government of Canada towards a federal/provincial rural development agreement.

First, Mr. Speaker, I would like to review briefly for the benefit of all hon. members our efforts to achieve a federal/provincial rural development agreement. The rural development agreement signed under the ARDA programme and the general development agreement were among the most successful federal/provincial initiatives which have been taken in our Province. New investments and long-term jobs were created in areas of our Province where the problems of unemployment and low incomes were the most severe.

The effectiveness of the rural development programme has been dealing in large measure to the co-ordinating role which these agreements played in matching rural community economic priorities with a myriad of federal/provincial development programmes.

In submitting a proposal for an integrated rural development programme in June 1982, we had hoped that the collaborative approach to dealing with rural development which had developed over ten years of experience might be continued. The major purpose of the agreements was to facilitate the role of rural community

MR. GOUDIE: residents in identifying development opportunities and implementing sound, locally rooted development projects. A comprehensive package of field services was provided to the client groups of the agreements to assist them in this process.

The range of services included financial and administrative support for development projects, training seminars for development association volunteers and staff, information services to individuals and groups, and long-range planning and research for development association, financial incentives to small businesses, business management and marketing and advisory services to small businesses and market analyses and design services to crafts producers.

The important ingredient in all of these was the comprehensive nature of the services provided to people in rural areas who would be unlikely to know about or participate in publicly sponsored development programmes. The agreements were successful because of the comprehensive nature of the services provided and the citizen led form of development which the management structure of agreements facilitated.

MR. GOUDIE: As I have indicated, in June 1982 after extensive consultations with the Rural Development Movement, the Province submitted a comprehensive proposal for a new long-term agreement. That proposal requested an agreement which continued with the same type of cost shared programmes delivered and managed jointly just as in the previous agreements. In effect, the Province proposed a continuation of a programme which had proved itself by ten to fifteen years of successful experience.

Mr. Speaker, the rural development agreement expired on March 31, 1983. It was extended to September 30, 1983, in order to permit negotiations for a new agreement to proceed. At the end of September the extension to the rural development agreement expired. On the basis of consultations with the Newfoundland and Labrador Rural Development Council and the fifty Rural development associations, it was concluded that the federal attempt to mode the rural development programme into the framework of the National Industrial and Regional Development Programme, (IRDP), would destroy the rural development Movement in this Province. At this point government was faced with a painful decision, the agreement had expired and the whole rural development structure was without funds. If this continued the structure which had been built up over more than a decade would be jeopardized. At that point, the Province took the decision to provide interim funding to the rural development associations and the Newfoundland and Labrador Rural Development Council for the balance of the 1983/84 fiscal year. It was our hope that within that period a new federal/provincial development agreement would be achieved. Over the past Winter I had several discussions with this Province's representative in the federal Cabinet concerning the rural development programme. As a result, in late March the hon. William Rompkey and I jointly

MR. GOUDIE: announced that an agreement in principle had been reached.

The Province has not yet received any confirmation of the agreement in principle. However, we will continue to work with the federal government to achieve an agreement that is acceptable not only to this government but also to the rural development movement in the Province. We are now at the same point we were six months ago. The Rural Development Council and the associations are without funds, government again finds itself at a critical decision point.

In this context, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to advise the hon. members that the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has decided to extend the interim fundings of the Rural Development Council and the rural development associations into the first three months of the 1984/85 fiscal year.

In this period, Mr. Speaker, we will endeavour to finalize a rural development agreement that is acceptable to the Province. The Rural Development Council and the fifty rural

MR. GOUDIE:

development associations throughout the Province. The primary consideration for all, even, I am sure, the federal authorities, will be to avoid a federal/provincial agreement which is injurious to the rural development movement in Newfoundland and Labrador.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Before I recognize the hon. member for Torngat Mountains, it is a pleasure for me to welcome to the galleries thirty-five students from St. George's School, Long Pond, in the district of Conception Bay South, with their teacher, Mrs. Joan Priddle.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, I understand some three or four months ago, according to the minister, he and Mr. Rompkey announced that they had reached an agreement, in principle. However, I can also gather from the minister's statement that they could be just as far away from an agreement now as they had been months and months ago. And it shows, Mr. Speaker, once again that unless this government can get everything for nothing they are not going to accept anything. And this is what apparently is happening again, another breakdown of negotiations. Apparently the federal government realizes that if they are going to pay 70 per cent to 100 cent of the funding, they need some credit for this spending. And if the minister expects that to get an agreement from the federal government all he has to do is just roughshod over the rural development associations, that will not happen. I am really concerned that the minister could not be more positive today.

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, he has said that he is going to give a three months extension. It shows, right off the bat, Mr. Speaker, that the Department of Rural, Agriculture and Northern Development's budget is already way out of whack by a three month extension.

MR. CALLAN: This is Friday the 13, is it?

MR. WARREN: Once again, Mr. Speaker, it is very sad for the minister to come in with such a statement, that again there is no agreement with the federal government, on a day such as Friday the 13.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Are there any other ministerial statements?

ORAL QUESTIONS:

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. Power). I would like to ask the minister why he did not inform the Bowater Joint Consultative Committee

MR. NEARY:

of the content of announcements he made the other day in Lewisporte about Bowater and about the deadline for receipt of bids and the like. Would the hon. gentleman inform the House why he did not carry out the terms and conditions and the provisions of an oral agreement he had made with the committee in Corner Brook, that nobody would say anything about the Bowater negotiations until the deal was finalized?

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. Minister of Forest Resources and Lands.

MR. POWER: Mr. Speaker, let me see if I can clarify what is a very small amount of confusion relating to what has been a very successful government effort, to be involved in the divestiture of the assets of a private corporation in this Province. Some time ago we did set up a Joint Divestiture Committee, which was I guess, six months after we wanted to do it when the corporation did not agree. When they did fully agree to set up a Divestiture Committee, we agreed with the corporation certainly to not get involved in any public statements until something of substance was to be announced. At the same time, the Premier and I appointed a Joint Advisory Committee in Corner Brook, taking into account all of the major organizations within Corner Brook. During the early workings of that advisory committee within Corner Brook, we also made an agreement that no public statements would be made relating to the divestiture of Bowater until we had something of substance to announce. During the estimates committee, I announced - it had been announced beforehand and some persons on the advisory were fully aware - that April 16 had been set as the deadline for the

MR. POWER: receipt of proposals.
That is Monday coming. At the estimates committee,
I simply said that we are optimistic and hopeful that
we will receive certain proposals on Monday, that if
proposals are received, then government and the
Advisory Committee will have a full chance to look
over those proposals, which we certainly intend to do.
It certainly was not breaking faith with the
Advisory Committee. It was just a simple piece of
information that we had, April 16 was the deadline,
and government's optimism to receive some proposals
on that date.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon.
gentleman and the government had asked the committee
to keep things close to their chest as they developed.
They did and the minister did not. Now he broke his
trust and I think the committee demands an explanation
as to why he broke his word and announced this date,
Mr. Speaker. Brushing it over the way the hon. gentleman
just did is not good enough. He owes an explanation and
an apology to the committee. And I would like to ask the
hon. gentleman if he intends to do that?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of
Forest Resources and Lands.

MR. POWER: Mr. Speaker, there is no
apology required. All that is required is an explanation
of what did happen for the hon. members opposite, who do
not understand what has taken place in Corner Brook and
have not expressed any great amount of interest in the
Corner Brook situation until something happens of some

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MR. POWER: controversial nature so
that they can get into the action and see if they can jump on
another bandwagon. What has happened in Corner Brook is

MR. POWER:

that members of the Divestiture Committee are fully aware of everything that government has done and the company has done to try to sell the mill, and they are fully aware of what the government has undertaken and the government position as it relates to a long-term, permanent newsprint operator for that mill in Corner Brook. We have had many, many meetings with the Joint Divestiture Committee. We will be having further meetings with the Divestiture Committee in which they will be fully informed of the substance of any proposals which are received on Monday. When that is done, I am sure the Divestiture Committee will not require any apologies. They will be very pleased with government efforts to make sure we have a long-term, permanent operation in Corner Brook.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: It is interesting to note, Mr. Speaker, that the mayor of the City of Corner Brook and the president of the mill union last night were not very complimentary towards the hon. gentleman for breaking his word, and I thought the hon. gentleman would have the decency today to clarify the situation and apologize to the Committee for breaking his word, his trust.

Now, could I ask the minister, Mr. Speaker, why the government has set Monday, April 16th as a deadline for receipt of bids to buy the Bowater mill?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands.

MR. POWER: Mr. Speaker, again, if he would just give me a moment to explain the process that we have

MR. POWER: in place: When the Bowater Corporation came to the government and announced that they were leaving Corner Brook in 1984 if at all possible, we asked them if we, as a government, could get involved in the selling process, and they said no, that they were going to do the selling process themselves because it was their corporation and their assets. That divestiture process was not very successful and they finally did come back to government, about three or four months after that initial, I guess, announcement to government. They came back to government and sought our support and our participation in a selling process, which we then began. We set up the Divestiture Committee. The Divestiture Committee of the Bowater Corporation and the Newfoundland Government have apparently been successful in the sense that they have gone to many, many corporations in Canada and the United States and, in fact, around the world. After they had seen so many corporations, the thing simply could not be open-ended and waiting and waiting for proposals to be received. Several corporations had expressed interest. The Bowater Divestiture Committee set the date of April 16 as

MR. POWER:

being a date when, I guess, persons and corporations finally had to make some decisions if they were really interested in Bowater and put some proposals on the table. So April 16 was set as an arbitrary deadline for receipt of proposals so we could get some action on the actual sale of the mill. It appears to have been successful, Mr. Speaker, because it appears that on Monday there are several companies who will put in proposals. If that is successful on Monday and if we do have proposals, then certainly the deadline has served its function of getting corporations to make the decision to get involved in Corner Brook.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, do I understand from the hon. gentleman that the purpose of the deadline is to put some pressure on the corporations and companies who already had proposals on the table? Is that the purpose of the exercise? That is what I understood from the hon. gentleman because the hon. gentleman, in winding up his answer to my question, said that it has met with success, that the companies will be discussing this matter on Monday. Now, Mr. Speaker, would the hon. gentleman tell the House if the administration there opposite went along with this deadline of April 16 or did they object to it; or did they say, 'Yes, it is a good idea, we will agree to set the deadline', or was it the company who took an arbitrary decision to put this deadline on? Could the hon. gentleman inform the House of that?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands.

MR. POWER: Mr. Speaker, just let me clarify the process. Many companies were visited by the Divestiture Committee. The divestiture package, the selling package of what was involved in Bowater Corner Brook - the woods operation, the power plant and the mill - that package was sent out to many companies around the world. None of those companies had made a decision, no proposals were received up to a month ago. The Divestiture Committee, Bowater Corporation, set the date of April 16 as being the day when corporations who had received and had met with the Divestiture Committee must submit a proposal if they were interested in being a long-term operator of the Corner Brook mill and buying the assets from the Bowater Corporation. That date of April 16 was certainly agreed to by the government. As I said, on Monday, if we do have several proposals, as we suspect we will, then the process will have been successful.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, would the hon. gentleman indicate to the House whether he is saying that after April 16 no proposals will be accepted? Is that what the hon. gentleman is saying, that after the deadline of April 16 that is it for proposals? If a proposal is put on the table, or a corporation or a company approaches the Divestiture Committee after April 16 they will not talk to them, is that what the hon. gentleman is saying?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands.

MR. POWER: Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) is being a little bit inconsistent. He now wants me to get involved in giving opinions about hypothetical situations, he wants me to get involved in negotiations, and, in effect, break the trust that we have with the Advisory Committee in Corner Brook.

Our hands are somewhat tied in government, Mr. Speaker, in the sense that we do not want to get involved in a negotiating process in public. That is why we have the Advisory Committee, why we have a trust built up with the Advisory Committee that we do not intend to break, and why we are limited in the amount of information we can give.

Just let me say to the Leader of the Opposition that we will have proposals on Monday. If those proposals are successful, if one of the bidders is acceptable to government and to the company, then there will be no need for a further round of bidding.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: It would be very stupid for the hon. gentleman to agree to the deadline of April 16 and that no proposals would be received after that date. In the event that none of these companies who have proposals on the table, the negotiations with these companies are successful, it would be rather stupid for the administration there opposite to say no more proposals.

But let me ask the hon. gentleman this question. In view of the statements that he made before the Estimates Committee recently, has the hon. gentleman commissioned any reports or studies which would show what would be involved, costs etc., if the government had to take over the mill for an interim period, while they were looking for a new operator?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands.

MR. POWER: Mr. Speaker, again let me explain what was said at the Estimates Committee as it related to expropriation, which is what the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) is getting at. The Government of Newfoundland has no intention of expropriating the mill in Corner Brook. We have put in place a very successful programme to try and sell the mill in Corner Brook. We have done everything that is humanly possible for the Government of Newfoundland and for the people in the Bowater Corporation to sell the assets to a long-term buyer in Corner Brook.

MR. POWER: What I did say at the Estimates Committee, and which Hansard can easily prove, was that if we got ourselves in a situation such as Baie Verte, where you had what appeared to be a reasonable offer and you

MR. POWER: appeared to have the seller who was not being reasonable, not willing to accept the deal, then government, in any jurisdiction, has the powers to expropriate. Then what we would do, in a similar situation as Baie Verte, is we could go in, take the assets from the corporation, turn them over to the reasonable buyer, and then expropriation process would set a reasonable price for the assets of that corporation. Mr. Speaker, again I emphasized very strongly at the Estimates Committee that we did not expect that kind of situation to arise because the selling process we have put in place has been and appears to be a successful one. We hope to have proposals on Monday of some substance that will provide a long-term operator for the mill. Again, Mr. Speaker, it is something that this government has worked at diligently during the last six months. We intend to again get involved after Monday, to look at the proposals to make sure it is a good deal for the Province and it is a good deal for the people of the West Coast. Our intention above all else is to get a good, long-term operator who is going to continue to produce newsprint on the West Coast of this Province and we hope that after Monday we will be successful.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, could the hon. gentleman give the House an update on the transfer of the forestry office from his department to Corner Brook? What is happening in that regard?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Forest Resources and Lands.

MR. POWER: Mr. Speaker, because of some economic downturn in Corner Brook when they laid off 750 employees, and, I might say, in reaction to an announcement by the member for that area, Mr. Tobin, and Mr. John Roberts the Minister of Forestry at the time, in reaction to an

MR. POWER: announcement that they made that they would build a forestry research centre in Corner Brook if the provincial government would move our employees to Corner Brook, this government, in response to what we thought was a very fair and honest proposal from the federal Minister responsible for Forestry (Mr. Roberts) responded and said, 'Yes, we will move our sixty-odd employees who now work in Forestry at Pleasantville, to Corner Brook'.

MR. POWER: we said so
knowing, in effect, the individual hardships that it would cause on our staff and the morale problems that it would cause, and possibly also some management difficulty, we decided to move our employees to Corner Brook. I am pleased to announce that that move will be completed by June 1 of this year. Forty-odd employees have accepted the transfer to Corner Brook and will be moving by June 1. Fifteen or so employees have found it impossible to move to Corner Brook and will be, I guess, terminated from the Public Service of Newfoundland as of June 1.

But certainly the move will be completed. The vacancies which will be caused by certain persons not moving will be advertised on the West Coast of the Province and will be available to any person in Newfoundland who wishes to apply.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I assume from the hon. gentleman's answer that accommodations and space has been found for the Forestry office. Am I right in my understanding of the hon. gentleman's answer that no forestry people have yet moved to Corner Brook, they will move before June 1? And could the hon. gentleman also, while he is on his feet, tell the House what attempt is being made to try to find alternative employment, to try to find other employment for the fifteen workers of the Forestry Department who will be displaced as a result of this move?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Forest Resources and Lands.

MR. POWER: Mr. Speaker, again just let me say that in Corner Brook we did tender for space, we did have a public tender. We did obtain space in Corner Brook which will be available as of May 1 and some of our employees

MR. POWER: will be there as of May 1. Several of our employees are already in Corner Brook, have already moved. We have found alternative employment for nine of the employees who were supposed to move either within the department or within government. We have not, despite all of the efforts of the senior staff of my department, been able to find fifteen jobs for the fifteen persons who decided not to move. Those persons, if they decide not to move to Corner Brook, which in some cases is an unreasonable position on their part, if they do not wish to move to the West Coast of this Province, which you would almost think in some person's mind was a part of the Province which was not developed - in, certainly is a well developed part of the Province; Corner Brook has all of the amenities that anyone might wish - the fifteen employees who have not found jobs to this date, we will continue to assist them and to work with them to find a job before June 1. If on June 1 we have not found an alternate job in the Public Service of Newfoundland, then they simply will be terminated.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, could the hon. gentleman inform the House if the fifteen displaced persons are senior in the department? Are they junior? Would any of them qualify for early retirement? Is there any way that their income can be protected without having to terminate their services as the hon. gentleman says he is going to do?

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. Minister of Forest Resources and Lands.

MR. POWER: Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that most of the employees are of mid-range type of employee, or junior employee. They have very specific skills, such as map reading and that kind of thing, which is a job that is very specific to the Department of Forestry and Crown Lands. Those persons probably will not be eligible for early retirement and, if suitable alternate employment is not found before June 1, will simply have to be terminated.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, let me ask the hon. gentleman another question. I noticed the other day that the Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor) opened an office and put some staff in Gander, which is hard hit, as hon. members know, by the pull-out of Eastern Provincial Airways from that town. Has the hon. gentleman discussed with his colleague the possibility of opening a Development office in the city of Corner Brook as they did in Gander the other day?

AN HON. MEMBER: They have got one.

MR. NEARY: No, they do not. They have a tourist office.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Forest Resources and Lands.

MR. POWER: Mr. Speaker, I assume that the Leader of the Opposition is asking questions relating to the Department of Development and as it relates to

MR. POWER: our development corporations around the Province, the one that we will be setting up in Labrador West, the one that we have in Gander, and the others around the Province which will now come under the authority of the Department of Development. And, certainly, Mr. Speaker, we have that arrangement in place for Gander. As it relates to other parts of the Province, we have a development officer in Corner Brook. Certainly there is no need for development corporations in every given town or every given city. They will be regional development corporations for the Province which come under the authority of the Department of Development, and certainly we expect them to be able to do a better job under that new system than under the old.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, let me ask the hon. gentleman if the administration there opposite will consider joining with the Government of Canada and other interested groups, such as the municipalities in the Western part of the Province, the unions on the West Coast, to set up a development fund similar to the one that we are now seeing being established on the Burin Peninsula? Would the hon. gentleman indicate whether or not the administration there opposite has explored that possibility, that avenue that is open to them, to establish a development fund similar to the fund that is set up on the Burin Peninsula?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Forest Resources and Lands.

MR. POWER: Mr. Speaker, the development fund that was set up on the Burin Peninsula was insisted upon by this government in the fisheries restructuring agreement. That development fund was set up in reaction to what was then a very catastrophic kind of situation relating to the close-down of certain plants.

On the West Coast of Newfoundland there is no similar situation, there is no closure of large plants. If the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) is considering that the mill in Corner Brook is going to close and then you would have to do those kind of things,

MR. POWER: do those kinds of things, that is a very pessimistic kind of situation which this government does not believe in. We are very optimistic that on the West Coast of this Province we are going to have a long-term operator for the mill in Corner Brook and the operator is going to be there producing newsprint for the next fifty or sixty years or so. With that kind of situation, then certainly there would be no need of a development fund such as the Burin Peninsula fund. The situation is not similar at all.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Indeed we are optimistic. As far as we are concerned that mill is not closing. I have to tell the hon. gentleman that, that that mill will not close, as far as we are concerned.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

PREMIER PECKFORD: The mines on Bell Island did not close either, I suppose.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I thought the hon. the Premier had taken his one-man circus to the open road and had gone across Canada somewhere.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman no doubt is aware that there have been major lay-offs in Corner Brook and that the unemployment rate in the Western part of the Province, especially in the city of Corner Brook, is quite high indeed.

Mr. Speaker, many of us have to forego the pleasure and the honour of meeting the President of Portugal this weekend because of the great Economic Conference that is going to be held in the city of Corner Brook. Let me ask

MR. NEARY: the hon. gentleman if the administration there opposite will be represented at that conference; who will be representing the government at the conference? Will the Premier be able to take time out from his one-man circus to drop in to Corner Brook for a few minutes with his new Logo that was designed on the mainland and not here in this Province,

Mr. Speaker?

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Do not be so silly!

MR. WARREN:

It cost \$600.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Sorry to disappoint you.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, if the one-man

circus is going to take to the open road -

MR. MORGAN:

(Inaudible) in

Port de Grave last night.

MR. NEARY:

Four hundred and twenty-five

registered for an annual meeting in Port de Grave last night - 425.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Russell):

Order, please!

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) is now entering into the realm of debate instead of posing a question.

MR. NEARY: I was asked a question, Mr. Speaker, 425 registered at an annual meeting for election of officers in Port de Grave last night.

MR. TOBIN: How come Barry is out in Port aux Basques in your district?

MR. MORGAN: What is going on over there?

MR. NEARY: He is down announcing the gold mine, Mr. Speaker, announcing offshore drilling and a gold mine for Burnt Island Pond, and \$1.5 million BP exploration in LaPoile Bay.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please! Order, please!
This is the second time I ask the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) to pose a question.

MR. NEARY: Yes, Mr. Speaker. The question I was putting to the hon. gentleman had to do with the economic conference on the West Coast. Could the hon. gentleman tell the House if there will be any proposals put on the table in Corner Brook at this great economic conference that is being held in Corner Brook this weekend?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands.

MR. POWER: Mr. Speaker, just let me say first off that I am very delighted that the Leader of the Opposition has made a commitment to keep the Corner Brook mill open, we are delighted with that news over here; certainly it is of great substance. I just hope that he is able to get a little bit more co-operation from his federal Liberals, whom they continually denounce in this House - the Minister of Fisheries federally (Mr. De Bane) is a liar, the Minister of the Environment federally (Mr. Caccia) has been called a liar and almost impossible to deal with by the member for Corner Brook, the Liberal member - so there are all kinds of people in the Liberal

MR. POWER: Party of Newfoundland, Liberals provincially, who cannot be Liberals federally when it comes to the things that federal Liberals are doing. Let us hope that when it comes to keeping the mill open that you do get the co-operation of the federal Liberal Party.

As it relates to a development fund and the Corner Brook unemployment rate, it is probably no more significant in Corner Brook than it is in many other parts of Newfoundland. If we are going to have a development fund, again would you impress upon your federal counterparts - the persons that you denounce sometimes and praise sometimes - would you ask those federal Liberals, the Government of Canada, to establish a joint development fund for all of this Province because all we need is a fair deal on the resources that we have. There is a joint development fund off our coast if we can get a fair deal, so therefore, Mr. Speaker, a development fund for Corner Brook is no more necessary than one for the general parts of the Province which we could have if we did get a fair shake.

As it relates to the Economic Council meeting in Corner Brook, Ms. Verge will certainly be there representing her district and the government, also the hon. Neil Windsor, my colleague the Minister of Development, will be the guest speaker at a dinner tomorrow night and will be in Corner Brook for the weekend - I think left yesterday to drive to Corner Brook. Certainly all of the staff of the Department of Development will be there, the minister will be there, and certainly Mr. Windsor will be announcing certain things as it relates to the general Corner Brook area.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker.

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

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MR. CALLAN:

Mr. Speaker, the Come By Chance
oil refinery is being scrapped, the Come By Chance Hospital
is being closed, and the Markland Hospital is already closed;

MR. CALLAN: It looks like the district of Bellevue, Mr. Speaker, is going to the dogs—thanks to this government.

I want to ask the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. Power) what is the status of the plans by a St. John's lawyer to develop a beagle farm -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CALLAN: - on fifty acres of land in the general Bellevue Beach Park - Chance Cove area? Myself and the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands discussed this matter a few days ago. I want to ask the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands what is the status? They have approval in principle. A Canada Works grant is presently operative there but the minister has it in his power to stop this beagle farm. Does the minister intend to stop it? What is the status of it?

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. Minister of Forest Resources and Lands.

MR. POWER: Mr. Speaker, I am fully aware of the situation as it relates, I think, to the Bellevue Beagle Club and its application for fifty acres of Crown land. Again it is an example, Mr. Speaker, of how the provincial Liberals and the federal Liberals do not seem to see eye to eye. What has happened is that the federal Liberal member for the area went out and approved a grant or one of these Canada Works type programmes for \$200,000 or so to fence fifty acres of land for the beagle club.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. POWER: When the local reaction from Liberals and others is against that decision of the federal Liberals, then they have the provincial department in a bind as to whether we approve a land grant so you can get some employment for the four or five workers who are supposed to be involved in this fencing project. So the problem relates not so much to the provincial government but to

MR. POWER: the federal Liberal member for the area who approved the grant for a club even though they had no access to land. But then the pressure is put on the provincial government to supply land so that four or five people can get a job.

The status of the Crown land application is that it is being reconsidered by the senior officials of my department and by myself. We have a problem with the land, it is a very large amount of land for a beagle club. We think that maybe all that land is not necessary but again we are caught in the bind, Mr. Speaker, that the federal Liberal member for the area approved the grant and now we have four or five people, who, if we do not supply land, will not get a job. Again, Mr. Speaker, we will do what is fair and reasonable. If the Bellevue Beagle Club needs some land, which is reasonable and fair, we will give them that land. But if the amount of land is unreasonable and unfair, then they will not get that much land.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. member for Bellevue.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary. I think the minister is as aware as I am that what we have here is the makings of a land grab by a St. John's lawyer who has a few friends in the area and has a Summer cabin. Will the minister answer the question directly or not. The minister is trying to evade the issue. He is

MR. CALLAN:

saying the federal government has put this government in a compromising position. The minister knows that nothing can happen unless prior approval is given regarding the land. So I ask the minister, again, does the minister intend to cancel this foolish project?

MR. SPEAKER (Russell):

The hon. the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands.

MR. POWER:

Again, Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my previous answer, we will consider the application. If we think it is reasonable and fair, then we will do it. But, again, the whole problem could have been solved if the member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan) had been consulted by the federal Liberal member and asked for his opinion on this project. Then this project would not have been approved by the federal Liberal government, for \$200,000, to fence fifty acres for a beagle club. So if there was any kind of consultative process between the member for Bellevue and the federal member for the area, then the project would probably never have been approved. Now that it has been approved, and you have four or five persons waiting to go to work, our department will deal with the application as fairly as we can and as quickly as we can.

MR. CALLAN:

A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Bellevue on a final supplementary.

MR. CALLAN:

Mr. Speaker, let me ask the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. Power) whether or not he received correspondence from the town council in Chance Cove and from the Rural Development Associations in that area weeks ago objecting to this?

MR. CALLAN: Because it has been on the go for months. And, of course, the reason that the federal grant was approved was because the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. Power), or his department, had given approval in principle for fifty acres for this beagle farm. How many written objections did the minister's department receive regarding this matter?

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands.

MR. POWER: Mr. Speaker, let me say that the first time I became aware of this project was when the very hard working member for Bonavista South (Mr. Morgan) and the Minister of Fisheries of this Province happened to attend a Rural Development Conference, I think, in the area and brought back this-

MR. CALLAN: Long Harbour.

MR. MORGAN: Long Harbour.

MR. POWER: - problem and brought it to my attention. Since that time I have discussed it with the member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan). Certainly there was no approval in principle. There was an application received, there is no permit to occupy given to the Bellevue Beagle Club, and, until such time as a permit to occupy is given and a lease actually approved, then in effect they have no right to occupy any land in Newfoundland.

MR. CALLAN: They are occupying it.

MR. POWER: They have no right to occupy any land until they get an actual approval from us and therefore the project will very likely be forced to cease until the application is dealt with and either the land approved or rejected.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I do not
know what is happening in the world, to be honest with
you.

MR. ANDREWS: We know you did not
know.

MR. NEARY: A crowd of dog owners
from West Germany came over yesterday and brought their
dogs over on a plane and I am told they were sitting in
the seats on the plane and staying at the Holiday Inn.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: I think the whole world
is gone to the dogs, Mr. Speaker, if you ask me anything.

But, Mr. Speaker, seeing
it is Friday the 13th., I cannot let the weekend come
and go without giving the Minister responsible for Energy
(Mr. Marshall) his nasty pills for the day. I am going
to ask him if he will

MR. NEARY:

tell the House if the administration there opposite is prepared to send the same list of questions to Mr. Mulroney that the administration sent to Mr. Chretien as a precondition to any talks or any agreement on the offshore?

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please! Except by leave the Question Period has expired.

MR. NEARY: Well, we have to get the answer to that one, By leave, of course.

MR. SPEAKER: Does the hon. minister have leave?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, we set no preconditions, we never set preconditions. All we do, and have done and will do, is ask for equality for the people of Newfoundland in Confederation. We have asked that of Mr. Chretien, we have asked it of Mr. Mulroney, we will ask it of Mr. Turner, we will ask it of any person at all. We will ask any person in the federal government that the people of Newfoundland be given the same equal rights as Canadians as other Canadians enjoy. The hon. gentleman talks about dogs, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is starting to get nasty now so we withdraw the leave. Leave is withdrawn, Mr. Speaker. He is anti-Confederate and anti-Canadian.

MR. MARSHALL: We will not act like lapdogs like the hon. gentlemen do.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! There was some leave given to the hon. President of the Council

MR.SPEAKER (Russell): (Mr.Marshall) and I understand now it has been withdrawn.

Before we proceed,I would like to welcome to the galleries today sixty-five students from the Laval High School in Placentia with their teachers,Don Ash and Barbara Leonard.

SOME HON.MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR.MARSHALL: Motion 6.

Motion, the hon. the Minister of Labour and Manpower to introduce a bill, "An Act To Govern Collective Bargaining Between The Government Of The Province And The Interns And Residents In The Province," carried.
(Bill No. 19)

On motion, Bill No. 19
read a first time ordered read a second time on
tomorrow.

Motion, the hon. the Minister of Labor and Manpower to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The Occupational Health And Safety Act," carried.
(Bill No. 18)

On motion, Bill No. 18
read a first time ordered read a second time on
tomorrow.

Motion, the hon. the Minister of Culture,Recreation and Youth to introduce a bill, "An Act Respecting The Preservation Of The Historic Resources Of The Province," carried.
(Bill No. 12)

On motion, Bill No. 12
read a first time ordered read a second time on
tomorrow.

Motion, the hon. the Minister of Education to introduce a bill, "An Act To Amend The Education (Teachers' Pensions) Act," carried. (Bill No. 15)

On motion, Bill No. 15 read a first time ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

MR. MARSHALL: Motion 3, Concurrence Motion on Resource Committee, adjourned motion.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The Concurrence Motion on Resource Committee was adjourned the last day, I believe, by the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, first of all let me say that I to welcome the students in the gallery today. I must say they are handsome looking boys and beautiful looking young ladies.

MR. NEARY: I am delighted to see them here, Mr. Speaker, so they can observe what goes on in the people's House. I only wish that more schools would bring their -

MR. CALLAN: I have thirty-five coming on Monday.

MR. NEARY: My hon. colleague for Bellevue (Mr. Callan) says he has thirty-five coming on Monday.

Although we have had students from as far away as Port aux Basques, unfortunately because of distance it is virtually impossible for a lot of the high school students to visit the people's House. And, Mr. Speaker, sometimes when they do come, if they sit in the gallery and just observe what is happening, they may think that we are awfully childish down here sometimes on the floor. No doubt watching the House of Commons and watching the proceedings of this House, a lot of people who sit in the public galleries, some are regular visitors, must observe that nothing is being done, that all they ever do down there is drink water, send little notes to each other, read newspapers -

MR. CALLAN: Throw ice cubes.

MR. NEARY: - slouch in their chairs.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. NEARY: And as my hon. colleague says, 'Throw ice cubes.'

But the fact of the matter is that the work manages to get done. The House of Assembly is really a debating forum. One of the principal reasons for the House being in existence at all is to pass estimates, pass supply, to give the government authority to collect and

MR. NEARY: spend taxpayer dollars. So that is the main function of the House and, of course, you have all heard the saying that if you remove the power of the purse from the House of Assembly, the House then becomes practically useless. It may as well not exist unless you have the power to control public spending. And in between there are all kinds of other things done like passing legislation, debating, talking about government policy. And I must say in the last four or five years it has been very easy to talk about government policy because they do not have any policy. As you know, we have record unemployment throughout the Province, we have the highest taxes in the nation. About 45 per cent of the unemployed are between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five, a pretty dismal outlook for young people for the future, unless of course we can get a change of government. Because obviously this administration, this government are not going to change their direction, they are not going to change their policies. They refuse to admit that they have been wrong, that they have a whole string of failures behind them. They cannot point their finger at one success, Mr. Speaker. And because they refuse to change their course, to alter their course, you know, it is like a ship headed for the rocks and the captain is standing on the bridge and the helmsman says to the captain, 'Look, Skipper, we are headed for the rocks'. And the Skipper says, 'Well, let her go, boy, I do not care. Let her go for the rocks'. Too stubborn to alter his course, let her go in on the rocks. Well, that is what is happening across the way, Mr. Speaker, she is headed for the rocks, she is rudderless, nobody on the bridge, and they refuse to change their course.

So the only thing that we can do is to appeal to the population,

MR. NEARY: to the electorate, to the voters, to change the government. If they are too stubborn and sulky, Mr. Speaker, to change the direction that they have been following in the last five years, that apparently is the wrong direction because of all the failures that they have had, if they are holding themselves up as being greedy negotiators and too lazy to stay in their office, roll up their sleeves and work hard for the people of this Province, then the only thing that we can do is to try to get them turfed out, and we try to get that message across in the House, through the parliamentary press gallery up here over my head. I do not know if there is anybody sitting in the parliamentary press gallery at the moment, but if they are not sitting there they are inside with their earphones on, listening to what is being said in the House, and we hope that some of the stuff that we say will be reported.

MR. CARTER: They are not listening to you.

MR. NEARY: Now we know that the garbage and the rubbish from the Savory Kid from Mount Scio will not be reported, Mr. Speaker. That will not be reported. We understand that. We take that for granted. But we are hoping that some of the things we say will be reported because the press are the eyes and the ears of the people of this Province, and we want to get our message out to the people. And that is the name of the game.

So while it may look sometimes like not too much is being accomplished, a lot is being accomplished. Legislation is being passed, laws are being made, the Clerk, sitting at the table of the House, and the law clerks keep the bills coming in, and eventually

MR. NEARY: the legislation gets through. It may seem like a slow, tedious process, but, Mr. Speaker, laws are made. But I tell what I get disillusioned about, and that is why I am so happy to see so many young people in the galleries today, what I get disillusioned over is the fact that most people do not care, they do not seem to worry too much about what happens in the House of Assembly. They elect their representatives and they send them into House, and they never hear tell of them until the next election when they are back looking for votes. Nobody bothers to ask what they are doing for their district or for their Province, they just sit here like useless lumps, like the hon. member for St. John's North (Mr. Carter), the useless hulk, sitting there day in and day out, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please! I would like to remind the people who are in the gallery that it is not permissible to partake in the debate in any way, such as by applause or laughter.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that if they could they would certainly applaud what I am saying here today about the administration there opposite. If they could only stand in their places, these young people, and tell the politicians and the government of this Province what they think of them, Mr. Speaker, I guarantee you you would hear something.

Anyway, I am not going to belabour the point except to say to these young people that what we are doing at the moment is a little bit of a farce. The government changed the House rules three or four years ago and when they changed the rules

MR. NEARY: they made drastic changes to try to remove the authority, to try to take the estimates, the debating of supply and money, off the floor of the House, and they put it down in the old Colonial Building and in the board rooms of various building and offices around St. John's. And as a result, Mr. Speaker, we are unable today to scrutinize the estimates like we used to. One time the estimates were thoroughly debated and scrutinized on the floor of this House.

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

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): A point of order, the hon. member for St. John's North.

MR. CARTER: The Leader
of the Opposition is again demonstrating his utter irresponsibility towards the facts. The estimates are able to be debated not only more intensely, but also more openly because of the new system of scrutinizing them in Committee.

MR. CARTER: Furthermore, more possible time is allocated to the scrutiny of the estimates than was ever used, except once, in the whole history of this House of Assembly. Something like ninety hours is made available to the Committees of which less than 75 per cent is ever used. So it is unfair, it is incorrect, it is misleading this House and I would say it is done from the worst of motives. I think he should be called to order.

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

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, Your Honour knows that is not a point of order. Mr. Speaker, it is merely a technique that the hon. gentleman uses to get his opinion on the floor of the House to show what an ignorant incompetent he is of the rules of the House and of the procedure and how the system works. And I would say that Your Honour will rule that there is no point of order, it is merely a difference of opinion between two hon. members.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

There is no point of order.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: There you go, Mr. Speaker, Right on again.

Mr. Speaker, so when they changed the rules they promised that they would review the rules after one year, and that was four or five years ago. So far they have refused to give us that review.

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

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order, the hon. member for St. John's North.

MR. CARTER: When misinformation is presented to this House, I think hon. members not only have a right to rise in their place and dispute it, I think they have a duty.

MR. CARTER: If there is a letter, as the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) says there is, let him produce it. I have no doubt that he can produce such a letter but I am equally sure that the ink would not be dry on it.

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

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, somebody should do some research in this Province to find out if you can get toked out on savory. Because I am sure that something happens to the hon. gentleman in the Wintertime when he cannot get outdoors, when he is in his shed packaging up his little packages of savory, that something happens to him and we see evidence of that in this hon. House, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

To that point of order, I wish to draw to hon. members' attention that there is no point of order in this case, but each hon. member will have the opportunity to debate his side of the debate in ten minute turns.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, what we are doing now, because the government refuses to review the rules, we are forced to debate the estimates in a general kind of a way.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The hon. member's time has expired.

The hon. Minister of Labour and Manpower.

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker, first of all let me say that I had little intention of entering into this debate here today, but the hon. Leader of the Opposition continues to attack members of St. John's for representing their people and he continues to say they do nothing on behalf of their

MR. DINN: constituents, etc. Well, I have to admit, Mr. Speaker, that the members for the districts within the boundaries of the city of St. John's do not often blow their own horns, perhaps they should. I can tell the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) that certainly since 1975 when I got elected to the district of Pleasantville there has been something of the order of \$200 million spent in the city of St. John's or in the St. John's region. I remind the hon. Leader of the Opposition of the great Harbour Arterial Road that was cost shared with the federal government.

MR. DINN: I also remind the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) of the Bay Bulls, Big Pond system that cost the provincial government \$10 million and the federal government \$35 million; the different regional water systems and sewer systems that have been put in, the Waterford Valley relief trunk sewer, the Rennies River trunk sewer, the Northeast trunk sewer and the Pleasantville trunk sewer in this city that cost millions of dollars.

Just this week, Mr. Speaker, I attended a press conference with the Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor) where he announced a \$20 million housing programme for the city of St. John's. Mr. Speaker, I also attended a press conference with the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe), who announced a \$9 million roads agreement for the city of St. John's in that area of the district where the boundaries were expanded several years ago. The \$9 million agreement includes roads in the district of Pleasantville and in the district of St. John's East Extern.

I also can inform the hon. the Leader of the Opposition that over the next ten years or so there is a plan developed for the city of St. John's, which includes something of the order of \$150 million which will need to be expended. And I am sure all the members representing the districts in St. John's will be lobbying, not only the provincial government but the federal government, to make sure that this city receives the infrastructure that it needs for the oncoming development in the offshore and other developments. The Northeast water main will need to be done at a cost of about \$5 million. The Rennies River sewer extension will need to be done to Kenmount Hill,

MR. DINN: which will cost \$10 million. The Outer Ring road will have to be started very soon and, as a matter of fact, the White Hills road that was announced a week or so ago will be a start, in a way, to the Outer Ring road. The East End arterial road will have to be completed at a cost of about \$8 million. The Northeast trunk sewer will cost \$2 million, and that is from Penetanguishene to Pleasantville; plus the Penetanguishene water reservoir will have to be completed at a cost of \$7 million. There will be a realignment of Portugal Cove Road and the Penetanguishene by-pass that will need to be done at a cost of \$3 million. The East-West arterial, Pennywell Road to the Harbour arterial at \$25 million; the bifurcation, cross-town arterial to the East-West arterial will have to be done at a cost of \$10 million. So all the planning for the city of St. John's is well underway. Many of the things that need to be done have been done, and many of the things that will need to be done in the future are well into the planning stage and will be done over the next few years.

Another thing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) is that because of the attitude of the federal government, we have had to assist Canadian National to do the synchrolift in the West End of the city of St. John's, in the district of St. John's South, that will have an impact on Your Honour and, of course, the members representing all the districts in the city of St. John's.

I also want to say, Mr. Speaker, because it is not normally said, that in 1975 when an assessment was done, a municipal review done - there was

MR. DINN: the Henley Commission, and there was another commission reviewing the municipal financing structures in the Province. The Whelan Royal Commission and several others reviewed the municipal structures - it was found when that review was done that the City of St. John's was indeed being treated unfairly with respect to financing. As a result of that commission we passed a new Municipal Grants Act. As a matter of fact, I was Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing at the time that Act was put through this House of Assembly, and there was a new Municipalities Act put through by the now Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor) who followed me in Municipal Affairs. As a result of that, the City of St. John's basically got a windfall that I am sure hon. members are not aware of.

We constantly hear the Mayor of St. John's say at times how much it costs for the Fire Department, and the Fire Department costs are very heavy, but I will say that when the new municipal grants system became effective in 1980, that the City of St. John's previous to that time had been given no municipal financing by the provincial government. Outside of the capital works that we performed, zero dollars. Now, we did participate in some areas. For example, we gave small little grants to Bowring Park, \$10,000 a year; for motor vehicle registration, etc., we gave \$10,000; for paving debt charges we paid something like \$74,000, but there were no grants made available to the city. And when the assessment was done we said why should, number one, the provincial government be paying for the Fire Department in the City of St. John's? The city should pay for that as all other municipalities do, and also the City of St. John's should receive its share in municipal grants, whether it is the tax incentive grant or the municipal assistance grant. And so that is

MR. DINN: basically what we did.

We implemented many of the recommendations of the Whelan Royal Commission Report and as a result of that in 1980 the municipal grant given to the city was \$2,656,897, the tax incentive grant was \$4,623,197, for a total of \$7,280,094.

The Fire Department cost then were subtracted.

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

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

MR. NEARY: I notice there is not a quorum in the House. The members should be here when the hon. gentleman is speaking.

MR. SPEAKER: Call in the members.
Order, please!
There is a quorum

present. Is it agreed to continue?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the member for Labour and Manpower.

MR. DINN: So, Mr. Speaker, as a result of the actions of not only the previous administration but this administration, the City of St. John's is now being treated more fairly. So we now give them a general municipal assistance grant, as we do all other municipalities, and we give them a tax incentive grant and, as I said, in 1980 that totalled \$7,280,094. Then we subtracted what we had been paying for the Fire Department and charged the city for their fire department.

MR. DINN: That fire department expenses was \$4,297,359, but net to the city in 1980, which they had never received before, was \$2,982,735. So the city basically in 1980 got a windfall. They had never received anything from the provincial government before, during the hon. the Leader of the Opposition's (Mr. Neary) term as a minister in government and during that administration, and it took some years for us to do an assessment but we eventually came up with a pretty fair or a relatively fair system so that the City of St. John's now is being treated a little more fairly.

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

MR. DINN: I will get on to it a little later, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I just want to point out for the benefit of those who may have been listening to the hon. gentleman, and obviously not too many people were listening because the hon. members would not sit in the House, they had gone out wandering around drinking coffee and having a draw while the hon. gentleman was up, Mr. Speaker, being very boring and tedious and monotonous, trying to take credit for things that the city council does and the federal government. The hon. gentleman was reading off a list of projects and if anybody did not know the difference they would say it is an impressive list. The hon. gentleman had as much to do with these projects as he did with the CN Tower in Toronto or the Olympic Center that is being built in British Columbia, that is how much he had to do with it.

MR. WARREN:

Islands.

Or the war in the Falkland

MR. NEARY:

Islands.

Or the war in the Falkland

It is a good thing that we have a good mayor. The hon. gentleman, Mr. Speaker, has tried to steal a little credit from Mayor Murphy and the city council, and from the federal government. Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that the St. John's members have an easy time of it, they have an easy job, they have the easiest time of all because the city does their work for them, street lights, sidewalks, curb and gutter, building regulations. I mean, what does the hon. gentleman do down in Pleasantville? That is what I would like to know. What does he do to justify his existence as a member? Because it is a part of the city, it is in the city limits and the city does all the work. The same way with the Government House Leader (Mr. Marshall). No wonder he can be a part-time Cabinet Minister and actively practise law at the same time, is it any wonder? Well, the city is doing all the work for him in his district, Mr. Speaker.

Let us dismiss that forthright.

I was giving a little lesson earlier about the proceedings of the House to those who may be in the gallery for the first time and I was explaining that the government refused to review the rule changes so we are forced to debate matters, not item by item. One time we used to take the Estimates and we would say, 'Subhead so-and-so, Subhead so-and-so.' If there was an increase or a decrease in it you could ask questions about it. You could say, 'What kind of project is it? What kind of policies are these?' and so forth, but you cannot do that any more. The only thing we can do today is kind of have a

MR. NEARY:

debate to seventy-five hours on the estimates. And what they are trying to do, Mr. Speaker, they are chipping away at the authority of this House, they are moving it down on the eighth floor of Confederation Building and they are moving it out into the boardrooms, and, if they are allowed to continue very much longer in power, the House will have no authority at all. And that would be a shame because, Mr. Speaker, even though it may seem like a slow process, there is nothing in the world that should take the place of democracy. We pattern ourselves after the British parliamentary system of government and I do not know of anything in the world that can equal it. There is nothing that can take the place of democracy. And, Mr. Speaker, I would defend the system any day in the week, even though sometimes in the House you may seem like you have to wear your hard hat so you will not get hit with a flying ice cube.

So, Mr. Speaker, let us get on and see if we can ask some questions then about these five departments that we are talking about today. I would like to come back to the pulp and paper industry because one of the department's that we are dealing with is Forest Resources and Lands. Members may recall a few days ago, last week I believe it was, the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. Power) when he was speaking somewhere in the Province, not in Grand Falls, by the way, or not in this House -

MR. CALLAN:

In Lewisporte.

MR. NEARY:

No, it was not Lewisporte, it was somewhere else he was speaking that day, And he made a statement that angered the people of Grand Falls, that gave the people of Grand Falls grave concern about the future of their mill. And anybody who follows current events in Newfoundland will remember what I am saying, that the Minister

MR. NEARY: of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. Power) somewhere in the Province, I do not remember where he was - they are galavanting around so much they will use any excuse to get out of the House or get out of their office so they will not have to concern themselves with the problems of the people of this Province - he said that the paper mill in Grand Falls a few years from now, somewhere down the road, unless they introduce new technology and refurbish the mill would run into the same problems that the Bowater mill did in Corner Brook.

Now that was pretty heavy stuff, Mr. Speaker. That was a pretty serious statement. The problem with the statement was that the hon. gentleman left it hanging in the air - he did not elaborate on it, he did not clarify it - and so the people in Grand Falls have been left hanging, they do not know what to think about their mill. Mr. Speaker, the people in Grand Falls thought their mill was secure. As a matter of fact, I kept saying before that that every major town and community in Newfoundland was in economic trouble except Grand Falls, only one.

MR. NEARY:

Lo and behold, the minister could not stand that, to have one successful venture in this Province. He could not stand that. This shut-her-down government, close everything down, could not stand to hear that Grand Falls was prosperous and that Grand Falls may survive and that Grand Falls was not in economic trouble. The minister could not stand that. And in keeping with the tradition of the administration of closing everything down, of doom and gloom, the minister had to create some doubt about the Grand Falls mill. And that is what he did, Mr. Speaker. Is that not right? That is what he did. He created doubt about the long-term future of the Grand Falls mill. And the hon. gentleman owes it to the people of Grand Falls to stand in his place in this House today, now that I have raised the matter, and clarify the situation for the people of Grand Falls. What did he mean? What needs to be done to upgrade that mill?

MR. CALLAN: A small power failure.

MR. NEARY: I did not know I was that effective that the lights started flickering on and off. The next thing I will be out walking on water, Mr. Speaker.

MR. CARTER: Have a look at the clock and see if it has stopped.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman owes it to the people of Grand Falls to make a statement today to reassure them that everything possible is being done to ensure the long-range future of that mill, that if they need assistance and help, or expertise to get the new technology that is necessary, that the provincial

MR. NEARY: government will help the company in any way they can, and that they will approach the federal government for a joint venture, if necessary, to see to it that that mill survives, Mr. Speaker.

I think the hon. gentleman should do that. We are getting letters and phone calls from people in Grand Falls and surrounding areas wanting to know what the minister meant by the statements that he made. The hon. gentleman did not have the courtesy or the decency to make statements in Grand Falls, or here in the House so we could question him about them. He made them in some foreign place, some place that was foreign to Grand Falls. And the news media fed the information back, Mr. Speaker. And it will be shameful indeed if the hon. gentleman does not clear up that element of doubt, that dark cloud that he has put over the town of Grand Falls.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to have an update from the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development (Mr. Goudie) on the Harmon Corporation. Does the Harmon Corporation come under the hon. gentleman?

MR. POWER: No. Development.

MR. NEARY: Okay. Fine. Well, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) should be in his seat today. I hope the hon. Minister of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. Power) heard what I had to say about Grand Falls.

MR. POWER: I heard it again.

MR. NEARY: Well, what I am asking the hon. gentleman to do is to remove that dark cloud that he has put over Grand Falls with his rash and irresponsible, off-the-cuff statements, creating doubt about the long-term future of that mill.

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

The hon. Minister of Forest Resources and Lands.

MR. POWER: Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) that I was not in my seat to hear all of his comments but I guess that is the general tenor as they relate to Grand Falls.

Let me say, first of all, that my comments, when I spoke in Stephenville and mentioned, as I have on many occasions, the situation as it relates to Grand Falls, were not irresponsible, they were not shortsighted, they were not off-the-cuff, they were very well thought out and written into my speech to say that in Newfoundland we have a problem as it relates to the modernization of industry, it is a problem that is typical of

MR. POWER:

much of Eastern Canada in the newsprint industry, where the industry first began and obviously now is the oldest, where you have to be modern in order to compete. If you are not modern you simply will not be involved in the pulp and paper business. In Stephenville we have an exceptionally good operation, probably one of the very best in the world, producing, in some people's mind, the best sheet of newsprint in the world. So in Stephenville we have one end of the scale, which is excellent. It is guaranteed for the next twenty-five or thirty years to be ultramodern and guaranteed to produce newsprint as efficiently as can be done. In Corner Brook, at the other end of the scale, we have a mill which is antiquated, which has not been modernized, a mill which is going to require now in excess of \$150 million to \$200 million to modernize. We need \$30 million or \$40 million in Corner Brook immediately, today, just to make the thing work for the next five or six years. And if you want it to work beyond the next five or six years, you are going to require in excess of \$150 million. And if you really wanted to do, I guess, an excellent job in Corner Brook, like has been done in Stephenville, you would go into Corner Brook with \$300 million, put in a couple of new paper machines like Stephenville's, and then you would have in Corner Brook an operation that was absolutely safe and secure, from a modernization point of view and an efficiency point of view, for the next ten or fifteen or thirty or forty years, I guess, if you put in new machines.

In Grand Falls you have the middle of the scale, you do not have a mill that is as modern as Stephenville, you do not have a mill that is as antiquated as Corner Brook, but you do have a mill that has to be modernized. Nothing in the newsprint industry is

MR. POWER: more consistent than the need to modernize your machinery and your equipment. In Grand Falls the company has identified a \$30 million problem. It may be a little bit less or a little be more than \$30 million, but it is in that range. It is a problem where the mill has to do certain things to modernize if it is going to avoid putting itself in the situation that Bowater is in today. Ten years from now, if nobody puts a cent in the Grand Falls mill for the next ten years, ten years from now, in 1994, somebody will be in this House and someone will be over there, on either side, asking questions about if you have prospective buyers for Grand Falls, if you have some proposals on the table. They have to do about \$30 million worth of work on the machinery that is now there.

MR. NEARY: A new machine or what?

MR. POWER: No, a new machine would cost in excess of \$110 million. So it is work to modernize the old machines. Now the problem has been in Grand Falls, as I said in Stephenville, which was certainly thought out and which I have said on many other occasions in Newfoundland in the last five or six months, but the problem in Grand Falls is a \$30 million problem. Again, it does not lend itself to the same catastrophic kind of scenario that might work out in Corner Brook, because in Grand Falls you have a Canadian newsprint company, the largest producer of newsprint in the world, Abitibi-Price, who have made a commitment to stay in the newsprint business in Canada, and particularly in Newfoundland with their investment in Stephenville. The woods operations that they have are substantial and they have given this government - the Premier and I met with them less than six weeks ago - and they have given us every commitment that they intend to stay in Newfoundland. The problem they have, as is the problem with all the newsprint industry in 1983 and 1984, is that they do not have the cash

MR. POWER: flows required to do a \$30 million modernization renovation kind of programme. When cash flows do improve, Abitibi-Price have given us the understanding that they certainly would be willing and are anxious to get involved and get moving on that modernization programme. So there is no cloud over Grand Falls on the long term, it is just in a short-term cash flow problem for the Abitibi-Price Corporation. As that cash flow problem gets solved and newsprint prices increase as they have done in the last six or eight weeks, then certainly in Grand Falls you are going to have, because of the commitment of the corporation, a programme began so that mill modernization will take place in Grand Falls. Let me also say,

MR. POWER:

Mr. Speaker, at this time that our reduction of the sales tax on manufacturing equipment will assist Abitibi-Price in achieving their goals in Grand Falls. It is a very substantial incentive by this government in our budget process that we have removed the sales tax, a 12 per cent cost. If on \$30 million you are talking about \$3.6 to \$4 million worth of taxes, that is now an incentive that is place for Abitibi-Price to do their modernization in Grand Falls this year. They have written the government, the Premier, the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) and myself congratulating us on that removal of sales tax on manufacturing equipment, saying to us that it is certainly a substantial benefit and will allow them to do their investment a little bit more quickly than they might have done because of the cash flow problems. It removes cash requirements of \$3 to \$4 million on sales tax. So we are hoping, Mr. Speaker, that sometime in the very near future the Abitibi-Price Corporation will be able to announce that they are beginning later this year a modernization for the Grand Falls mill. And if that modernization programme takes place there will be no cloud over Grand Falls for many, many years to come. Again it is the long-term objectives of this government to make sure that you have mills operating in Stephenville, Grand Falls and Corner Brook and that, subject to a modernization programme and the co-operation of this government, we have a commitment with Abitibi-Price that as soon as they possibly can they will do that modernization. So there certainly is no cloud over Grand Falls except in the very, very short-term, and in the long-term

MR. POWER: the future of the forest industry in Newfoundland is very, very bright.

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. CALLAN: Mr. Speaker, we had our little laugh at the expense of the dogs, the beagles. Mr. Speaker, I do not know where the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe) is today or where he was yesterday.

MR. STEWART: He is attending the funeral of a close friend in his district.

MR. CALLAN: Very good. It is not actually important where the minister is anyway, but I wanted to draw to the attention of the House of Assembly that the school bus was taken off the Markland road this morning because the road is in such a deplorable condition. And it is not, Mr. Speaker, because of the soft conditions that we find dirt roads in this time of the year. It is because, apparently, the road is not being maintained, you know, there are an awful lot, hundreds and hundreds of what is commonly referred to as 'Dottie's potties,' potholes, all over the road. And I am wondering what kind of a handle the minister has on his department whereby these these soft roads cannot be maintained.

I grew up on soft roads up until 1965-66 -

MR. PATTERSON: Until the Tories got in.

MR. CALLAN: No. Up until 1965-66, I think I was in Green's Harbour in 1965, and driving

MR. CALLAN: up and down the Trinity Shore in 1965 and 1966 I remember there was one spot in Blaketown where I used to practically go to the axle.

But anyway, Mr. Speaker, I am well aware of when the roads were done in Bellevue and I am well aware of when the roads were done through Norman's Cove. As a matter of fact, I was in charge of the Municipal Government there and I believe I was President of the Lions Club at that same time - yes, I was - and I remember having conversations with the present member for Trinity-Bay de Verde (Mr. Reid), who was the member, of course, for Trinity South at that time. As a matter of fact, the paving crew threatened to pull out right in the middle of Norman's Cove and I remember the present member for

MR. CALLAN:

Trinity - Bay de Verde (Mr. Reid), I remember talking to him on the phone, myself and the principal of the school, Roy Bennett, who is still there, who was formerly from Greens Harbour, and how we sent telegrams and so on. And, of course, the member asked us to do it. He said, You know, I cannot show phone calls to Premier Moores. If I go to Premier Moores now and say we have to get this finished, the Premier is going to say, Who is complaining? What proof do you have? So we sent telegrams so that the member at the time would have something concrete, something to show the Premier. So that decision was reversed and we got the pavement. It went just inside Chapel Arm, actually, before it was stopped, and then the following Spring from there to the Trans-Canada was finally done.

Anyway, getting back to the Markland road, Mr. Speaker, I think it is deplorable. If the road were soft and muddy and cars and trucks were getting stuck, as they were, for example, down on the Terra Nova road a couple of weeks ago, when the member parked some kind of a piece of equipment there for towing out cars that were stuck in the mud, if that were the situation I could understand it. But that is not the problem at all, the problem is regular maintenance. I just talked to a gentleman in Markland, he happens to be a Tory, but that does not matter, I talked to the man because that gentleman keeps a log.

MR. NEARY:

That is a very rare bird

these days, a Tory.

MR. CALLAN:

I was talking to a lady

and I asked her when the grader was in there last and she said, 'The grader has not been in here since that last big storm.' That was two weeks ago. So I said, 'You cannot be serious. Are you sure?' She said, 'Yes, I am sure the

MR. CALLAN: grader did not pass here, but I will tell you a gentleman to call.' So she gave me the gentleman's name and I called him. He is a good supporter of the P.C. Party and so on, and that is fine, but anyway the man told me he keeps a log. 'Now,' he said, 'I cannot tell you that the grader was not outside, but I can tell you that the grader did not pass here since April 4.'

MR. NEARY: 1982?

MR. CALLAN: No, April 4 was the last time the grader was in there. And he gave me dates going back to March. It was in here March 2, and March 12, and it was plowing snow on the 22nd, and it was plowing snow on the 27th. It was pushing back snow on the 29th, but actually grading the road, April 4 was the last time they saw it. Why I wonder, Mr. Speaker? I mean, what kind of a handle does the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe) have on his department? I know one thing, that the worst thing that could have happened to Wilf Bishop, the local foreman there who was a good man, a good friend of mine, he always brings his trailer over our way in the Summer, he and the other foreman down the shore, both good friends of mine, but his complaint all the time is that he does not have the equipment, and that has been going on for years.

And to add insult to injury, what happened last year? Someone in their wisdom decided that they were going to take the Whitbourne depot from beneath the Bay Roberts umbrella and put it under the Billy Brennan umbrella in Placentia. I have said it before in the House, Mr. Speaker, and it is a fact, that

MR. CALLAN: since that happened the effectiveness of the Whitbourne Highway's Depot has gone down. And why it was put under Placentia I do not know.

MR. NEARY: What about Old Perlican? Is that moved too?

MR. CALLAN: It is going to be moved.

MR. NEARY: It is probably moved already.

MR. CALLAN: Anyway, Mr. Speaker, I was driving into St. John's, about a month ago, I suppose, and I met several brand new beautifully painted yellow Highway's trucks. The minister is spending money on equipment, but where is it going? It is not going to the Whitbourne Depot. I wonder where is it going? It must be going somewhere. Perhaps it is going to St. George's. I do not know where it is going.

MR. NEARY: Oh, there is a fair amount of work going on out there, I would expect.

MR. CALLAN: Where is it going?

So I want to make a point on that, Mr. Speaker, this morning.

I was going to talk about rural development a while ago and my time ran out, but I would like to take a few minutes now to talk about rural development associations. We are all disappointed to see, of course, by the minister's statement earlier this morning that the agreement with Ottawa is still not signed and apparently it is not that imminent. Hopefully perhaps in a couple of weeks that rural development agreement will be signed. But, Mr. Speaker, what is the trouble? Why is it that the minister of that department and the minister in Ottawa, why is it that they cannot agree?

MR. NEARY: Each wants to hog the credit, boy.

MR. CALLAN: Now that is the point I am going to make, Mr. Speaker. You see, I said here in the Legislature a week or more again that there are an awful lot of rural development associations that are top heavy with Tories, and that has been true. By the way, it has been true but it is becoming less true with each day that passes, perhaps because these Tories are becoming Liberal, I do not know. I think there are lots of good reasons why they should, of course.

But, anyway, I was talking to a gentleman on the far end of my district a couple of days ago, who tells me that the former President of the PC Executive in Bellevue, who was Eldred Goobie out in Queen's Cove, I mean he was the man who headed up the Rural Development Association down in that area of my district for years, but finally that man is gone and the two other Tories as well. In Norman's Cove, my hometown, for example, three members of the PC Executive for the district of Bellevue are also on the Rural Development Association, and that is what I mean by top heavy.

MR. PATTERSON: There is nothing wrong with that.

MR. CALLAN: There is nothing wrong with it, but what has been wrong, and the reason that we do not have an agreement today is because what has been happening is that - and before I say that I can say this without any fear of contradiction; perhaps the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development (Mr. Goudie) is not aware of it but it has been done in the past, because once people have reason to change their politics and they switch, then they tell a lot of things that was sort of top secret before - there was a time when a lot of rural development associations around this Province were looked on

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MR. CALLAN:
were PC executives.

and treated as though they

MR. SIMMS:

They were all Liberals in my time.

~~MR. CALLAN:~~

~~That is right. That is a fact.~~

~~We have been told that.~~

MR. CALLAN: That is right. That is a fact. We have been told that, by the way, by former Tories who changed their politics for some reason or other, Perhaps it had to do with the teachers -

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

MR. CALLAN: My time has elapsed. Mr. Speaker, I guess I will not get around to talking about the Rural Development Associations in any detail.

MR. RIDEOUT: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the member for Baie Verte - White Bay.

MR. RIDEOUT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. CALLAN: Where are all the members?

MR. RIDEOUT: You bored them, boy, and they left.

In the Concurrence Debate here on the Resource Estimates this morning, I thought it might be an opportune time to say a word or two about the mining operation in Baie Verte. Of course, over the last two years that operation has proven to be one of the few success stories in the Province and it has worked continuously now - well, it will be two years in September, actually, since the mine reopened - and it has been continuously working and continuously building and improving on the number of people who are employed there. Up until this present moment -

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

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!
The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, could you count the House? There has not been quorum here for the last fifteen or twenty minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: Call in the members.

Q U O R U M C A L L

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): There is a quorum present, we can continue. The hon. the member for Baie Verte - White Bay.

MR. RIDEOUT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As I was saying before the quorum call, that operation has continued to operate very successfully over the last two years, until today there are 351 people working at that operation in Baie Verte where two years ago there were ten or twelve people mothballing the operation. So I am very proud and very pleased at the role that this government played, and the federal government - I give full marks where marks are necessary - in reviving that operation and thereby reviving, to a large degree, the economy of the Baie Verte Peninsula.

Now we have known for several months, and the workers who work at the operation have known for several months that that operation is not quite out of the woods yet. It is not very easy, Mr. Speaker, to break into the international market trying to sell a product like asbestos, particular when the product you were producing was heretofore only sold to two customers. The present operators have done a fantastic job, Mr. Speaker, in marketing the Baie Verte product, such a fantastic job that to this present point in time they are now marketing that product with fifty customers in thirty different countries of the world. So they have diversified their marketing base, they have been very successful in diversifying their marketing base but, like I said, I know, the workers know, the community knows that there is going to continue to be ups and downs in that kind of industry for quite some time to come. As a matter of fact, it was only yesterday that the

MR. RIDEOUT: company decided they will take a temporary closedown for a minimum of three weeks and a maximum of four. And the miracles that that company has been able to perform, Mr. Speaker, are worth talking about. They gave notice in November that they may have to take a temporary closedown, they were able to find new orders and therefore the closedown was averted, They gave notice in January that they may have to take a temporary closedown, again they were successful in building up more orders and the temporary shutdown was averted. They gave notice again in March that they were building up high inventories and that they again were looking at the possibility of taking a temporary closedown. That was basically because of shipping problems but they were able to arrange to ship -

MR. NEARY: A quorum call, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Call in the members.

Q U O R U M C A L L

MR. SPEAKER: There is a quorum present.

The hon. the member for Baie Verte -
White Bay.

MR. RIDEOUT: I suppose, Mr. Speaker,
the third time

MR. RIDEOUT:

will be lucky. Anyway, as I was saying, they gave notice in March that they may have to take a temporary close-down, and again they were able to fool around with their shipping schedule, they were able to arrange their shipping schedule such that the temporary closedown in March was once again avoided. This time, however, they gave notice yesterday, that they will have to take a three week closedown, starting next Thursday. And the reason for that, Mr. Speaker - and this is why I wanted to speak this morning, because it has now been made public. I would not speak about it yesterday because the union and so on had not been informed the reason for that, Mr. Speaker, is not markets. They have done a fanatastic job in marketing the fibre and they have as many orders as they will be able to produce for running flat out for the rest of the year. They will be able to sell it. The problem is that one of their big markets, well, their biggest market is in India, and during the past several weeks there have been some labour problems in stevedoring in some of the ports in India; consequently, they have not been able to get any shipments into that country for the last three or four weeks. And they are not certain, Their best information tells them that it may be three or four or five or six more weeks before the labour difficulties are sorted out in that country and before they will be able to continue shipping fibre into India. So, therefore, with that kind of a situation in India, the fibre inventory in Baie Verte was building up very high. There is something like 8,000 or 10,000 tons of

MR. RIDEOUT: fibre now in inventory so they could not continue to operate and build up that kind of inventory without being able to get shipments out and thereby get money in. So they have taken the decision to temporarily cease milling for the next three weeks as a minimum, and four weeks as a maximum, and therefore 243 people, I believe it is, will be given temporary lay off notices.

MR. NEARY: They will not be producing any more asbestos?

MR. RIDEOUT: They will not be milling any fibre.

On the other hand, they are going to continue stripping in the pit. There will still be 100 or 150 people working in the pit, stripping. That is very important because one of the biggest problems, Mr. Speaker, with that operation is a pit problem that was created several years ago when the previous operators, rightly or wrongly, made some decisions in the pit that came back to haunt them before they closed down, and are still haunting the new operator. But they will be continuing to strip in the pit.

MR. NEARY: Did it result in flooding or what?

MR. RIDEOUT: No. The experts tell us that it was just a poor pit plan. You know, they left a big saddle of waste in the middle knowing that the mother lode was under that waste. So over the fifteen or twenty year period they were not chipping away at the saddle such that they got themselves dug into a hole. And now they have to move all this big conglomerate of waste in order to get at it. And that is how come Advocate Mines got in trouble. That is how come Johns Manville got in trouble and walked away from it.

MR. RIDEOUT: This operator, Mr. Speaker, the new operator, Baie Verte Mines, owned by Trans-Pacific Asbestos, have done a - well the words are impossible to say about the success and the work they have done in getting that pit put back into shape. Now, with this temporary closedown of milling for a three or four week period, of course, it is going to give them another opportunity to be able to continue mining waste on a three shift a day basis right around the clock, seven days a week, so they will be able to catch up again now, hopefully, and get some more waste moved so that when they need to start milling fibre again in three weeks or four weeks time then they will be ahead of themselves in the waste.

So I suppose it might be a blessing in disguise for the overall future of the mine. Nobody wants to see a closedown no matter whether it is temporary, two or three or four weeks, nobody wants to see that, but it is a kind of a blessing in disguise in a way in that it will enable them to continue their waste rock removal and therefore be able to catch up and have more ore exposed when they need to get back milling in three or four weeks time.

So the reason for it, Mr. Speaker, is not any negligence on the part of the company, not that they are in any trouble - I want that to be clearly understood, especially as far as the public goes - the reason is that there are labour difficulties in their major marketing regime, in India, and they cannot get any shipments into India

MR. RIDEOUT:

on a continuous basis over the next three or four or five or six weeks. So in order to avoid high inventory build-ups, they have had to take a temporary closedown; workers have been given notice according to their collective agreement, and I understand that the closedown will start to take effect next Thursday for a three week period and perhaps even a four week period.

MR. NEARY: How many will be laid off?

MR. RIDEOUT: I have already been through that, 243 will be temporarily laid off; the pit operations will continue so there will be 100 or 150 employees or so remain.

But what I want to say in closing, before my time runs out, Mr. Speaker, is that out of all the economic gloom and doom we have seen not only in this Province but across the whole industrial world, there has been quietly happening in our midst a major miracle. Because that place in Baie Verte was doomed. Two years ago it was gone, it was flat, there was nobody there only ten or twelve security people, and through the efforts of this government and the federal government we were successful in finding another operator. And that operator has done wonders, that operator has done marvelous wonders in returning economic stability to the Baie Verte Peninsula.

Sir, I see you looking at me which, I suppose, indicates that my time is up. Thank you.

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

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, I have a few words to say, I suppose, on the Resource Committee, in particular as it pertains to the federal government's stand on the salmon season for this year. I believe that my colleague, the member for Fogo (Mr. Tulk), and the hon. Minister of

MR. WARREN: Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) -

I just saw a copy of a Telex from the Fishermen's Union condemning the stand taken by Mr. De Bane in curtailing the salmon fishery in this Province.

I want to say one thing, Mr. Speaker, in this regard and that is I believe the federal Minister of Fisheries (Mr. De Bane) has one purpose in mind and one purpose only and that is to save the salmon fishery for sports fishermen in the Maritime Provinces. That is the only alternative, the salmon fishery is for sports anglers. The Minister of Fisheries (Mr. De Bane) is more concerned about the people who go salmon fishing for fun than about the people who have to depend on the salmon fishery for a living. And I believe up until last week when the hon. member for Fogo (Mr. Tulk) shamed the Minister of Fisheries into getting a Telex off to the federal minister, that the Provincial

MR. WARREN: Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) was agreeing with the federal minister.

MR. DINN: Why are you saying something you know is not true?

MR. WARREN: That is true, it is a fact. The Minister of Fisheries had no intention of sending a telex to Mr. De Bane. Because he has said time and time again in this House that he and Mr. De Bane were toe to toe and here is an example. Only for the concern expressed by this side of the House through the member for Fogo (Mr. Tulk), our fisheries critic, Mr. De Bane would be still going ahead with his -

MR. CARTER: Lies, lies!

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

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I do not know if Your Honour caught the words of the member for St. John's North (Mr. Carter) who shouted, lies, lies, across the House, who said it was lie. Mr. Speaker, I believe these words are unparliamentary. The hon. gentleman by now should have learned his lesson. He has had a reprimand now, I would say, for the past two weeks by the Chair about using unparliamentary language, trying to take this House on his back. And I believe, Mr. Speaker, it soon will be time to name the hon. gentleman, by the way. He is not to continue to shout across the House, lies, Mr. Speaker, that is unparliamentary.

MR. ANDREWS: To that point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: To that point of order the hon. the Minister of the Environment.

MR. ANDREWS: Mr. Speaker, I did not

MR. ANDREWS: hear what the member for St. John's North (Mr. Carter) did say but what the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) did say was not quite correct. As a matter of fact, it was false.

MR. WINDSOR: It was not correct at all.

MR. ANDREWS: The member for Fogo (Mr. Tulk) did not shame the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) into sending a telex to Mr. De Bane.

MR. NEARY: He did.

MR. ANDREWS: The telex had already been sent when it was brought up in the House.

MR. WARREN: That is not true. Not true!

MR. ANDREWS: And it was tabled the next day with the date on it.

MR. WARREN: Not true! Not true!

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. CARTER: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: To that point of order the hon. member for St. John's North.

MR. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, I quote

Beauchesne, page 108. The suggestion that so and so has 'deliberately mis-stated the truth', that is unparliamentary, calling a person a 'liar' or suggesting that someone 'deliberately misled the House, or 'wilfully misled' the House or is 'misleading the public'. And I did not call the hon. gentleman a liar. I called his statement incorrect and I said it was a lie, what the hon. gentleman was saying was a lie, and my colleague has just gotten up to confirm it. You know, if freedom of speech is not allowed in this House, if hon. members opposite do get up and mislead this House - now if it is deliberately

MR. CARTER: misleading the House I cannot suggest or imply motives. And that is the basis for Beauchesne's arguments, that one may not imply motives but if an incorrect statement is given to this House it is not only permissible for a member to get up, but I would suggest it is also his duty.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please! To that point of order I also draw the hon. member's attention to page 107 in Beauchesne, and page 108, which gives thirty-nine different examples of the debates in the federal House of Commons where the word 'lie' has been ruled unparliamentary. And I did not hear the hon. member say it, but he suggested when he made his point of order that he did say it and I would suggest that it is an unparliamentary term and I would ask the hon. member if he would withdraw the word 'lie'.

MR. CARTER: Two points, Mr. Speaker, so that the record will read straight. I did say the hon. gentleman told a lie and, as your suggest, I would withdraw it. First of all, I should like to explain that although it probably was not recorded-

MR. NEARY: Is that in order, Mr. Speaker?
Withdraw it!

MR. CARTER: I am trying to clarify it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! The hon. member is withdrawing his comment and another point of order can be raised immediately after.

MR. NEARY: He either withdraws it, Mr. Speaker, or he does not.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for St. John's North.

MR. CARTER: I would not want it suggested that there was some doubt as to whether I had said something. I am affirming

MR. CARTER: that I did say it and I am withdrawing it, and I am withdrawing it as best I can. But I would not like the impression to be left that I may not have said it, I did say it and I am sorry I said it and I am withdrawing it.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. member has withdrawn the word 'lie' which he admitted he said.

The hon. the member for Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, I do not care if the member for St. John's North (Mr. Carter) says it is a lie or not, it is a fact. If that side over there could only see the time of receipt, the time the two telegrams were received in Ottawa by the minister, I believe it would show that the time of departure of the minister's telegram was much later than the minister had indicated. Now, Mr. Speaker, I think we should throw the telegram on the table of the House.

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

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

MR. ANDREWS: I have a copy of the telegram here which was tabled in the House, April 9, 1984. April 9, 1984 was on a Monday when the issue was raised in the House. This is first day of the working week. It was sent Monday morning. Mr. Speaker, that statement has to be corrected, it is an incorrect statement.

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

MR. SPEAKER: To that point of order, the hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, I find that absolutely unbelievable.

MR. MORGAN: where I am leaving to go now in a few minutes down to the Burin Peninsula to have a look at the fisheries down there. The hon. member is trying to twist things around to make believe that all is not right with what we are doing in the salmon fishery in the Province. The fact remains it was confirmed this morning, for example, on the open line show, and it can be confirmed by any officials who were involved on the Atlantic Salmon Advisory Board of which my assistant deputy is a member, it can be confirmed by Mr. McGrath, the former Minister of Fisheries and present member of parliament, and Mr. De Bane's officials, that we had discussed the Atlantic Salmon Fishery weeks and weeks and weeks ago. They can twist it around, Mr. Speaker, to make believe there was an agreement, there was no agreement.

MR. BARRY: Is this a point of order, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!
Yes, the hon. the minister is speaking on a point of order.

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. MORGAN: The Telex itself was sent before it was ever brought to the House of Assembly by the Opposition, it was sent -

MR. WARREN: That is not true. Not true.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, they are trying to get themselves out of the real bad situation find themselves in. I mean, I just had a call from Mr. De Bane to confirm the meeting on Sunday. We are meeting on Sunday. I met with the union, we have an agreement, the union and myself, as to our position on the Atlantic Salmon and the position that we have taken was relayed to Mr. De Bane last week.

MR. NEARY: This is completely out of order,
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, I am speaking to a
point of order raised when the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr.
Warren) was using his own nasty little tactics to try to
embarrass the Minister of Fisheries who he thought was not
around, was not near the House, was on his way to

MR. MORGAN: the Burin Peninsula, by trying to tell lies and untruths about the situation.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. MORGAN: And I am saying, Mr. Speaker, on this point of order that the hon. gentleman has no right to stand in the House and make misrepresentation about any other hon. member. And that is the issue.

MR. WARREN: That is not true.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

To that point of order raised by the hon. Minister of the Environment (Mr. Andrews) I rule that there is a difference of opinion. Also, when the hon. Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) was making his point in this point of order he indicated that the hon. member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) was trying to tell lies and I would ask him if he would withdraw that statement. It is an unparliamentary statement.

MR. MORGAN: I withdraw the term 'lies', Mr. Speaker, it being unparliamentary, but I have to say again he is trying to make it look like I am a liar.

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

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I do not believe I have to draw to Your Honour's attention that the hon. gentleman did not withdraw unequivocally as he was ordered to do by the Chair. Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman should be ordered to withdraw without attaching any provisions, any strings to it, or name the hon. gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, they have a new technique over there now, they are being taught a bad lesson by the member for St. John's North (Mr. Carter), get up and call a member a liar and then Your Honour will ask him to

MR. NEARY: withdraw and he gets up and withdraws. Now, is that the way the House is going to continue in the future, Mr. Speaker? The hon. Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) should withdraw, period.

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

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, I did withdraw but I say again the hon. gentleman in the Opposition is trying to make me look like a liar. That is what I said and I maintain that position. He is trying to make me look like a liar. He called the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. De Bane) in Ottawa a liar in this House, who was not here to defend himself, he is in the House of Commons in Ottawa. He stood in this House and called Mr. De Bane a liar and now he is trying to make me look like a liar. And I stand by my statement, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

To that point of order it is quite clear that the hon. Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) withdrew the statement that the hon. member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) was lying or attempting to lie or lying at the time. That is withdrawn.

The hon. member for Torngat Mountains' time has elapsed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I will tell you that these are very dangerous precedents that are being created in this House. The new technique now is to get up, say the member in the Opposition is a liar and then Your Honour orders a withdrawal and then get up and withdraw and say 'Yes, but he is trying to make me look like a liar'. He did not call

MR. NEARY: me a liar but he is trying to make me look like a liar.

MR. WARREN: If I did that it is okay.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, let me, first of all, convey a little bit of bad news, sad news, to the House. I do not know if any hon. gentlemen there opposite were familiar with Mr. Smallwood's private secretary, who was his personal assistant when he was Premier. Mrs. Muriel Templeman, if hon. gentlemen will recall, was the personal assistant and private secretary to former Premier Smallwood from 1949 until 1972. On April 10, Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Templeman passed away and I am sure that hon. gentlemen would like to record their condolences to the bereaved family.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the hon. Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) is within the precincts of the House somewhere -

MR. OTTENHEIMER: I wonder if the hon. gentleman would grant me leave for just a moment.

MR. NEARY: Yes, sure.

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

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate the hon. members of this side with the expression of condolence expressed by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary). Mrs. Templeman certainly spent a great number of years in public service and would have been known to some hon. members on this side, certainly those who were in the Legislature during that period, and I know that they would wish to be associated with the expression of sympathy expressed by the Leader of the Opposition.

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

MR. NEARY: I appreciate the hon. minister's sentiments, Mr. Speaker.

Well, Mr. Speaker, the hon. Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) before he leaves the ninth floor should tell us about or give us an up-date -

MR. WARREN: He is gone.

MR. NEARY: Is he gone? He could not wait to scoot out of the House.

MR. WARREN: (Inaudible).

MR. NEARY: Well, there is no point in asking the question. I want to find out about the chief -

MR. ANDREWS: He has gone to meet 600 people on the Burin Peninsula.

MR. NEARY: Yes. Mr. Speaker, he might get six. He might. Four hundred and twenty-five last night registered for an annual meeting over in Port de Grave. Just an ordinary routine meeting to elect the executive and 425 registered, over 500 people in the hall. Could not get any more in there, standing room only. What a rousing reception! Mr. Speaker, what a time for an election, that is what I would say. What a time for an election.

You know, I have to tell hon. gentlemen this that a year and a half ago when I took over the

MR. NEARY: leadership of this party
it was a job to get somebody to take the job.

MR. WINDSOR: It will be short-lived though.

MR. NEARY: But the fortunes of the party
have improved so much that today the problem is that we cannot
get halls big enough to hold the crowds.

MR. CALLAN: Good stuff.

MR. NEARY: And how do I know the fortunes
of the party are improving? Well, there are so many people
looking for my job today, Mr. Speaker, that I would say we
must be in pretty good shape.

MR. WINDSOR: And you are frightened to death.

MR. NEARY: No, I am not frightened to death.
That is the trouble, I am not frightened to death.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. BARRETT: That is a reflection on your leadership.

MR. NEARY: Well, it certainly is a reflection.
What a magnificent job has been done in the last year and a
half. What a magnificent job! And, Mr. Speaker, we could
not get enough people, like the Tories now, today, could not get
enough to elect executives. They had a meeting in the same
hall a few weeks ago that we had the meeting in last night,
the Avalon Knight's of Columbus Club in South River, and
they had to go out in the bar to try and drag a few people in
to make up an executive, and last night we had 425 registered.
I spoke to the group and what a rousing welcome and what
a rousing reception I got, Mr. Speaker. And I reminded that
great audience in Port de Grave last night that the Premier's
days are numbered and up she goes, stamping their feet,
clapping their hands, and cheering, Mr. Speaker. What a
feeling!

MR. YOUNG: Tell us about the meeting
the young Liberals had at the university.

MR. NEARY: What a feeling, Mr. Speaker!
Happy days are here again.

The hon. gentleman wants to hear about the meeting at the University. So many turned up, Mr. Speaker, unexpectedly, the interest is so high in the Liberal Party that through a technicality the meeting had to be cancelled and recalled.

MR. WARREN: Too many people.

MR. NEARY: So many turned up. Should we be ashamed of the fact that the hall was not big enough to hold them, that they were outside the door trying to get in?

MR. RIDEOUT: Turner's crowd outnumbered you, that is what happened.

MR. NEARY: Up in the old Laurier Club there a couple of weeks ago, blocked to the doors! Over 500, 700 and 800 coming to our meetings, just ordinary meetings to elect an executive.

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

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): A point of order, the hon. Minister of Development.

MR. ANDREWS: Mr. Speaker, I am sure you are aware that the conversation or words coming from the hon. Leader of the Opposition's (Mr. Neary) mouth has absolutely nothing to do with the estimates of a resource department.

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

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Leader of the Opposition, to the point of order.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, we just heard from the expert on the rules of his House. The hon. gentleman should take a look at the headings that we are doing before getting up and making such an off-the-cuff, ridiculous point of order, Mr. Speaker. These are wide-ranging debates.

MR. NEARY: I could pick any one of these headings and talk about what I want to talk about.

MR. ANDREWS: What does that have to do with it?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, let me say to the hon. gentleman that the point I was about to make was that the government is on a disaster course, they refuse to change their direction, and that is why people are gravitating toward the Liberal Party, turning out for these meetings, turning out for 'Unity '84,' Because they are disillusioned, and disgruntled with the administration and would like to turf that administration out for their policies on fisheries, mines and energy development, rural development, agriculture, forestry resources and so on, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER(Aylward): Order, please!
To that point of order, I would like to remind the hon. the Leader of the Opposition(Mr. Neary) that we are on a Concurrence Debate, and I would also remind all hon. members that it is a debate on budget matters and is usually a wide-ranging debate.

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: The hon. member, I do not know what he is minister for, acid rain or something, should probably try to learn the rules -

MR. HODDER: He has an acid tongue.

MR. NEARY: Yes, he has an acid tongue, there is no doubt about that. It is too bad that whatever he is chewing on is not sticky enough to keep his jaws together.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, what I was going to ask the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) to explain to me is the delay in appointing the Chief Executive Officer for the new super company. Now, I do not know about other members, but I have to say this, that a few days ago -

MR. HODDER: He is eating a chocolate bar, Mr. Speaker, Look!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I will tell you this, after twenty-two years as an elected representative of the people there is not too much that shocks me, there is not too much that can give me a little jolt back on my heels, but a few days ago I heard something that made me sit up and take notice and that had to do with the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer of this new super company. I do not know if hon. gentlemen heard the same thing that I heard. First of all, they were dealing with somebody on the mainland to take over the position of Chief Executive Officer of this super company, they were negotiating the financial terms and conditions. Well, there is nothing wrong with that, but, Mr. Speaker, when this gentleman heard that the two governments and the bank, who are the owners of the company, when he heard that they had announced the Board of Directors, then this particular individual who was being interviewed as the Chief Executive Officer, got mad and said, I am having nothing to do with this because you have already announced the Board of Directors. Imagine, the owners of the company.

MR. RIDEOUT: Tough for him!

MR. NEARY: I would say I agree with the member for Baie Verte-White Bay (Mr. Rideout), I would say that is tough for him. But the thing that rocked me back on my heels was the fact, and this came out in the information, that they were dealing with this gentleman for a \$250,000 a year salary,

MR. NEARY: \$250,000 a year!

MR. WARREN: He probably wanted more.

MR. NEARY: I do not know if he wanted more or not, but he sulked about the fact that he was not consulted before they announced the Board of Directors. But is it true? I wish the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) were in his seat to tell me whether or not it is correct that this individual

MR. NEARY: been offered \$250,000.

Is it too much? Is there anybody, Mr. Speaker, worth that. Why, the President of the United States, does not get that!

AN HON. MEMBER: Yes, he does.

MR. NEARY: He does?

MR. POWER: It is the largest fish company in the world. What do you think the Chief Executive Officer should get?

MR. WARREN: No more than you can as a member.

MR. NEARY: The largest fish company in the world. Well, Mr. Speaker, the Chief Executive Officer of this company will get more than the Prime Minister of Canada, more than the Premier of this Province, more than the President of Bowaters, more than the President of the Iron Ore Company of Canada, more than the President of Abitibi-Price, more than the President of the University,

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please! Order, please!

MR. NEARY: \$250,000 a year, Mr. Speaker, that is a bit rich, is it not?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member's time has elapsed.

MR. RIDEOUT: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the member for Baie Verte - White Bay.

MR. RIDEOUT: Mr. Speaker, for the last ten or fifteen minutes I listened with interest to the political dissertations of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary), and if I were to listen to it not knowing the difference, I would kind of come to the conclusion that we are not living in the same Province. He talks about 300 or 400 people out to a great Liberal meeting a night or two ago,

MR. RIDEOUT: or last night, whenever it was, in Port de Grave. Well, Mr. Speaker, we have been going around this Province now for the last six or seven weeks, to all parts of the Province, down to LaScie, to Baie Verte, we have been in Labrador City, we have been in Grand Falls, we have been in Corner Brook, we have been in Grand Bank, we have been in Fortune, all over the place.

MR. POWER: Bonavista. Do not forget Bonavista.

MR. RIDEOUT: I was not down to Bonavista but I know there was a big meeting in Bonavista. And, you know, Mr. Speaker, you have to bar the doors, you cannot get them in. Up in Labrador City - a week ago was it? -

MR. WALSH: Yes.

MR. RIDEOUT: - they had 400 and some-odd people to a banquet and more than that came to the dance. It is unbelievable, Mr. Speaker! You would not know, like I said, that you were living in the same Province. Everywhere we have gone across the Province in the last five or six weeks, in the small communities, in the big communities, the message has been clear, the message is loud and clear, 'You are doing a fine job. We are 100 per cent behind you. Hang in there! Do not worry about us, we are there.' That has been the message from LaScie to Labrador City to Corner Brook to Fortune, to Grand Bank, everywhere we have been.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT: That message has come across loud and clear. So any trouble politically, Mr. Speaker, rests on that side of the House, it is not over here, I can assure you of that.

MR. POWER: That is right.

MR. RIDEOUT: I also listened with interest to points of order raised by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) a few moments ago regarding things that are said in the House and things that are not said in the House, things that are said that should not be said, stuff like that.

MR. DOYLE: Bringing the decorum down.

MR. RIDEOUT: Bringing the decorum of the House down, and people not telling the truth, people uttering untrue statements. I listened intently to what the Leader of the Opposition was saying, and I could not believe my ears at those kinds of statements. I do not agree with any member calling another member a liar, that is wrong; it is unparliamentary and it should not happen. Sometimes it might happen in the heat of debate but one should humbly apologize if one

MR. RIDEOUT: does that. I do not agree with that, but neither do I agree, Mr. Speaker, with somebody saying through the backdoor, with somebody saying indirectly what he cannot say directly. I do not agree with that either.

Let me give you a few examples of what I am talking about, Mr. Speaker. Just let me give the House a few examples of what I am talking about. Hansard for April 5, 1984, Tape No. 713, page 1912. The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) is speaking, the same day that the Premier and I were up in Labrador City. Here is what I am talking about now, saying indirectly what you cannot say directly, in other words, calling a person something or accusing a person of something indirectly; getting it through the backdoor, getting it in the press, that is the important thing. Just listen to what the Leader of the Opposition had to say on April 5, 1984 about the Premier's visit to Labrador City: "Now the Premier had to put together in a hurry some kind of a Tory presence in the area so that he could get down." Some presence! Some hurry! - 450 to 500 people, the doors barred solid so nobody else could get in! "But he refused to meet with the unions, refused to meet with the town councils, refused to meet with the Chamber of Commerce in Labrador West." Mr. Speaker, did everybody hear that? This is the Leader of the Opposition saying the Premier refused to meet with the unions, refused to meet with the town councils. There are no 'ifs', it is a statement of fact, it happened, "refused to meet with the Chamber of Commerce in Labrador West." Who did we meet with in Labrador West, Mr. Speaker? What was one of the groups that the Premier addressed the second day we were up there, with 110 people out to their banquet, the largest

MR. RIDEOUT: Chamber of Commerce meeting ever they had in their history? Who was there? The unions were there, the town councils were there, the Chamber of Commerce members were there; and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) can get up in the House and mouth those untruths.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT: Now, Mr. Speaker, that is terrible! And then, in sanctimonious fashion, he gets up this morning on points of order. That is not half the terrible stuff! Mr. Tulk says: "Do you not know the real reason he is down there?" Go over to the next page, page 1913. The Leader of the Opposition says the following, Mr. Speaker: "And I have no doubt the reason he is not in the House today that he is probably down ice fishing in Churchill Falls, down at McParland House." No 'ifs'. 'He might be down there. I heard a rumour he might be down there, I heard a possibility he might be ice fishing down at Churchill Falls and staying at McParland House. There is a rumour around town. I heard that.' Is that the way he couched his language, Mr. Speaker? No, that is not the way he couched his language. 'I have no doubt the reason he is not in the House today he is down ice fishing at McParland House in Churchill Falls.' And that hon. gentleman stands, Mr. Speaker, before the public's representatives, stands in the people's House, and talks about accusing other members of lying, talks about accusing other members of uttering falsehoods, untruths. What is that, Mr. Speaker? What is it? I was with the Premier in Labrador, so was the member for Menihek. We never even stopped in Churchill Falls, we flew straight in to Wabush and went right in to our business meetings with the town councils and the unions

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MR. RIDEOUT: and the Chambers of Commerce
and all the other people that he said we refused to see.

Is that not untrue, Mr. Speaker?

MR. WALSH: Right on!

MR. RIDEOUT: How can you allow that kind of
thing to stay on the public record and have it

MR. RIDEOUT: reported in the media? How can you allow that to happen and then sanctimoniously, with your white head shining, get on your feet and start talking about somebody else, accusing somebody else of lying? How can you do that, Mr. Speaker? I mean, what kind of a person, what kind of an individual, what kind of morals!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. RIDEOUT: Then if you get up and talk of likes of that, and you are bringing the decorum of the House down. Mr. Speaker, it is detestable, it is ridiculous.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MR. BARRETT: They are almost as bad as you, 'Garfield'.

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, you do not refer to a member by his first name.

MR. CARTER: No scummy talk.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, just listening to the hon. member for Baie Verte-White Bay (Mr. Rideout), it looks like he is very testy this morning. However, Mr. Speaker, I said earlier when I was speaking, and I will say again, that there will be indications, I hope before this day is gone, showing what time the telegram arrived in Mr. De Bane's office, and that will put the record straight, Mr. Speaker. That will put the record straight whether the minister sent the telegram last Monday before

MR. WARREN: he brought it to the attention of this House. It was my hon. colleague, the member for Fogo (Mr. Tulk), who shamed the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) into admitting that he was leading some of the fishermen down the garden path. Because he agreed with Mr. De Bane, He agreed with the curtailment of the salmon fishery. And the reason he agreed with it, Mr. Speaker, is for the sake of the angler fishermen. And that is why Mr. De Bane is doing this, it is because of the sports fishermen in the Maritime Provinces.

Now I believe the Minister of Fisheries should have said if there is any curtailment at all in the salmon fishery it should be done by the sports fishermen. And we will have the same thing this year, Mr. Speaker, as we had every other year, every corner store in this Province will have salmon fishing licences for sale, for \$10 or whatever it is. Anybody at all will be able to go and get a salmon licence. And this is where this government should have said to the federal government, "Let us delete some of those salmon licences for sports fishermen." And I believe that members on that side will agree with what I am saying. They may not come out publicly and say it because it might hurt their buddies. But why not stand up and be counted, gentlemen? Because it is the fishermen who have to work for a living, it is the fishermen who have to depend on the salmon fishery for a living who are going to be hurt. It is not the guy who can go out on a Saturday with his camera in tow and with his fly rods and go up on the Colinet River or the Humber River. These are not the guys who are going to be hurt. It is the fishermen.

MR. WARREN: So if the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) had any intestinal fortitude whatsoever, he would have gotten up in this House on that day and not only agree with what my colleague said about compensation for the fishermen, but at the same time would have demanded the Minister of Fisheries federally (Mr. De Bane) to see that there would be less sports fishing this year. That is the reason this is what is happening. This two or three week delay, is not going to hurt my district, because even after the three weeks when the salmon fishery is opened in other parts of Newfoundland and Labrador, my district is still icebound. However, it is going to hurt Southern Labrador. It is going to hurt Black Tickle and the Strait areas where 60 per cent of the income of fishermen depends on the salmon fishery. I believe the Minister of Fisheries did not do his duty, the Minister of Fisheries did not lay all the facts on the table, the Minister of Fisheries agreed completely with Mr. De Bane at the beginning. It was only after the hon. the member for Fogo (Mr. Tulk) raised the issue that the federal Minister of Fisheries is coming here now this weekend. The reason he is coming, Mr. Speaker, is the hon. the member for Fogo requested the Minister of Fisheries to ask him to come. The Minister of Fisheries had no intention of him coming here before. It was the hon. the member for Fogo who said, 'Look, if you are as good as you think you are, get the man down here and straighten it out once and for all.'

AN HON. MEMBER: He proved he was pretty good, he got him here.

MR. WARREN: Yes, he got him here after two telegrams from this side of the House telling the Minister of Fisheries that he has once again socked it to the Newfoundland fishermen. Now, Mr. Speaker, I am like the member from

MR. WARREN:

Baie Verte - White Bay (Mr. Rideout); I do not believe in any lies being thrown back and forth in this House either, but I like to see the facts coming out, and the facts have not come out from the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) in this regard. The fact is that the salmon fishery has been destroyed in this Province because of the incompetence of the Minister of Fisheries, that he did not realize that the two or three week extension to the opening of the season would affect the fishermen. It was only the night before last over in the member for Trinity - Bay de Verde's (Mr. Reid) district, in New Perlican, that 120 fishermen said they will defy the law, they will put out their nets, they will go to jail. Now, Mr. Speaker, I would not go so far as to pat those fishermen on the back, but it does show that they have the intestinal fortitude to

MR. WARREN: to stand up against bureaucrats who are going to alter their lifestyle, are going to force them on the welfare rolls. I think, Mr. Speaker, that more fishermen, like those in Old Perlican, should stand up to the Ministers of Fisheries both provincially and federally, and let them know that from now on no politicians are going to walk over us. Because I believe the day has come when politicians in this Province, or in Canada, are not going to walk over citizens and downtrod the citizens of this Province.

AN HON. MEMBER: Both tried it.

MR. WARREN: That is exactly right. Both ministers have tried to do it. Both ministers had agreed to the curtailment until it was brought into this House and the member for Trinity-Bay de Verde (Mr. Reid) can stand up and back it up too. The minister agreed with a curtailment, he agreed with two weeks, and then the federal minister said, "Why agree with two weeks? I may as well add another seven days on to it." This is what happened. So it is high time for the backbenchers on that side to realize that, even if they are buddy-buddy to the minister, it is time for them to stand up for their constituents. It is time for the member for Trinity-Bay de Verde to get up in the House and express the feelings of his fishermen, show how tormented he is with the decisions that both ministers have made unilaterally without talking to the fishermen. And all they are concerned about are the sports salmon fishery in the Maritime Provinces. They are afraid the New Brunswick salmon fishermen, the sports fishermen in New Brunswick, will not be able to get as many salmon next year and enjoy themselves on the streams. That is

MR. WARREN:

what they are afraid of.

And the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) here is the same way. He is concerned that on a Friday and Saturday in July or August his buddies cannot take a camper/trailer and go out by the Colliers River, or go out by the Terra Nova River and cast their lines in the river. They are afraid there will be a curtailment to the sports fishermen.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this House should make a resolution, whereas this two weeks is going to have such an effect on our commercial salmon fishery, that this House should pass a unanimous resolution asking the federal government to close down sports fishing altogether for the next two or three years. That will be the answer. It is not to stop the fishermen from making a living, the answer is cut out the sports salmon fishery altogether.

I know I will get all kinds of phone calls and criticism for making such a statement but I can stand on my beliefs, Mr. Speaker. I stand on the beliefs that if we want our salmon fishermen to survive, let us cut out the sports fishermen. Let them instead of going salmon fishing in the Summer - I knew of a man last year, Mr. Speaker, I met while I was camping one weekend, he told me that altogether he caught I think it was either 68 or 69 salmon last year. He had 5 or 6 cases of salmon bottled up. And here is a guy who besides that had about a \$40,000 job. And here he was taking salmon from the fishermen who deserved it.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that we as members of this House, the fifty-two of us, whether we represent the salmon fishermen or not, that we should

MR. WARREN: have the will, we should have the concern - and it may hurt some of our constituents; sure, by all means it will - but we should have the concern -

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

The hon. the President of Council.

Before the hon. President of the Council (Mr. Marshall) proceeds, just as a coincidence when the ten minutes for this are up, the time for this Concurrence Debate will have expired as well.

The hon. the President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: Well, Mr. Speaker, it is a fitting time to talk and discuss certain aspects of the procedure that we are in now, the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) was discussing when he spoke earlier this morning.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen once again this year the ineffectiveness of the Opposition in dealing with the public business that comes before this House as shown through the Estimate Committees, and shown in the way in which the committees

MR. MARSHALL:

were handled in the House. The hon. gentleman, I heard him; I am not going to get into the great improvement that has occurred or should have occurred in form - it is not in substance; we have no control over the substance when the hon. gentlemen there opposite do not ask questions about why monies are expended or what is the purpose of it - but he wants it brought back into the House. We saw this year what happened when it was in the House. They had about eight or nine hours, Mr. Speaker, in general estimates on Consolidated Fund, Executive Council and Legislative, and they never got beyond Consolidated Fund Services. Mr. Speaker, if the hon. gentlemen there opposite wish to say that they required all this time, just look at the record of Hansard and see the way they wasted the time of the Committee talking about generalities.

Mr. Speaker, if there is one thing that characterizes particularly this week as well as the House and the hon. gentlemen there opposite, it is the fact that I think statements are made that should really call into question the credibility of members there opposite and indeed the purpose of the House. And when you see what this House is being used for, it is being used on the one hand by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) from time to time for the most unfounded statements. He makes the most unfounded statements in the House that get reported by The Daily News, headlined by Mr. Callahan, and gets reported in the news as if it were the truth. One example of that this week was when the hon. gentleman got up and made the nonsensical statement about the fact that Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro was burning off oil in their tanks to make room in the tanks for a ship that was outside.

MR. NEARY:

That is the truth.

MR. MARSHALL: It is not true. It is completely and absolutely false, yet it gets reported in The Daily News as being true, gets headlined by Mr. Callahan as being true, and gets reported in the press as being true. There is not one iota of truth in the matter. There is not a single, solitary scintilla of truth in the matter. I would think, Mr. Speaker, when members like the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) get up and make unfounded statements, instead of getting the misapprehensions, misinterpretations, reported as the gospel as it does in The Daily News, you would think that responsible journalists would call into question the credibility of the person who makes them rather than greet him. Now next week he will make something else and be greeted again.

Similarly, Mr. Speaker, we heard yesterday rising again with respect to the way in which he talks about incidents that occur offshore. You know, he hears from people who have certain perceptions as to what happens offshore. He gets up in this House and, in my view, irresponsibly reports these particular incidents without even looking into the foundations of them. And it might sound alright for, you know, The Daily News to report it as if it is the gospel according to Steve or the gospel of the Liberal Party, as if it were absolutely the unquestioned truth, but the fact of the matter is all that that does is call into question the security and integrity of those operations. The person concerned who saw this

MR. MARSHALL:

has a certain perception of the situation which should be look into and investigated, but until these things are investigated, I say it is the height of irresponsibility, particularly in a new industry such as is occurring offshore, for wild accusations to be made by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) and it is also, Mr. Speaker, quite irresponsible for them to be reported as true when the people who are reporting them as true know them not to be true or do not know the facts and have not checked into it. And that is what we are getting again and again in this Province. Make no wonder, Mr. Speaker, that a Mr. Chretien can come to this Province again and again and say to this Province, 'From the resources that you bring into Confederation, you are not going to get anything from them, you are just going to have that replace welfare.' They are going to take it all away from us, offer us an agreement that has been condemned by the federal government and Nova Scotians; and what has he done? Yet he is greeted as the great saviour by a few shallow-thinking Newfoundlanders who would like to see him as Prime Minister of Canada!

MR. CARTER:

Toadies.

MR. MARSHALL:

And toadies, as the hon. the member for St. John's North says.

Another example of the irresponsible stance taken, let us forget the Leader of the Opposition and look to his new-found colleague who is not here again, the member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry). In the debates in this House with respect to Mines and Energy, particularly with respect to the negotiations with Quebec, particularly with respect to the statement

MR. MARSHALL: which I made in the House last Friday concerning the National Energy Board and what the National Energy Board did, the basis of its decision was to say that Newfoundland, in order to use that power, 'before we will consider requiring Quebec to give you power, you have to build the power line to the Quebec border.' And what happens? Instead of getting up in the House and condemning that type of partiality, in effect, the favoritism to the Province of Quebec, what does the hon. gentlemen, the member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry) do? He advises us to build a line on spec. He wants us to build a line. Now, he expects the government of this Province, - and he asks the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) - I am still waiting for his question but he backed off it when the Minister of Finance responded - He got up and asked the Minister of Finance, 'Have you looked into the possibility of expending the money to build a line through Labrador, to building a connection between the Island of Newfoundland and Labrador and to build it on spec without there being any secured source of power, without there being any agreement on power?' Now, can you imagine, Mr. Speaker, a so-called intelligent person getting up in the House and making that suggestion and he being able to be greeted with any credibility whatsoever in this Province? And that is what is happening, Mr. Speaker.

This is the people's House where we invite constructive criticism, where we invite questions to be asked with respect to public business, and we expect to be tested on our credibility with respect to our answers. And those three instances that I have given with respect to the hon. gentleman's asinine question earlier this week with respect to

MR. MARSHALL: burning off oil, not using it, to make room for oil coming in, with respect to the way in which he tries to pervade insecurity on the offshore through his questions without even enquiring into the foundation of them, with the instance of the member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry) last week, urging the Province to build a power line when you do not have the power to run over it, are instances where the credibility of these gentlemen in this Province today should count for nought. Any people who can get up and make such incredible statements as that, Mr. Speaker, have no credibility whatsoever.

Mr. Speaker, the procedure that we are through now and that we have gone through over the past week is a procedure for the

MR.MARSHALL:

examination of the expenditures of the government , put forth by the government by the Minister of Finance (Dr.Collins) in the budget. And there has not been any kind of detailed examination, Mr. Speaker, of it because of the Opposition. What we did when we commenced the proceedings this year, there had been complaints by the Opposition before that two committees should not sit at once. Now I personally, and all members of the government, do not think that that complaint is well grounded. After all, there is no reason why two committees cannot sit simultaneously and still do justice to the examination of the estimates. But be that as it may, in order to co-operate with the Opposition what we did was we bent over backwards; the three Committee Chairmen were requested by the government to arrange their schedules in such a manner that there would only be one committee meeting at a time. And, Mr. Speaker, we did that and look what happened! Were the examination of the estimates this year conducted in any different basis, in any more constructive basis than they have been in the years past? I do not think they were. I think the answer is, no, and the reason for it is quite obvious. The reason for it is the way that the Leader of the Opposition (Mr.Neary) and the member for Mount Scio (Mr.Barry) and the other members of the Opposition choose to deal with it. Instead of dealing with this House of Assembly and the committees of the House of Assembly in the way it was intended and the way in which government would like to see it

MR. MARSHALL: done on a constructive basis, examining the affairs in a constructive manner, all that the committees have been used for and the House has been used for, by and large, is for purveying rumours, for the purpose of asking asinine questions, for the purpose of taking, you know, incredible positions such as the member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry) has taken. He did not even turn up, Mr. Speaker - this is the great critic, by the way, for energy, - the critic for energy did not even turn up for the examination of the estimates of Mines and Energy. He did not turn up to them, he did not show his face down there. And make no wonder he did not show his face, Mr. Speaker, because I welcome myself debate with the member for Mount Scio, particularly when he comes up and he makes such silly suggestions as building a power line to the borders of the Province without there being any energy on it.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!
The time for the hon. member has expired. The time for this Concurrence Debate has also expired and the motion is the House concur with the Resource Committee Report. Those in favour 'Aye', those against 'Nay', carried.

The Social Services Committee. The hon. member for St. John's North.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, it gives me pleasure to begin the Concurrence Debate on the Social Services Committee. And perhaps I should do something unusual in this House, especially something very unusual for the Opposition anyway, and that is give a few facts.

MR. CARTER: We passed a total of six heads: Environment; Education; Social Services; Health; Culture, Recreation and Youth; and Justice. The total number of dollars, Mr. Speaker, was an incredible \$1,307,802,100. That is 59.9 per cent of the total budget of this Province for this year. Now I do not take any pride in the numbers because other departments are just as important, but I would say that when you are dealing with figures like this you would like to see more careful scrutiny.

The Opposition did attend; I do not think that they attended in such force as they were entitled to. The press did not attend the hearing all that well although I must say here and now that The Daily News did cover it constantly. There were some very interesting questions brought up and very briefly and very quickly I will go over the main questions.

The first department to be heard from was Justice. A point was made that people on remand who were not in jail and who had been charged but have not been found guilty sometimes have a rather difficult time of it because they are not in a proper jail, they are in sort of makeshift, never-never land, and equally they are in makeshift, never-never quarters and it is not very pleasant for them. And I think that point was well made and well discussed. The problem of food prices and the metric conversion were gone over, and the merits of the RCMP versus police and the amount of territory of Newfoundland and Labrador that should be looked after by the RCMP versus the number that should be looked after by the police, this was discussed, and policing the Province generally. In all it was a very good discussion. And as I say, there were many other points brought up but these were the main ones.

Social Services: The question of

MR. CARTER: boarding homes, old age homes, allowances for single able-bodied and, of course, the situation in Labrador that is very well known.

 In the Department of Education, the polytechnical school - well, not the polytechnical school but the fact that the new Fisheries College is in the process of being built. There was a time when it was thought it would be wise to combine the functions of the Fisheries College and the vocational schools, but that decision has now been reversed or changed and the decision has been made to have a Fisheries College quite separate from the trades schools and that this college is now in the process of being built and should be finished, opened and operating easily within a couple of years and it should be quite successful.

 The problem of centralization, new schools, Grade XII and then, of course, the courses taught in schools and the student/teacher ratio, the curriculum, school board elections, rights of school boards, the Sir Wilfred Grenfell College in Corner Brook were discussed and, of course, the university budget.

 In the Department of Health, the Royal Commission Report was very thoroughly discussed and the implications are the same. The cottage hospital restraint, the Opposition mentioned restraint but, of course, the point was made that the Health budget has gone up consistently each year. So, you know, how can you talk about restraint and increase at the same time?

 Some very surprising figures were brought out: The cost of hospital construction is now \$200 a bed, that is the average cost of hospital construction. And the cost of operating a hospital, the average annual cost is \$100,000 per bed - \$100,000 per bed! It seems high, we questioned it but the minister and his officials assured us this was the case. It seems very high. The supply of

MR. CARTER: doctors , pharmacists, and dental care generally were brought up. One thing that was not brought up, and I could not very well bring it up as Chairman, although perhaps I could have but I did not, it might be a good point to bring it up now, is the situation regarding chiropractors. These are people who have a naive belief that every disability that affects the human physical condition originates in the spine and therefore by tapping your spine they can cure you of bunions and baldness and faulty vision and anything else.

I think it is time, Mr. Speaker, that this administration take a hard look at chiropractic practice and perhaps with a view of outlawing it altogether or certainly regulating it so that they no longer take in the unsuspecting public.

In the matter of Environment, the state of the countryside, beaches, dumps, acid rain, and acid damage to forest. This was a point that was brought up the minister. That probably the most disturbing affect of acid rain is not the affect that it has on the lakes and streams but the affect of it being found in Germany and in Europe generally that some large sections of the forest are now being affected, and it is suggested that the cause is acid rain . And it is further suggested that the budworm infections, the infestations of the woods, is perhaps aided and abetted by acid rain because the species are weakened. Whether that is true or not, more research will have to be done. But the point was brought up and it is an interesting one to ponder. The environmental assessments generally and the Labrador caribou herd were discussed.

MR. CARTER: In the realm of Culture, Recreation and Youth, the green paper on sports, the Labrador Winter Games, the famous Norma and Gladys, Arts and Culture Centres in Labrador, assistance to publishers, the Recreation Commission, folk festivals and a hunter competency test were discussed. I believe a member of this House failed a hunter competency test, I am not sure.

MR. STAGG: I think one did.

MR. CARTER: I was asked if I wanted to take part in that test and at the time I remember saying, no, I did all of my hunting at the supermarket.

MR. BARRETT: A couple of members opposite failed the competency test.

MR. HODDER: Who minds you and your insults.

MR. CARTER: The charge has again been made by the Opposition, a usual charge, that this is the wrong way to do things, it is a poor way to run a railroad, and I have to say that I think it is one of the best things since sliced bread. I cannot think of a better way to handle the estimates. In fact, I think the entire budget perhaps should be handled through Committee.

The thing about Committee is that in the Committee system the rules are informal; by leave, certainly, and by practice the debate can be almost conversational in style. More facts are brought out in Committee than any posturing that goes on in this House. I really think that the Committee system should not only be used for the estimates, it should be used for major pieces of legislation. It should be used whenever it is possible to use it.

MR. CARTER: Now the Opposition would have the public believe that these Committee hearings were done in the dark, in the dead of night.

MR. NEARY: So they are.

MR. CARTER: Nothing could be further from the truth. Of course, the very environment in which they are done, the old Colonial Building is a help. The one criticism I have of this particular Chamber here, or this House of Assembly is that physically it is too large. I think we would be better off if the Assembly itself, the physical plans were smaller. Also, of course, the Colonial Building has a lot of ghosts, good ghosts, I think, that remind us that we should be about the people's business and

MR. CARTER: not about silly personal attacks on one another, however tempting they may be to indulge in from time to time, but the fact is we spent twenty-three hours in debate. Now only fifteen hours are taken off the amount of time spent in this House because of the time spent in our committee, and yet we spent twenty-three hours. From the figures I have we could have spent a total of twenty-nine hours and, by leave - and it would not have been inconvenient if we had stayed for an extra half an hour or so each time - we could have spent a total of something like thirty-four or thirty-five hours altogether. Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not see how anyone can criticize that. Admittedly the six departments are among the most expensive and complex departments that this government has, but not only did the ministers come in with their officials, but the ministers all agreed if additional information was required that they would table it in the House and would discuss it at every available opportunity. There is no way that any Opposition member can legitimately say that he was refused any information that he required in order to handle these estimates properly. So I utterly reject the criticism that this is not a good way to go. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I think it is probably the only way to go when you are considering the budget of this Province. I have no hesitation in recommending that these estimates be passed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I get the feeling that the hon. gentleman lives such a boring and dull life that he likes to drop down just for the camaraderie more

MR. NEARY: than anything else. The hon. gentleman likes to socialize with the committees, he enjoys it, but it does not accomplish anything. The hon. gentleman is mixing up his reason for going to these committee meetings, Mr. Speaker, with what is actually achieved, what is actually accomplished. Let me remind hon. members, by the way, that we have now been on ten departments today in this House.

Now, did Your Honour check around the House to see how many ministers responsible for these departments are in their seats? Earlier we discussed Fisheries, the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) kept running in and out of the House; Mines and Energy, the Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. Dawe) was not in his seat; the Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor) was not in his seat.

MR. ANDREWS: He is in Corner Brook.

MR. NEARY: Well, Mr. Speaker, he was not in his seat.

And now we find that the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey) is not in his seat, the Minister of Education (Ms. Verge) is not in her seat, the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) is not in his seat, the Minister of Health (Mr. House) is not in his seat, so how are we supposed to ask questions and get information from ministers? Do we do it in absentia?

MR. POWEP: Ask the questions. We will get the answers for you.

MR. ANDREWS: What a team.

MR. NEARY: No, Mr. Speaker, that is the trouble. We have been asking questions and not getting the answers.

MR. ANDREWS: Not in Committee! I was not asked one intelligent question.

MR. NEARY: Now, Mr. Speaker, let me show the House again how the committee works. You go down, first of all you get on the Minister's salary. So you debate items of

MR. NEARY: a general nature under the Minister's salary and then, when the time is up they just call the items without getting a chance to say, 'Why was this increased? What was this for? What was this amount for?' You do not get an opportunity to do that, Mr. Speaker.

MR. CARTER: That is not so. Untrue.

MR. NEARY: That is so. They call the items when the time is up. You have the guillotine. The axe is hanging over your

MR. NEARY: head, ready to fall on your skull any minute.

Mr. Speaker, it is the biggest farce, it is a complete and utter farce, and the estimates are not getting scrutinized the way that they used to.

I remember when the present Minister of Justice (Mr. Ottenheimer), the present Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey), these two in particular, were on this side of the House - there were thirty-nine and three - and they had a better opportunity to scrutinize the estimates then than you have now. And then what happens when you go to the committee? If you dare to criticize a minister or his policy or his programme then the government members come to his rescue. They start defending him. How often do we see that happen? Is that why they are put on the committee? Are they put on the committee to scrutinize the estimates or are they put on the committee to defend the minister, a weak, feeble minister who cannot defend his policy, or cannot defend himself? Is that what they are put on the committees for? The Opposition are outnumbered.

By the way, someone mentioned earlier, I believe it was the Premier, and if it was not the Premier it was the Government House Leader (Mr. Marshall), talking about the Public Accounts Committee, how that functions excellently. It certainly does. But that is a different quintal of fish. That is like comparing apples

MR. NEARY: and oranges, Mr. Speaker.

The Public Accounts Committee meet when the House is not in session. They can send for witnesses and documents. You cannot say that about the -

MR. MARSHALL: Are you going to talk about the Social Services Committee?

MR. NEARY: Yes, I certainly am. But I am replying to what the hon. gentleman had to say in his introduction.

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

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

MR. MARSHALL: Trying to get the hon.

gentleman on point, he complained about there being no ministers here and he has not mentioned a single thing about the departments that were in the Social Services Committee. He has not mentioned anything about Environment, he has not mentioned anything about Justice, or Health or Education or any of them. I said in the last debate, Mr. Speaker, he is just getting up in a general harangue over and over and over again. He is not interested in pursuing the avenues available to him.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please! To that point of order, I rule there is a difference of opinion.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. MARSHALL: Very much a difference of opinion, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: It is becoming increasingly obvious, Mr. Speaker, that the government are shooting for a very brief and short session of the House. They

MR. NEARY: have very little legislation on the Order Paper. They are forging ahead as fast as they can with the estimates. They know they cannot close the House until the Budget Speech is out of the way; under the rules of this House you cannot close the House. So we can dispose of the Concurrence Debates, this farce, this charade that we are going through at the moment, then we will have to have the budget debate, and then they can close the House, Mr. Speaker. Then the hon. gentlemen can close the House.

I understand the House is going to adjourn on Tuesday for Easter. If the hon. gentleman had his way the House would adjourn until the Fall, but he cannot do it because, Mr. Speaker, there is no way the hon. gentleman is going to get the Budget Speech off the agenda before Tuesday. So we will have to come back after Easter.

Their strategy since we began: First the House was late opening. That was deliberate, well planned. And then they decided to go for a short session, just a brief session, just to have a little get together in passing to pass the estimates. Because that is about all they are going to do in

MR. NEARY: this particular part of the session of the House, and then we come back again in the Fall.

MR. YOUNG: You will select your leader in the Fall, that is the worst.

MR. NEARY: Well, Mr. Speaker, if I am or if I am not, I do not say it is going to hurt the hon. gentleman very much.

MR. YOUNG: No way!

MR. NEARY: I must say, the hon. gentleman raised it in the last year and a half or couple of years. If I had planned it, I could not have asked for a better job. I am enjoying it, I love my job! I love being Leader of the Party! I love being a Liberal, I think it is a great party. And there is nothing wrong with the pay either, The pay is the best, I suppose, you could get!

MR. BARRETT: You obviously enjoy small parties.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, do you know what they will be doing next? They will be saying, 'The hon. the Government House Leader (Mr. Marshall) enjoys talking about the Senate.' Now, you know, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman tries to attack your credibility any way he can but it does not work because the hon. gentleman has no credibility himself to start with. But when he is backed into a corner, backed right up against the wall, he will say, 'Why does not the hon. gentleman go to the Senate?' Mr. Speaker, I am rather flattered about these reports and these rumours, but I have to tell the hon. gentleman that nobody has ever bothered to discuss it with me, and even if they did, I do not think there is a vacancy. And if there is one coming up, I am sure there is a list

MR. NEARY: the length of your arm of people trying to get into it.

MR. RIDEOUT: Roberts knows if you are on it.

MR. NEARY: Pardon?

MR. RIDEOUT: I just wondered if you were on the list.

MR. NEARY: Well, I doubt that very much.

So I hope I will put the hon. gentleman's mind at rest.

A year and a half or a couple of years ago, I started a new career as leader of this party.

MR. BARRETT: Who voted for you, voted you in?

MR. NEARY: The annual meeting of the party, Mr. Speaker, which does it the same as any other political party.

So I started a new, young career and I have no intention of giving up that career until the hon. crowd over on that side of the House are sitting over here and we are sitting over on that side of the House.

MR. ANDREWS: So this is your announcement.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I would love to get one more crack at being a minister in an administration.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: I am only a young man, starting a young, new career, ambitious, have a great desire to be Premier of this Province. I have occupied just about every seat in the House except the one directly opposite me. So, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is not going to get rid of me that easily. Now, he may try to get the House closed early, and he may indeed succeed, because once the Budget Speech is over then the hon. gentleman can say that is it. The legislation on the Order Paper is merely of a

MR. NEARY: housekeeping nature, so he will get up and move that the House adjourn until sometime in the Fall. Now, that is what the hon. gentleman is up to. I know what he is up to, I know what the administration is up to: They are trying to grind us into the ground. They are trying to grind us down, Mr. Speaker, but we are winning the debates in the House. We have the upper hand in the House. The hon. gentleman knows that, he knows every day the House is open they are losing ground. As a matter of fact, they are losing, period, throughout the Province, Mr. Speaker. They are losing badly.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not know if the ministers will be back in their seats on Monday or not, but there are a lot of

MR. NEARY:

questions that we have to ask about these departments. I asked a lot of questions about the previous departments; I did not get any answers, all I got was abuse. For instance, what they do when you ask question? You take your seat and you wait for a minister to answer. But what happens? Mr. Speaker, people like the likes of the hon. the member for Burin - Placentia West (Mr. Tobin) will get up and be rude and nasty.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please! Order, please!

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

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: I move the adjournment of the debate.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member's time has elapsed.

MR. MARSHALL: No that is not given to you as the time has not elapsed. The only thing I would like to know, perhaps the hon. gentleman could contemplate it over the weekend, if in fact it is true, and, of course, I have to accept what the hon. gentleman says that he is not going for the Senate, perhaps he could tell us and tell the people of Newfoundland why he has been so servile and slavish to the federal government, why he has adopted such a hand- maidenish, lapdoggish way towards the federal government, why he takes the attitude he did, why he gets up and repeats verbatim every word that Mr. Chretien says when they try to bring the Province to its knees? There must be some other reason. The only reason that I could think of was that the hon. gentleman was going to be rewarded with a Senate seat. I understand that the hon. gentleman was to have gotten a Senate seat but I think the member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Roberts) is interested in it, if he is not he is leaving his options open, and he has been up looking for Senator Cook's seat. The member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry), after

MR. MARSHALL: being scalded by the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) to the degree has been, and being denuded of any credibility that the gentleman ever had when he was over on this side, he might be wanting to go to the Senate. I do not know, Mr. Speaker, I really do not know. But perhaps on Monday, we await with bated breath to find out why the hon. gentleman is such a slavish, servile follower of those people who try to denude us and deprive us of our resources, if it is not the Senate seat.

So, Mr. Speaker, I move the adjournment of the debate and I move that 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, April 16, 1984, at 3:00 p.m..