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TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
FOR THE PERIOD:
10:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.
FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1984.

The House met at 10:00 A.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

Before we begin, it is a pleasure indeed for me indeed to welcome to the gallery five special education students and their teacher, Mr. Calvin Taylor, from the Fred Kirby Junior High School in Foxtrap in the district of Conception Bay South.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Education.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MS. VERGE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to explain to hon. members of this House of Assembly a change in the Newfoundland and Labrador student aid plan announced by my colleague, the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins), when he presented the proposed budget for 1984-1985. In September coming, the provincial government will introduce a deferred grant system which will not diminish cash available to post-secondary education students nor add to their repayment obligations later, but will lessen the financial burden on the Province in the short term by postponing some of the Province's liability.

The student aid plan comprises two components: First, loans which are provided under the national Canada Student Loans Program of the Government of Canada; and, second, grants provided by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. The loan component is the same in every part of Canada but the grant component varies from province to province. And despite the fact that Newfoundland and Labrador is the poorest province, Mr. Speaker, the Peckford Administration continues to provide one of the most generous

MS. VERGE: grant programmes in the whole country.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MS. VERGE: Statistics show that, on average, Newfoundland and Labrador students receive the highest grants in all of Canada and leave post-secondary institutions with the lowest debt load. In 1983-1984, the Department of Education paid almost \$10 million in non-repayable grants to students to help with university, college and vocational education.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MS. VERGE: The deferred grant system will provide just as much cash to students to subsidize the cost of education. The change will require students to take as much of the aid for which they qualify as possible in the form of Canada Student Loans before they receive any provincial government grants. But any borrowing in

MS VERGE:

excess of what would have been required under the old system will be repaid later by the provincial government. Students will not have to pay back any more than they would have before. There are actually two bonuses for students, Mr. Speaker. First, students qualifying for deferred grants and, therefore, drawing more loans up front, will receive more cash earlier in the school year or semester than they would have gotten before. And, second, when students finish school, whether they graduate or not, and become liable to repay loans, instead of having the Province's deferred grants applied directly against their loans, they have the option of arranging with their banks to have all or a portion of the deferred grants cover required payments on their part of the loans outstanding to delay the commencement of their loans payments during the critical period after leaving school when they are struggling to get on their feet financially.

So, Mr. Speaker, as I am sure all hon. members can see, the government of this Province will continue to pay just as much to students to help with the cost of studies at universities, colleges and vocational schools. However, some of the Province's payments will be deferred at this difficult time when the government is carrying a current account deficit. The deferred grant system is already working very well in the province of Manitoba, and officials of my department recently visited Manitoba's student aid office to learn from that province's experience. The deferred grant system was made attractive to the

MS VERGE: provinces last year when the Government of Canada raised the ceiling on loans students may take for any one year of study.

Mr. Speaker, the idea of the deferred grant system was raised by officials of my department with the Student Aid Advisory Committee, which comprises student leaders, a high school guidance councillor and a university administrator, as well as government officials, before it was announced publicly. The student leaders reacted quite positively. Mr. Speaker, finally, I wish to assure all hon. members that not only is Newfoundland and Labrador's student aid programme sound and generous, but improvements have been made to the administration of the programme to ensure that students' applications are processed expeditiously. The compliment of permanent staff at the student aid office, which is in the Thomson Student Centre on the St. John's campus of Memorial University, has been increased. The number of Appeals Officers

MS. VERGE: was increased from two to three at the end of December, and there will be several more people taken on this May for the busy Summer period. For the Summer of 1985 there will be in place a computer system for processing applications which will almost eliminate manual handling. Computerizing the processing will shorten the waiting time for students after they submit their applications.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, actions speak louder than words and I need only point to the experience of the Newfoundland and Labrador student aid plan as evidence of this administration's commitment to affording every citizen of Newfoundland and Labrador the financial means to pursue studies at university, college or vocational school.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the applause is very weak for members there opposite for that kind of a statement, Mr. Speaker. After being heralded on Budget Day by the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) whose details we looked forward to getting as a great statement from the Minister of Education (Ms. Verge), today we discover that the minister is telling the students that they are going to have to pay for the mismanagement and the incompetence of the administration there opposite. Mr. Speaker, the hon. the minister compares Newfoundland to other provinces and says that we have the most generous student allowance, student aid programme, in

MR. NEARY: the nation. That was true, Mr. Speaker, when the Liberals were in power. The fact of the matter is that student aid is dropping drastically in this Province. I was at a meeting the other night with 170 students, men and women from all over Newfoundland and Labrador, and if there was one common theme with these students I spoke to the other night, it was the fact that the student aid programme is in a mess, it is in shambles and that we were rapidly approaching the day in Newfoundland where you would have to be the son or daughter of a very wealthy person in order to get a post-secondary education at the university. That is what it is coming to, Mr. Speaker. The hon. the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) should have dedicated his record, Voices in the Wind, to the administration there opposite because we just heard one of the voices in the wind, Mr. Speaker. It is shameful. What they are asking the students to do now is go down and try to take advantage of federal programmes and we will pay later. Go now and the Province will pay later. It is something

MR. NEARY: like the slogan Household Finance used to have, "Never borrow money needlessly, just when you must." This is what we are getting at, Mr. Speaker, there have been drastic cuts in student aid. The programme, Mr. Speaker, is being eroded, the aid is being dropped by the administration there opposite. We can no longer boast in this Province that we are a Province where young men and women, where the son and daughter of a taxi driver, a fisherman, a millworker, a logger can say, "I can become a doctor or a lawyer, or I can become a professional person, a school teacher" like the hon. gentleman." You would think, Mr. Speaker, one of the last programmes the hon. gentleman opposite me there would cut would be student aid, when I heard the hon. gentleman in this House stand up many a time and say, "If it was not for Mr. Smallwood and the Liberal student aid programme free education in this Province, I would not be where I am today!" And now the hon. gentleman takes it out of the hides of the students, and the same with the sick people and people on social assistance. Sock it to them. Sock it to the students, the sick, people on social assistance, the ordinary person, Mr. Speaker. The ordinary person is what this is going to affect. Because the hon. minister knows that these changes are going to cause hardship for students in this Province. The hon. gentleman knows that. The hon. gentleman gets up in this House and says, "I would not be where I am today if it was not for the free education that Mr. Smallwood and the Liberals brought in in this Province!"

MR. TULK: He said that, did he?

MR. NEARY: He said it. I heard him say it several times. And then when he wants to recoup some of the deficit in current account, what does he hon. gentleman do, the fellow who told us in Port aux Basques

MR. NEARY: had such a social conscience. "Social programmes," he said, "are the ones that we are going to look after because we have a big heart and we have a conscience." Some heart and some conscience, Mr. Speaker!

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

ORAL QUESTIONS:

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. member for Fogo.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, I am not too wide awake this morning, because the first thing I had to hear when I woke up was "Voices in the Wind" by the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan). It was not bad, Mr. Speaker, The only is that the Minister of Fisheries does not seem to have any follow through in his singing any more than he does in the Department of Fisheries. But it was not bad.

MR. NEARY: We can all buy a copy.

MR. MORGAN: I have set myself some records in the past twenty years.

MR. TULK: I thought that is what the button was.

I would like to ask the Minister of Fisheries a question on the Bay Bulls seafood plant that was last year destroyed by fire, I would like to ask him, first of all, will it be

MR. TULK:

rebuilt? Has that company approached the government for assistance to rebuild the plant? And what effect will the absence of a plant in the community of Bay Bulls have on the economy of the area in the coming inshore fishing season?

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

MR. MORGAN: Well, Mr. Speaker, the last time I talked with the company principals, they told me that they planned to rebuild the plant commencing this year; however, I understand they are presently awaiting the settlement on the insurance claim. In the meantime, they have asked us to support their request to the federal government to have what we call over-the-wharf sales, by means of having one or two foreign boats at the wharf in Bay Bulls this Summer so that the company can carry on operating by means of buying from the fishermen and doing some basic processing and having the fish then taken onboard the foreign vessel.

I am of the understanding that the federal minister will indeed approve that. The last time I discussed that with his senior staff in Ottawa, the understanding was they were going to approve the over-the-wharf activity on the condition it was a temporary measure until the new plant is rebuilt at Bay Bulls.

MR. TULK: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the member for Fogo, a supplementary.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, let me ask the minister can he guarantee the community of Bay Bulls and surrounding area that indeed the fish plant will be

MR. TULK: rebuilt and at what time it will be rebuilt? And the over-the-wharf sales, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister can tell us how many jobs in the processing sector are going to be lost this year? Can the minister tell us what effect that will have on the processing sector, the fact that it is over-the-wharf sales to a foreign boat?

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, obviously there will be a loss of jobs until the plant is again re-established in Bay Bulls. It is a clear-cut situation where the company has advised all concerned they are going to build a new plant to replace the one that was destroyed by fire, the section that was destroyed by fire, the groundfish operations in particular. And during that period they will have the over-the-wharf activity, which will mean a reduction in the onshore employment. Approximately 400 employees were employed by the Bay Bulls plant last season.

MR. MORGAN:

and I am sure that that many will not be employed as a result of the over-the-wharf activity, using a foreign vessel. However, there will be a number of employees from the Bay Bulls area employed in that kind of activity, but the exact number I cannot tell the hon. member or the House of Assembly at this time.

Again, I want to repeat, the last time I discussed the matter with my colleague from the area, and with the company, that last meeting we had, they indeed are planning to re-establish the plant and to commence work on that project in this construction season.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. the member for Fogo, a supplementary.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister is indeed the Province itself is going to be, or if they have been approached by the company for the Province to get involved financially and just how much the Province is being asked to put into that plant, and if indeed they have agreed to put anything in?

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, not from the company, Bay Bulls Seafood Products. That company, of course, the same principals are involved as with Cape Pine Fisheries in Witless Bay and a couple of other locations on the Avalon Peninsula, there are a number of common shareholders. Last year we assisted that company financially and we still have an assistance programme in place for Cape Pine Fisheries, and, as I say, some are common shareholders, the O'Briens in particular. But there has been no request, no application made from

MR. MORGAN: Bay Bulls Seafood Products. We are of the understanding that sufficient insurance was in place on the plant that was burnt, destroyed by fire last year, and they will be using the proceeds from that insurance payment to construct a new plant.

MR. TULK: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER(Russell): The hon. the member for Fogo, a supplementary.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, let me ask the minister somewhat of a new question perhaps tied to that, tied to the fact that that fish plant is no longer there. I understand that in the last week some of the plant workers in that area have been called in by their employer and told that their wages - and they are non-unionized people - are to be cut by eighty cents an hour. I would like to ask the minister if he is aware of the fact that some of the smaller independent companies are now saying that they have to cut the plant workers' wages in order to survive? Is he aware of that and is it in any way tied to the fact that the processing plants in that area are not operating at full capacity?

MR. NEARY: Did you say cut by eighty cents an hour?

MR. TULK: Eighty cents an hour.

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, what the individual private sector companies do with regards to the wage packages for their employees, or the prices paid to the fishermen, that is the role of the collective bargaining process.

Most of these plants are indeed unionized -

MR. TULK: These people are not unionized.

MR. MORGAN: - the workers are unionized, they are represented by the fishermen's union, by the Newfoundland Fish, Food and Allied Workers Union. And I would assume that anything of that nature, where employees are told to take any reduction in pay, that would be a matter for the union to take up with the employer.

I will say, having just returned from a conference in Nova Scotia, that it is common throughout the Atlantic region this year that a number of the fish companies, those producing cod products in particular - and that is our mainstay here in Newfoundland - are going to find it difficult to survive because of poor markets. The markets are very depressed at the present time. High inventories left over from last year, fish not sold, range three-and-a-half to four times higher than what they were this same time last year. The inshore fishing season is upon us, it will be starting soon, and many of those companies will be involved in the processing of products from the inshore, mostly cod and groundfish, are indeed going to find it difficult to market their product, and especially when they have to market at depressed prices. An example would be this same time last year cod blocks were selling at \$1.16 to \$1.18 U.S. a pound, and now the price is \$1.05 U.S. per pound. That is a substantial drop. And therefore the marketplace -

MR. NEARY: What about the plant (inaudible)

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman asked the questions and I am trying to give the answer. If the industry is going to survive based on an economic return from the marketplace, it may be difficult for them to survive this year. And that was the major concern of a conference just convened in Nova Scotia of all the participants in the region, with the exception of the fishermen's union, they did not attend, everybody else did, all the participants in the Atlantic region fishing industry. And some companies may find it difficult without some form of assistance. Now we do have an assistance programme for the companies and loan guarantees. We are following through that programme again this year for companies that meet the criteria and will meet the conditions that we set down. We will provide financial assistance to them. But with regards to what wage package they will offer the employees, it is still a matter for negotiations between the employees and their employers through the fishermen's Union.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, we on this side understand quite well the marketing problems that are being experienced in the fishery. As a matter of fact, we have been warning the government for some time. Is the minister aware of whether in fact there was a cut or there is a potential cut of eighty cents per hour for some plant workers in this Province? And is this the kind of measures that our processing sector, and indeed our fishermen perhaps as well can expect, especially in the inshore sector this year? Would the minister answer the question?

MR. TULK: Is the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan)- he cannot slough it off on the union - aware of it or is he not? Is this the kind of thing that our fishermen and our plant workers are going to expect this year, a cut in wages? Would he answer the question?

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, I earlier indicated I have no involvement in the setting of wage rates or the prices of fish. But I will say it is not to my knowledge. I have met with most of the companies and I keep in touch with the fishermen's union, and we have no knowledge of any employer telling the employees they have to take a cut in their wages this year.

MR. NEARY: Ask your colleague there to your right.

MR. MORGAN: Now if any of the companies that are receiving financial assistance and whose employees are not unionized - and I will repeat that, non-unionized employees - well, I would say that if the employees are getting unfair treatment, we would have to talk to the companies if they are getting financial assistance from us. And, number two, I would urge these employees to get unionized; if they are not unionized to become part of the fishermen's union.

MR. NEARY: They tried to but (inaudible).

MR. MORGAN: The Fishermen's Union speaks as a strong voice, as one voice for all the employees. Most of the plants around the Province are indeed unionized. Negotiations will commence in the very near future with the large company, Fishery Products International, which will operate and own

MR. MORGAN: twenty-nine fish plants around the Province, . These twenty-nine fish plants, employing over 6,000 people, are all unionized, and the union will be negotiating with the new company in the very near future in the hope of putting together a collective agreement on wages for the plant workers, and indeed for the prices for fishermen. So any plant in the Province where the employer is attempting to, I guess . I will use the term 'to abuse' the workers by attempting to cut back their pay , if these companies are indeed getting any assistance from us, we will look into it and see why they would attempt to do such a thing if they are not unionized, If they are unionized, I will be discussing with the union and see exactly what is going on.

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

MR. TULK: The minister should speak to his colleague their to his right and ask him if wages have been cut in that area or not. It would do well to seek some advice from him.

Let me move on, Mr. Speaker, along the same line and ask the minister if in view of the likely cuts in the inshore fishery, and indeed the fishermen in this Province have already experienced a cut in real income, will the minister tell the House if he intends -and this is really his responsibility -to announce a programme to help inshore fishermen similar to the programme that was announced recently by his colleague, the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development (Mr. Goudie) to help hog breeders in this Province? I understand there was a sum of \$1.8 million or something to help hog breeders in this Province. Is the minister prepared or is he pushing in Cabinet to try and get some subsidization for the fishing industry in this Province, which is one of the resource areas the same as the hog breeders of this Province?

March 30, 1984

Tape No. 526

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, after all his time in the House of Assembly, my being minister for four years and the hon. gentleman being the opposition spokesman on Fisheries for the last four years, he still does not understand where the jurisdictions lie with regard to the fishing industry. Now he stands and says, "What are you going to do to solve the problems of the inshore fishermen because it is your jurisdiction and your responsibility to do something to help the inshore fishermen?" We have never had the jurisdiction, Mr. Speaker, never did, never had the responsibility or jurisdiction to act, to deal with the problems of the inshore fishermen. But despite that we have put in place, through the Fisheries Loan Board, a programme of subsidized loans to fishermen in the vicinity of \$16 million to \$20 million on an annual basis for the last four years. We have made outright grants to inshore fishermen in the vicinity of \$1 million a year, grants not to be repaid called bounties, on their boats and equipment for their boats.

So we have programmes in place despite the fact it is not our jurisdiction, not our responsibility, we have no say over the licencing of fishermen, we have no say over the licencing of boats, we have no say over what type of gear they will use in these boats, we have no say over quotas in the inshore fishery, no say over the species they can catch. All of these things are the jurisdiction and responsibility under the Constitution of Canada of the federal level of government. But we have not abdicated our responsibility with regard to looking after rural Newfoundland and doing the best we can to help the inshore fishermen.

MR. MORGAN: Now, Mr. Speaker, having said that, we have recognized for some time as a government here that unless there is going to be a viable return to the processors -

MR. NEARY: Why do you not sit down?

MR. MORGAN: Now, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman has asked a serious question; I want to answer it in a serious manner.

Now, Mr. Speaker, unless the companies can get some kind of an economic, viable return from the marketplace, they are not going to be able to pass it on to the fishermen. And there are only two sources of return for the processing industry today; a return from the marketplace on prices they receive for their product sufficient to relay on better prices to fishermen, number one; or, number two, it is government funds or government subsidies. And government subsidies, these words 'government subsidies' are meeting with some strong reaction from the US. At the present time the International Trade Commission of the US has a major investigation, commenced as of the last month, to look at what they are terming too many government dollars in the industry in Canada and creating unfair competition for US fishermen. Now that is what is going on. As of last week they are tying in other countries - Iceland, Norway and Denmark in particular - to look at their industry as well with regard to public sector dollars, but the word "subsidy" turns off the US fishing industry and fishermen in it particular. And what are they demanding? They are demanding countervailing tariffs be put on our products going into the USA. And we all know what it would mean to our industry if that occurred.

MR. TULK: Do not talk such nonsense; Jim.

March 30, 1984

Tape No. 526

NM - 3

MR. MORGAN:

So, Mr. Speaker, we are indeed proposing to the federal government, we are discussing with the federal government

MR. MORGAN: a programme to put more money in the pockets of our inshore fishermen. Because there is a certain sector of our inshore fishermen who are indeed hurting, and the hon. gentleman represents some of these fishermen along the Northeast Coast. It is the sector of the fishery with longliners thirty-five feet and above which only have the basic groundfish licence, using gill nets to fish and nothing else, no other licence do they have, depending on the groundfish species solely, their income is not sufficient to make a viable return on their investment and operating cost. Now to do that, Mr. Speaker, we are proposing a bonus system whereby the bonus system would do two things: It will be a transitional bonus system to put monies in the pockets of fishermen to enable them and to give incentive to them to improve the quality of their product. If they do certain things like gutting and bleeding their fish at sea, washing and icing their fish at sea, we have put in place a programme of six cents per pound -

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

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition on a point of order.

MR. NEARY: I have two books in front of me, the Standing Orders of the House of Assembly of Newfoundland and Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules, Mr. Speaker, and both say that answers to questions should be as brief as possible and should not provoke debate. But the main thing is that they should be brief. Because otherwise the hon. gentleman is over there making a long-winded speech, a voice crying in the wind, Mr. Speaker, and my hon. colleague no doubt has a whole raft of questions he wants to ask the hon. gentleman. So I ask Your Honour to enforce the rules as they apply to that side of the House

MR. NEARY: regarding answers to questions,
Sir.

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

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): The hon. the Minister of
Fisheries, to that point of order.

MR. MORGAN: I was not being partisan, I
was not getting involved in debate, I was merely passing
on information which is of importance to the Northeast
Coast fishermen, from Fogo Island in particular, along the
Northeast Coast. However, Mr. Speaker, if the Opposition do
not want to hear it, tonight I am speaking down in Twillingate,
New World Island, where I expect a fairly large crowd. I will
outline the programme there tonight on what we plan to do for
the inshore fishermen.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

It now appears the hon. the
Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) has concluded the answer
to his question. It is correct, nevertheless, that both
questions and answers should be as brief as possible.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the member for Fogo.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, let me move on to
a new question: It is obvious from the minister's answers
that what he is saying is that the fishermen have to pay for
the state of the inshore fishery in this Province, for his
own mistakes, that they can expect no help from this
government,

MR. TULK:

and, that he might as well as Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) in this Province, since he has no jurisdiction over anything, to lock his doors. But let me move on to another subject. The minister is aware that fishermen have lost income from herring, caplin and so on in the last few years. I want to ask the minister how serious a situation are we now getting into in terms of the inventory that we have in the crab fishery? And what affect is the imitation krab, that is spelled k-r-a-b, going to have on the prices of that product?

MR. SPEAKER (Russell):

The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. MORGAN:

Well, Mr. Speaker, first of all when you say we have not got any jurisdiction, we did not have any jurisdiction, but because of the efforts of our Premier and his successful endeavors to have some say, we have more say -

MR. TULK:

Well, you have it now, do you?

MR. MORGAN:

- we have more say now in the fishing industry than ever before as a result of a good agreement between two levels of government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. MORGAN:

Now, Mr. Speaker, the crab fishery is a further reason for concern at the present time. I intend, next week in fact, Wednesday, if it is satisfactory to all the companies, to call a meeting of all the crab producing companies in the Province, and to follow up with a meeting in New Brunswick on the 6th of April with my colleague over there. Because these are the two provinces that are producing

MR.MORGAN: crab, New Brunswick and ourselves. There is a serious problem. The price of crab has dropped from \$7.00 US a pound this time last year and now, at the present time, is down around the \$5.00 US mark. That is a \$2.00 drop in price. There is an inventory of approximately two million pounds of crab not sold from last year's production, and that is a reason to be concerned. One of the basic reasons we find for it is this imitation product coming in from Japan. Last year the US imported thirty million pounds of imitation crab product, not scallops. Now they are going to be involved in imitation lobster tails, they are going to be involved in imitation scallop; imitation shrimp. And these kind of imitation products, simulated products coming in from the far East is, no question, having an adverse affect on the market for our genuine product. And right now we are looking at getting involved in the production of the same kind of product because the US figures that they are going to be importing fifty million pounds in 1984 versus thirty last year from Japan. There is a market for it, it sells for approximately less than half the price of the genuine product, and the consumers are buying it. We are going to get involved in the production of this kind of a product ourselves this year on an experimental project, tying in with a crab processing company to try to market both products side by side in the US. But again, to answer the question, there is a problem which will be addressed by meeting with the companies. I have met with some of the buyers from the US, and have scheduled a

MR. MORGAN: meeting with the people in New Brunswick to see if we can all get together. The problem, by the way, as well, the very key problem - I have been saying it for years - is too much competition among the companies marketing their product in the U.S.A. There is not enough consolidation, there is not enough co-ordination. They are out there in competition with each other. And, Mr. Speaker, when we put together the restructuring agreement, the main part of the agreement was the marketing, we emphasized marketing throughout. Now we are going to have a marketing organization, access to international markets by the marketing organization of Fishery Products International. Some time ago the independents were saying, 'No way do we want to get involved in one big marketing organization!' Already, Mr. Speaker, they see the benefits and they are coming to the company and asking the company to market their product for them, to get away from the competition out in the marketplace among twenty-five, thirty-five or forty companies.

So by meeting here with all the producers this week, and the week coming a follow-up meeting with my colleague, the minister in New Brunswick along the lines of his doing the same thing over there, hopefully by all the crab processing companies in Atlantic Canada getting together and arranging to market the product in a more co-ordinate way, we are convinced that the present inventory of crab that we have now will move over the next two or three months before there is a large crab production in the new season, and we are hoping the price again will stabilize upwards somewhere around \$6 U.S. versus the \$5 it is now and versus the \$7 it was this time last year.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) is exactly right when he says that the artificial fish that is now being put on the market is taking over from the natural product. He is also right, I think, when he says that we are to establish in this Province a plant to make artificial 'krab'.

I would like to ask the minister a couple of questions on that. Has the government contributed anything to setting up that plant? And have there been any studies done that indicate what effect the setting up of that plant will have on the natural industry and the prices that our fishermen are now receiving? Because here we are, on the one hand, with the price in our natural crab fishery going down, the price being paid to the fishermen, and, on the other hand, we are setting up the artificial plant ourselves.

MR. NEARY: In Clarendville.

MR. TULK: In Clarendville, yes.

Have there been any studies done to indicate what the effect on the natural fishery will be and what the effect will be in terms of the price for fishermen? Secondly, can the minister assure this House that both groups can exist - co-exist, I guess, is the right word - side by side?

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

MR. MORGAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, there were studies done. There was one major one done by Industry, Trade and Commerce. Industry, Trade and Commerce in Ottawa did a fairly major study in co-ordination with us here. We co-operated fully in getting information to them, etc. So they did that study in conjunction with the industry

MR. MORGAN: here and our Department of Fisheries. And, secondly, the federal department of DRIE put forward assistance to the company, Terra Nova Fisheries, which will be the company to establish the imitation product production line at Clarendville,

MR. MORGAN: I do not know the exact amount of funds, but I think it was well over \$200,000. I should know, but I do not recall the exact amount. It is in that vicinity, two hundred-and something thousand dollars assistance from the federal Department of DRIE, as it is called now, to that company. We have not assisted, we have merely issued the licence and the licence was issued upon full consultation with the people in Ottawa who did the study and looked at any possible adverse effect.

The way it was analyzed was this: If we as Canadians do not capitalize on taking part of that market which is in the U.S. - there is a wide gap there, there is a big market for this product - if we do not take part of that market, the Japanese will take it all. Because they are going to expand on their production, they are going to expand on their exports to the U.S.A., and we are going to take part of that market. So the present situation is that there will be two plants in Canada, one in New Brunswick and one here. The one in New Brunswick, I understand, will be in production some time this Summer and the plan is -

MR. NEARY: It should not be in (Inaudible).

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman who asked the question is listening to the answer, and the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) is again interrupting.

Mr. Speaker, the two plants in Canada, I want to term them experimental, because if we ever saw that it would hurt our own genuine production, or the genuine product production we would have to have a second look. But right now we are convinced that both products can be marketed side by side, especially in this case, if the same company producing the

MR. MORGAN: imitation product is also involved in production of the genuine product.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, if the government is really committed to seeing that what I would call the natural fishery and the natural production take place, one of the things that the government can do to show that kind of commitment is to make it mandatory that some of the restaurants and the supermarkets in this Province distinguish between the real product and the artificial product.

So let me ask the minister if he will, during this session of the House, bring in a piece of legislation that will force the shop owners, or the store owners, or the supermarket owners and the restaurants to distinguish on their menus and on their labels the real product as opposed to the artificial product?

MR. NEARY: A good idea.

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, the consumption of seafood products in our Province is practically insignificant to the overall total production even in our own Province.

With regard to labelling it is an important issue, because just recently the Japanese government brought in place regulations governing the actual producer of the product, the processor, and are bringing in new laws to assure that it is clearly pointed out in their packaging of the product that it is indeed an imitation product, that there is no part of the product genuine. Because imitation crab, for example, does not

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MR. MORGAN: . . . contain one ounce or
any particle of the genuine product, it is strictly and
totally imitation.

MR. MORGAN: So the Japanese are, at least, using their law on the producer, the processor, and here in this Province we will do the same thing. We will ensure that the processor, in this case the one company, will definitely have to clearly indicate in the labelling that it is not genuine, is not even partially genuine, it is a total imitation product.

MR. NEARY: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, is the hon. gentleman aware that over in New Brunswick, where they have probably the biggest real crab producer in Canada, that they are pressing for labels to be put on cans indicating whether it is real or imitation crab in the cans or in the packages, and that they are going to try to persuade the Government of New Brunswick to put on the menu whether the crab is artificial, imitation, or real?

Now, Mr. Speaker, my colleague asked a very valid question. If Nova Scotia will do it, Newfoundland will do it, PEI will do it and New Brunswick will do it, then why would it not be successful, why would it not protect our industry? Is the hon. gentleman so enthralled and wrapped up in yodelling and singing cowboy songs - 'Lady be Kind'. He should be singing 'Voters be Kind' -

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The Chair recognized the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) for a supplementary question. He is certainly getting into the realm of debate and issues that are not concerned with this particular topic. I would ask him to direct a specific question.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, what I am asking the hon. gentleman is would it not be in the interest of the

MR. NEARY: crab industry, the processors and the crab fishermen in this Province, to collaborate with the other Atlantic Provinces to try to bring about this policy, this great principle, this Liberal reform that we are pushing here about putting labels on the cans indicating whether it is imitation or real crab, and doing the same with the menus in the restaurants? Would that not help our industry, to protect the processors here and the fishermen here or is the hon. gentleman just a voice crying in the wind?

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, better to be a voice in the wind than a voice in the wilderness, which is what the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) is these days.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman does not seem to understand the issue at all. First of all, the imitation product is not being canned,

MR. MORGAN: none in the world being canned. That is one thing. And, secondly, Fisheries has nothing to do with the labelling with regards to the product being imported by any country. And right now the product is being imported by Canadians. It was brought into Nova Scotia last week, and across the country, up in Ontario and Quebec in particular, the imitation product from Japan. And it is the country where the product is being produced which will have to set down laws to control what that packaging says on what is contained in it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: You have not got a clue.

MR. MORGAN: Now, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman asked the question, let me answer it. Let me teach him something of what is going on in the fishing industry, because obviously he does not understand what is going on. The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that what is being brought into the U.S. today in packages and bought up by the food service outlets across the U.S., what they sell to the general consumer in the food service outlets across the U. S. cannot be determined by the producing countries, cannot be determined by the department of fisheries, the primary producing departments responsible in this case, but has been determined by regulations regarding the food service outlets and food and catering services throughout North America. In this case, from the last time I talked with my colleagues a few days ago in Nova Scotia and P.E.I. and these places, the product is coming in from Japan, brought in and being promoted across Nova Scotia - I would assume it will be here on the stands soon - and the labelling on the packaging on the stands for the consumer is clearly indicating, as a result of Japanese law and regulations, that it is clearly an imitation, it is indeed an imitation product. How much

MR. MORGAN: further can you go? If it is imitation, it is imitation. It is not real, it is imitation.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Motion, the hon. Minister of Social Services to introduce a bill, "An Act Respecting The Commission Of Offences Against The Laws Of The Province By Young Persons", carried. (Bill No. 11).

On motion, Bill No. 11, read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

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

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY:

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please! We are discussing a resolution pertaining to Bill No. 10, Interim Supply.

The hon. the Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I just thought I would rise at this time to take the opportunity of wishing all members of the House a Happy New Year. This is New Year's Eve, the new fiscal year starts tomorrow. This is the end of the old year so I would like to wish hon. members a happy new fiscal year coming up. We have been finishing off, shall we say, the old year for a little while, we are about to go into the new year, and, to go into the new year the government needs funds. If the government does not have any funds, of course we cannot carry out the necessary servicing that the people of this Province elected the members of this House of Assembly to arrange. They elected members of the House of Assembly overwhelming to this side, in their wisdom, and arrangements to have those funds available for the necessary services, and, of course, to pay our bills and to pay our salary bills and so on and so forth. But no matter how well we arrange things, we do have to have the vote in the House and to some extent, to a not inconsiderable extent, that is in the hands of the Opposition. We brought in an Interim Supply Bill to allow us to continue operations of government whilst the main estimates are debated at some length.

DR. COLLINS: We have been on the Interim Supply Bill for some time now. Time is running out in terms of continuing the authority of government to spend public funds and I am sure that the people of this Province are expecting that government services will continue. They are expecting we will be able to pay our bills and we will pay our bills. They are expecting that the public servants and their families will not suffer in any way because there is any holdup in our authority to expend public funds.

Now as I mentioned, Mr. Chairman, the main estimates are down and, of course, the funds related to the Interim Supply Bill are related to the headings and sub-headings in the main estimates. I have given the Committee some information on what the Interim Supply Bill covers, the particular items including some ongoing operations of government, but in addition to that some very necessary capital expenditures. Those capital expenditures are particularly to allow work to be done in the Province which might be held up if we wait for the main estimates to come down.

Now it is regrettable that even though we spent a considerable number of hours, as a matter of fact I am informed that we spent nine hours now, nine hours out of the amount that is left in the Committee of the Whole and in the House in debating the main estimates, there is nine hours out of that gone on the Interim Supply Bill. And, of course, hon. members know that there is considerable numbers of hours allotted to various estimates committees which deal with specific departments.

DR. COLLINS: But, anyway, during that nine hours debate, I do not think the Opposition really asked any questions. I do have further information available, if anybody is interested, on the contents of the Interim Supply Bill, or what the funds in the Interim Supply Bill relate to, and in particular perhaps the capital side of it. There does not seem to be much interest on the other side in terms of the capital works that government is able to carry out.

The only question I think of any specificity that did come up, and that was pretty broad, was in regard to the public debt. It might be just of interest to the Committee, as they do not seem to want to get into other things in Interim Supply, but it might be of some interest for the Committee just to note that the Nova Scotia budget came down the other day and it was interesting reading. I think the deficits in the Nova Scotia budget perhaps would be of interest to the Committee. It is unfortunate that our sister province is having a tough time of it budget-wise. They have sizeable budgets. As a matter of fact, in 1982/83 the deficit on current account in Nova Scotia was 11.2 per cent of their total expenditures was related to a deficit on current account.

DR. COLLINS: Our deficit on current account was 3.1 per cent that year, whereas Nova Scotia's was 11.2 per cent. In 1983-84 - now these are revised figures because, of course, it takes a little while before the actual figures come in, they come in the Public Accounts these are almost certain to be pretty accurate - in Nova Scotia which had a deficit on current account of \$232.1 million, added up to 9.7 per cent of their total expenditures. Nova Scotia last year, 1983-84, 9.7 per cent of their total expenditures was related to their deficit. In that same year ours was 3.9 per cent. So considerably less than half of ours, in relation to the percentage of the budget, related to our deficit. And in 1984-85, as I mentioned earlier the new budget is down now in Nova Scotia, they are projecting a deficit of \$194.3 million on current account, which is 7.5 per cent of their total expenditure estimates. Here in this Province ours is 1.8 per cent. Our deficit will be 1.8 per cent.

MR. BARRY: Does the minister have the per capita directly for Nova Scotia?

DR. COLLINS: No, but one could easily work it out. Their population is something like 900,000, ours is roughly two thirds of that, 600,000. So you could easily work that out and that would mean that the Nova Scotia deficit, no matter which way you look at it, as a percentage of the total budget, on a per capita basis, on a dollar basis, no matter how you look at it their deficit is considerably more than our deficit.

MR. BARRY: The accumulated per capita debt (inaudible).

DR. COLLINS: Well, of course, you have to decide how far you want to go back. I do not know if one would want to go back to the Ice Age or whatever and tot up the

DR. COLLINS: amounts. All we can say on that is that the per capita debt in Nova Scotia is escalating very rapidly in the last numbers of years. The escalation factor is much more rapid in Nova Scotia than in this Province. As a matter of fact, it will not be very long by the way things are going - I mean, this is a projection on my part but I think it is a reasonable type of calculation - it will not be very long before the Nova Scotia per capita accumulated debt will be similar to ours, because we have a cap on our deficit whereas the Nova Scotia one, unfortunately. - and I do not say this with any glee our sister province, I just point out the facts - of the Nova Scotia deficit seems to be escalating very rapidly indeed. So, Mr. Chairman, as I say, I do wish the hon. the members of the House a happy New Year in prospect of tomorrow being the first day of the new fiscal year, and I trust that we will finish off the old year in a very expeditious manner shortly.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman,

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I thought that when the hon. gentleman rose to speak that he was going to offer Newfoundlanders and Labradorians congratulations on the thirty-fifth anniversary of Confederation. At one stroke before midnight tomorrow night, Newfoundland will have been a province of Canada for thirty-five years, and I thought that the hon. gentleman, who is so anti-Canadian and such an anti-Confederate, would stand today and say, 'Congratulations, Newfoundland and Labrador, I am a proud Canadian.' Mr. Chairman, that will be the day when you can get the hon. gentleman to stand up in public and admit that he is a Canadian, either he or his colleague, the Government House Leader (Mr. Marshall). Mr. Chairman, the hon. gentleman

MR. NEARY: is a red-headed Tory, there is no doubt about that. If there is an original red-headed Tory in this Province, it is the hon. gentleman, Mr. Chairman. I hope I see him down to the Confederation Gala on Saturday night with his tux on, Mr. Chairman, and come out and show the people of Canada how grateful the hon. gentleman is for the people of Canada providing 50 per cent of the hon. gentleman's budget. Fifty

MR. NEARY: per cent of the hon. gentleman's revenues come from the Government of Canada, from the people of Canada. Not a word in this House about the over \$1 billion directly paid into the public treasury! Directly, more than \$1 billion paid directly, cheques issued to the minister, given to the minister by the Government of Canada! Not a word about that in the hon. gentleman's estimates or in his remarks or in his statements that he makes in this House.

So, Mr. Chairman, let the hon. gentleman swallow his pride, let the hon. gentleman put aside his bigotry and his prejudice, let the hon. gentleman get up and congratulate the people of Newfoundland and Labrador for fighting against his kind so that Confederation could win the day, and stop acting like a beggar knocking at the door of this House, looking for Interim Supply. Because that is what the hon. gentleman sounded like this morning, sounded like a beggar knocking at the door of the House: 'Please, House, may I have Interim Supply?' Well, let me say to the hon. gentleman that he will get Interim Supply when we are good and ready. Mr. Chairman, they could have had Interim Supply ten days ago; they could have had it in the first hour they brought the bill into this House if they had been willing to change their policies and change their direction. Their policies have been so wrong, and their direction has been wrong. They have recorded nothing in recent years but one failure after another. They cannot point their finger to one success, Mr. Chairman.

So we will keep debating this as long as we can so that the message will get out to the people of this Province that we are interested in the fishery, that we are interested in an offshore agreement,

MR. NEARY: that we are interested in creating jobs for young people, that we are interested in Labrador. The only mention in the hon. gentleman's Budget Speech about Labrador was one reference, one sentence. Labrador was mentioned once.

Mr. Chairman, we do not like the attitude and the behaviour of the administration and we are going to dig in and we are going to fight for change. We are going to fight for the people of this Province. We are not going to play little political games that we see played by hon. gentlemen there opposite every day.

I have here in front of me a Review of the Newfoundland Economy in 1983 and Prospects for 1984 that the hon. gentleman has been sitting on and keeping secret, refused to table in this House. Well, we have managed to lay our hands on a copy of it. We have all kinds of brown envelopes turning up.

DR. COLLINS: That was made public about four months ago.

MR. NEARY: It was not made public, Mr. Chairman. I have it here in front of me and I will be reading it on the weekend. I was browsing through it - nothing but doom and gloom in it, Mr. Chairman.

For example, in the fishery - the hon. gentleman was the author of this: 'Prepared under the authority of the hon. John F. Collins' - 'In the fishery, preliminary estimates indicate a decline of 5 to 10 per cent in total landings last year.' Mr. Chairman, that is not a very bright outlook. And you can go right through the whole report and find nothing but doom and gloom in that report that has been kept secret, kept hidden from the public, kept hidden from the House by the hon. gentleman.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, you can tell when an administration is on a downslide, she gets as leaky as a basket! The brown envelopes in your mailbox and under your door and the phone calls and the anonymous letters start pouring in, and they are pouring in now. So she is as leaky as a basket!

One of the things that came to my attention recently I have to bring up, Mr. Chairman, in view of what happened yesterday when the Premier and his party and myself were in Port aux Basques for the opening of the hospital, I was told on the way back, and I did not have to be told on the way back because I knew it already and raised it in this House, that when the Premier announced a boycott of EPA, and when they grounded the King Air aircraft and tried to leave the impression in this Province that they were not going to abuse or misuse the aircraft anymore, Mr. Chairman, I was told that the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe), who goes home to St. George's every weekend, charters a Navajo plane to St. George's every weekend, charters a Navajo plane from Labrador Airways, at an expense of \$1,600 each charter, and that is charged up to the taxpayers of this Province to get the hon. gentleman home every weekend. Are hon. members aware of that, Mr. Chairman?

AN HON. MEMBER: Do not be so foolish!

MR. NEARY: What do you mean, 'Do not be so foolish'? Go out to Stephenville and ask the people. The Navajo comes in with the hon. gentleman aboard every Friday evening going home and \$1,600 is the cost of the Charter.

MR. CARTER: Who are you talking about?

MR. NEARY: I am talking about the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe).

DR. COLLINS: No insinuations!

MR. NEARY: No insinuations, Let the hon. gentleman table the information to this House about the chartering that has been going on right, left and center in the last year since they grounded the aircraft. Now what are they doing? They are hiding the cost now in each department. Now when they want to go somewhere they charter a Navajo from Labrador Airways - \$1,600 to go to Stephenville. And then the other crowd who want to go home on weekends are using what they call the LFY, which is an aircraft bought for aerial photography for the forests of this Province. And then the hon. gentleman has the face to get up and say that we did not ask any specific questions. Well, we want to know why they are continuing to misuse and abuse their ministerial privileges, Mr. Chairman, and abusing aircraft? Let them table the logs of all the times they have gone aloft and how many aircraft they have chartered in the last year and the purpose of the charter and who was aboard the aircraft. I said to the Premier yesterday down in Port aux Basques, 'Do you have a vacant seat so I can get a ride back with you?' Because I would consider that to be a legitimate trip he made yesterday.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY: Yesterday he and the Minister of Public Works and Services (Mr. Young) went down to open the hospital. Do you know what he told me, Mr. Chairman? He said, 'Ask Frank Petten, go and ask Frank Petten'.

MR. DOYLE: Naturally. He did not know how many seats were available.

MR. NEARY: He did not know! Well, she left Stephenville - I was in the airport - she left Stephenville with six empty seats. I am not complaining, I am here today. He did not expect to see me in my seat today.

DR. COLLINS: In any case you are not supposed to be lashing around in planes paid for by the Province.

MR. NEARY: No, that is right, and that is what I am saying. But I happen to be the Leader of the Opposition, I have the same status as the hon. gentleman has in case he does not know it.

DR. COLLINS: You were a MHA going to your district.

MR. NEARY: I certainly was not, I was invited out for the opening of the hospital, the same as the Premier was, by the board in Port aux Basques. The hon. gentleman, in his simplicity and in his ignorance, may not be aware that I have the same status as a Cabinet Minister. But, Mr. Chairman, I did not want to abuse or misuse the aircraft. They happened to have the aircraft there waiting; she was coming this way, I wanted to get home last night, my wife is not feeling well, and I wanted to be in the House today. The hon. gentleman went out the door, ignored me. But he should have been around to hear the comments of the people in the airport after they took off with their little party on board. They did not want me to see what was going on. He will be around a long time before I ask him again to give me a lift. Then I got aboard of EPA and went over to Halifax and came home from Halifax last night, Mr. Chairman, because I wanted to get home. But that is the kind of question the hon. gentleman should address himself to, never mind getting up and begging and trying to chastise the Opposition.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): The hon. member's time has elapsed.

The hon. member for St. John's Centre.

DR. MCNICHOLAS: Mr. Chairman, I have been listening to the debate on Interim Supply for the last week, but some of the time I was wondering, when I was listening to the Opposition, exactly what the debate was all about, In fact, I thought I should have a few words myself today on the Irish question, it is certainly as relevant as a lot I have been hearing over the past week or so, but I think maybe I should confine myself to Interim Supply on the budget time.

I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) on his budget. I think all of us, when we heard the province-wide speech of the Premier the week before, were expecting a pretty rough budget with increases in sales tax and income tax and a drastic reduction in services. I know we were all amazed to find that the Minister of Finance could arrange the finances of the Province in such a way that we came up with, in the circumstances, I should say with a very reasonable budget. The main thing that upset me about the budget was that we did not have more money for welfare recipients, particularly the old people. And that was brought home to me

DR. MCNICHOLAS:

from going around in my district. I make a habit, when I get a call from one of my constituents, to follow that call with a personal call myself as soon as I possibly can. I must say I have been appalled by some of the poverty and the poor conditions that some of our people are living in. I know that is a very small minority, but I would like to see that aspect taken care of in a better way. But I do not think there is a better Minister in Canada than our Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey).

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

DR. MCNICHOLAS:

With the small amount

of money we have, he is doing a very good job, but I just hope that we can get more money in the interim until we have better conditions in Newfoundland.

There is another group also that I think we should try and look after in a better way, and these are the young married or unmarried women with small children. Again these are the people that I have gone around to see and I have been appalled at the poor circumstances in so many of these households. They find it very, very difficult to manage. You might criticize some that they are poor managers, but they are doing the very best they can. Some of them are not by any means poor managers, but they have a pretty tough time.

The offshore has been on all our minds. I think it is a tragedy what has happened and what is happening. A lot of our critics are not very helpful in that way. I was just amazed to read in The Daily News, I think it was the morning before last, the comments the Mayor of St. John's made at a luncheon meeting, I think at Kiwanis, about the offshore. Now I am not criticizing the Mayor as far

DR. MCNICHOLAS: as the job he is doing for St. John's. I think he is doing a very good job and I give him every credit for that. But I heard him two years ago speaking at Rotary about the offshore, and from what I read there the day before yesterday on what he said to Kiwanis, I think he had better confine his activities to looking after the City of St. John's.

He had a new angle on the offshore. He said it is not Newfoundland's, it does not belong to Canada, it does not belong to anybody, it is international. So I suppose if the Mayor were Minister of Energy we would have Russians, and Japanese and Chinese rigs out there drilling for oil.

I think it is, again, unfortunate that we have had two court decisions against us. Our own Newfoundland court who admit or agree that the resource is ours but because of a quirk in history we did not lay claim to it. Our Supreme Court of Canada have now said that we do not own the resource at all. We will have to go along with what the Supreme Court of Canada has says but that is not the end of the matter. That is the legal interpretation and the obvious reply that we will have to get a political solution to that problem. Not a solution that the Opposition want, although I have noticed quite a change in the attitude of the Opposition in the last week or so, I think it is since my erstwhile friend for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry) - I beg your pardon, I will withdraw that - my erstwhile colleague from Mount Scio went across, I think he is trying to educate the Opposition to the necessity to have some management control and to have a fair shake from the proper reward from our own resource that we brought into Canada. And I can see that he is beginning to convert the Opposition to that way of thinking, so much so as that now they want to join the bandwagon and

DR. McNICHOLAS: I would like to just have one or two words to say on what is happening in the medical field as it relates to the budget. I am very pleased to see that we are beginning to have a change in the hospital set-up in Newfoundland. We have been very well served by the cottage hospital scheme that has been here for I do not know how many years, since long before Confederation. Now we are switching to new hospitals in key areas, such as the one that was opened yesterday, the one that is being constructed in Clarenville and the one that is on the drawing board for Burin. I think this is a move in the right direction. We will have to have what we call in the medical profession tertiary care in the larger centers such as St. John's and Corner Brook and Gander and Grand Falls. I would like, though, to mention an approach that I think we will have to make in the near future. We are getting overcrowded with general practitioners in the built-up centers and we do not have enough of general practitioners in the outlying areas. I would like to suggest to the Department of Health that they will have to improve their incentive, to increase the payment to doctors to go to outlying areas and to keep the populated areas at a standstill or with a relatively less increase. I am very concerned that we are not getting enough specialists back here in Newfoundland. I do not think we are. I have been speaking to quite a number of them personally myself, and quite a number of them are not keen to come back here. A lot say, well, the doctors are making too much money, and that may be so, but the fact of the matter

DR. McNICHOLAS: is there are greener pastures elsewhere. And we will have to encourage them to come back, not just paying them more but to give them better facilities to work in in the hospitals.

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

DR. McNICHOLAS: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Bellevue.

MR. CALLAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I want to continue on from yesterday afternoon when I was speaking at 5:30 when the Late Show arrived. The member who just took his seat, Mr. Chairman, is on to a good topic, I believe, He is talking about the specialists who are forced to leave this Province, forced to leave this Province because of the treatment that they are receiving from this callous government, Mr. Chairman. I have some involvement personally of at least one specialist who has left. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, I came into St. John's yesterday morning and went back out to my home town again and came in again to be here at 3:00 o'clock when the House opened. I brought in my own daughter, who is crippled with rheumatoid arthritis, can barely get around the house, and here she has to wait until I think it is the 22nd of May before she can get to see a specialist, because the last one that she saw a year ago is no longer in the Province. And they are very, very few and far between, specialists in that field, in this Province. And as the member who just took his seat said, of course, a lot of the specialists and a lot of the medical

MR. CALLAN: people are leaving this Province for greener pastures. But I do not want to dwell on that, Mr. Chairman. I would like to talk about the other actions of this callous government. I want to talk about how this government-and the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mrs Newhook) is in her seat - I want to talk about how this government is making municipalities around this Province scapegoats for the government. I will just take my own town, Mr. Chairman, as an example, and there are dozens and scores. But even in my own town, for example, last year the town council in Norman's Cove and Long Cove

MR. CALLAN: received a \$50,000 grant - I do not think it is even a grant, I think it is a loan - to do a couple of artesian wells. That is what they got when they asked for water and sewer, when they asked for several million for water and sewer - they got \$50,000.

An awful lot of people in the Town of Norman's Cove - Long Cove, a population of approximately 1200, I would say the vast majority of people do not realize what is happening with the Town Council, and, as a matter of fact, even some of the town councillors I do not believe are aware. The mayor is. But, Mr. Chairman, in order to be able to avail of that \$50,000 loan last year, which they probably could have gotten from any bank or somewhere else just as cheaply - I do not know why they accepted it from the government, from Municipal Affairs -

But in order to avail of that, what did they have to do, Mr. Chairman, what did they have to do, the town council? They had to sign a paper to be sent back to the Department of Municipal Affairs whereby they said that in return for this commitment from government - this huge commitment, which is funny - in return for that we promised to implement higher taxes. They may not have to do it this year or next year but down the road they are committing themselves, says the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mrs. Newhook), to raising the taxes in the municipalities. They must implement proper taxes.

Now, Mr. Chairman, you contrast

MR. CALLAN: that, a measley \$50,000 for a couple of artesian wells, contrast that with the hundreds of thousands of dollars that has been poured into the Municipality of Norman's Cove- Long Cove by the federal government with no strings attached. You compare it. That very same mayor, Mr. Chairman, that very same mayor in Norman's Cove who likes to blow the Tory horn, that very same mayor would not have the place to sit down, would not have a building to sit down in - there would be no place to house the fire trucks that they have there, there would be no chambers for the town councillors and the mayor, there would be no room there for the Rural Development Association to meet in on a regular basis, there would be no room there that the district health nurse is availing of, there would be none of that - because the building that the town council occupies and the fire truck is housed in was built 100 per cent by federal money. They would not have a place to sit down. And that is just one example, Mr. Chairman, of the hundreds of thousands of dollars that has been poured into my home town by the federal government with no strings attached. Of course, this callous government says to the same town council and says to the same taxpayers, "We will give you a measley \$50,000 but in return you must sign this paper which says that if not this year or next year, in the very near future, as soon as an assessment can be done, you will be forced to implement property taxes." And, of course, as I said, Mr. Chairman, it is a prime example of the callousness of this government where they are using the town councils around this Province as scapegoats. Instead of raising the sales tax another 1.1 per cent, or instead of putting taxes on incomes or something or other,

MR. CALLAN: this government is hiding behind municipalities. They are hiding behind municipalities. And they are using the municipalities, Mr. Chairman. It is in their Five Year Plan, there for anybody to read. It is in this government's Five Year Plan that they will be passing a lot more authority for raising taxes over to the municipalities.

MR. WARREN: Shame! Shame!

MR. CALLAN: And it is happening all over. And that is why, Mr. Chairman, there is such a turnover. I said to my secretary a few days ago when I was sending out a bit of information to the municipalities, I said to her, "Do not use the name, just send it out Mayor and Councillors. Do not put down Mayor So-and-So on the address because," I said, "they change so quickly." In Arnold's Cove, which is one of the most prosperous little towns in the Province, not only in the district of Bellevue but in the Province, thanks

MR. CALLAN:

to National Sea, in Arnold's Cove the turnover of mayors and councillors is fantastic. I would venture to say, Mr. Chairman, that when the municipal elections roll around there will be an awful lot of towns, an awful of municipalities around this Province that will not be able to get a half dozen people to run for the town council seats and offices, because, Mr. Chairman, gradually, and the process is very gradual, Mr. Chairman, unfortunately, it is very gradual, people are beginning to see the light.

I would like to spend another ten minutes later on this morning on Rural Development Associations. I would like to be in Long Harbour tomorrow night where the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) is guest speaker, speaking to the Rural Development Association. I have an invitation to go, but I have other plans. But I would like to go. I will have my spies there, naturally, but I would like to be there myself as guest speaker. As a matter of fact, I was told by one or two members of the Rural Development Association locally that they thought that I was going to be the guest speaker.

MR. TULK:

They are all turning Liberal I believe.

MR. CALLAN:

But what happened?

MR. PATTERSON:

The Minister of Fisheries was invited a month ago.

MR. CALLAN:

I know it is the member for Placentia's district (Mr. Patterson), Long Harbour. They switch around. They had it in Bellevue last year, they had it in Norman's Cove a few years ago, and that is fine. The Regional Rural Development Association takes in Mount Arlington Heights, Long Harbour and, of course, it goes down to Little Harbour and so on, and all around. That is great, they are spreading it around. But I would

MR. CALLAN: like to be there because, Mr. Chairman, unfortunately an awful lot of these Rural Development Associations are top heavy with Tories.

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

MR. CALLAN: I will get back to the Rural Development thing. Mr. Chairman, a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. the member for Bellevue on a point of order.

MR. CALLAN: I would like to call a quorum, Mr. Chairman.

DR. COLLINS: There is a quorum here.

MR. WARREN: No, there is not, Sir.
Can you count? There are eleven.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is not a quorum.

MR. WARREN: Call a quorum. They cannot keep members in the House. Forty-four members and they cannot keep them in the House. Shameful!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Call in the members.

Order, please!
There is a quorum present, Are we free to continue?

MR. NEARY: No. On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. NEARY: I believe under the Standing Order\$, Your Honour, you have to wait three minutes before we can resume the business of the House.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: To that point of order the hon. the Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS: I would just like to support the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary). He is quite correct, that unless there is leave given we have to wait the three minutes. Now, why he wants to wait the three minutes I cannot conceive.

MR. TULK: To get in the members.

DR. COLLINS: The public business has to go on. Why he would want to sit around for a useless three minutes, I cannot conceive why he would want to do that, but strictly speaking he is within his rights.

MR. CHAIRMAN (McNicholas): Order, please!

The point of order is correct. There is about a minute and a half left.

MR. CHAIRMAN (McNicholas): Order, please!

Three minutes has elapsed.

The hon. the Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Chairman, I would like to congratulate the hon. the member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan). I congratulated him yesterday on a certain matter, I would like to congratulate him again today. This is almost getting embarrassing. There is not anything going on between us but nevertheless these two occasions have risen and I would like to congratulate him. He came as close as anyone in the Opposition did in this whole debate to asking a definitive question, he brought up something in Municipal Affairs. Now that is the closest yet we have seen any member opposite speak in this debate, on anything pertaining to what is in the bill, with any substance. So I would like to congratulate him on that. Now he was not right on the mark but at least he was somewhere in the ballpark of saying something germane to this particular bill, and I would like just to comment on it. Unfortunately, even though one has congratulated him, I do have to remark too that what he said was curiously old-fashioned. He just does not seem to know what is going on in this Province. He was talking about municipal taxation and he was saying that the people of this Province are becoming more and more turned off and more and more disgruntled, more and more angry with government because they are not giving them more and more out of the public treasury to carry out their responsibilities. Now, of course, where has he been for the last ten or fifteen years? The people of this Province are more and more going the other way. They

DR. COLLINS: are taking on more and more in property taxation. That is an area of taxation that is reserved to the municipalities. The Province does not collect property tax, the federal government does not collect property tax, that is reserved to the municipalities. The municipalities over the last ten or fifteen years, by and large at the encouragement of this government, because we give them certain matching grants the more they get into property taxation, by and large the municipalities have taken up more and more of this room that is available to them so that they can carry out their municipal responsibilities. You know, that is the way things are going, that is the reality of municipal government in this Province. We are moving more and more into a means of funding municipalities which is common throughout the rest of the world, we have tended to lag very severely in this Province in this regard and really we are now catching up and we are catching up quite rapidly, we are catching up at the encouragement of this government, and the municipalities are taking it up in a very responsible fashion. We have a good way to go yet, but they are moving forward in that area and that is what this budget did. This budget again encouraged the municipalities to rely more and more on property taxation to fund their responsibilities. The hon. member opposite really should get out amongst the people, perhaps speak to the people, perhaps speak to the elected officials in the municipalities just to learn what is going on in a modern way in this Province. We are very rapidly coming in line with what is common throughout Canada, throughout the civilized world wherever there is municipal government. We are going along that road very smartly, we have got a way to go yet, but we are getting along it quite nicely and quite rapidly and, it is a very

DR. COLLINS: responsible course of action and course of direction that the municipalities are taking. But the hon. member missed it. He totally missed it. This whole trend passed him by and he is harking back to some era of the 1930s, I think, or perhaps even the 1920s. He really should get out and talk to the common people and the people in the municipalities and just find out what is going on. So I just had to make that remark. I am sure, now that I have made the remark, the hon. member, because he is a good member, will pick up that and he will go back to his community and he will encourage them. He will say, 'Look, take up more and more of this tax room that is available to you. Get more and more into the property tax era.' This is where the people will respond, because the people are responding in other municipalities. Now I am sure that, having pointed that out, the hon. member will take this up. We will never hear anything again from the municipalities in his district in terms of assistance from government

DR. COLLINS:

because he would be after them so much the whole time that this is the modern way to go; this is the way that most municipalities in the Province are going; this is the way where the municipality itself has its own tax room in its own hands, gives its own flexibility, is not so dependent on the provincial government. Really, it becomes more of a master in its own house. The municipalities are moving that way as fast as they can. They need all the encouragement they can get. We are giving them the encouragement, both verbally and in terms of matching their grants, and I am sure now that if the member opposite also gets into this very useful act and encourages the municipalities in his district to do the same thing that it will only help out the whole process.

So I hope now, and I am sure, really, that the member will do that and, you know, come into the modern world, know what is going on and get on with it. Do not lag behind, do not rusticate, do not get ossified in some previous era, come with the modern world, get into the real facts of life and help out the people in his district.

I would just like to make a comment or two on the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary). He was commenting that I did not congratulate members on the Anniversary of Confederation and he said that I am a terrible Canadian and all that sort of thing. I do not have to do any congratulating. My father was born on the mainland, my father was a Canadian. You know, Canadianism to me and my family is nothing new. I was born here, I am a proud Newfoundlander, but my family traditions on my father's side are mainland Canada.

DR. COLLINS: To me, there is nothing strange, weird or wonderful about being a Canadian. I can reach right back to Adam on my father's side, if there were Canadians in those days, and they were Canadians. It is nothing new to me. I am proud to be a Canadian; I am even prouder to be a Newfoundlander, but I am proud to be a Canadian.

Now, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) brought up one other point which I thought was interesting and I thought I would just comment on it. He said that this Province joined Canada an instant before Midnight on the 31st of March, 1949.

He made that point and he is quite correct on it. And the reason for it is that it would not seem to be appropriate for us to join Canada on April 1st, April Fools' Day. Now, I am sure that this is in the people's minds over there, that they do not want Newfoundland joining Canada to be associated with April Fools' Day. But that apparently was the reason Mr. Smallwood asked the federal government to let us join an instant before. That is quite true.

Now, he did not say another thing, though. He did not say what is of equal importance, that is that one instant before we joined Canada we got back our constitution, our Dominion constitution. An instant before we joined Canada, our constitution reverted to Newfoundland. So we got back our Dominion status, our constitution, one instant before that.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I was not there at the time actually, but I have no greater authority on that than who? The Prime Minister of Canada and the

DR. COLLINS: Chief Justice of Canada.

At that time, the Prime Minister of Canada was Louis St. Laurent and the Chief Justice of Canada at that time was Mr. MacDonald, a Nova Scotian.

Mr. St. Laurent was asked in the House what did a certain term in the Terms of Union mean, and he pointed out - it was clearly stated in the House of Commons Hansard - that an instant before Newfoundland joined Canada, the suspended constitution of the Dominion was reinstated. So we were reinstated an instant before we joined Canada - on the word of the Prime Minister, I am not going to doubt the word of the Prime Minister of Canada. The Prime Minister of Canada said it, it is in Hansard, it is written down; you know, it is part of our national archives or whatever. But anyway, the Prime Minister of Canada himself said that an instant before Newfoundland joined Canada, we got back our suspended Dominion constitution.

Now, I was a little bit disappointed that the Leader of

DR. COLLINS: disappointed that the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) did not bring out that point. He did bring out that a moment before midnight, rather than on April 1, we became part of Canada. But he did not bring out an equally important point, that an instant before that moment our suspended constitution fully reverted back to the Province. We have that on the authority, the word of the Prime Minister of Canada, Louis St. Laurent.

I think my time is up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. WARREN: Mr. Chairman, in response to the minister's few comments, I thank him for bringing to light that his father was a Canadian. However, it is very unfortunate for Newfoundland that we should get such a person as that guy being the Finance Minister of this Province.

Mr. Chairman, the minister also mentioned about my colleague bringing up about Municipal Affairs. However, I wish to bring up a couple of points on Mines and Energy. I understand that the Petroleum Directorate is planning to boost its number of employees to have something like twenty or thirty extra employees employed this year in the Petroleum Directorate. Now with the Supreme Court saying that the offshore belongs to Canada, belongs to all provinces of Canada, I am surprised that the Department of Finance and this government would consider employing an extra twenty to thirty people in the Petroleum Directorate which up to this day has done very little in this Province.

The minister wants to see that Interim Supply is passed before midnight tomorrow night.

MR. WARREN: It is ironic, Mr. Chairman, that in the Department of Transportation, whereas other Newfoundlanders and Labradorians and members in this hon. House have to travel back and forth by scheduled airlines, the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe) can have at his disposal a chartered aircraft to take him to his home every weekend. Is this what we are asking Interim Supply for, for the Minister of Transportation to call up Labrador Airways when he feels like it to get a charter to go to the West Coast? It was only just yesterday, I understand, that the Premier and some of his flunkies came back from the West Coast, came back from Stephenville with empty seats on a government chartered aircraft, and the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary), who was out in the area at the same time on behalf of his constituents for the opening of the hospital in Channel - Port aux Basques and he even asked the Premier could he get a ride back on the government chartered aircraft and the Premier said, 'Ask somebody else'. The plane came back with three empty seats on it, but my hon. colleague had to go from Stephenville to Halifax and from Halifax back to St. John's in order to get here today. The Premier came back in a chartered aircraft with three empty seats and would not, did not have the decency of inviting or asking the Leader of the Opposition to come back with him. Now this is what you call saving taxpayers' money. And, Mr. Chairman, if the hon. Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) believes that we are going to be so naive to give him leave today to pass this Interim Supply, I believe he has something else coming to him because we are not concerned about midnight tomorrow night. I do not think very many civil servants are going to be in here tomorrow issuing cheques for civil servant employees. I believe,

MR. WARREN: Mr. Chairman, all civil service employees get paid every second Wednesday, they do not get paid on Friday or Saturday, so do not worry if we are still here Monday. And let the media go around saying, 'Look' if we do not pass Interim Supply the civil servants will not get paid'. We do not mind staying

MR. WARREN:

here until Monday or even Tuesday. Payday is not before Wednesday so we do not mind, and we will make sure that the government can answer for some of this waste that they are asking this House to pass.

We know they have forty-four members to our eight and they are going to pass it, but we want to make sure that some of the things that are hidden in those figures are known first.

The Minister of Education (Ms. Verge) had the gall to bring in a Ministerial Statement this morning, and what was she doing? She was saying to future generations of this Province, and the students presently in the schools, 'If you have money you can go to university or to the trade schools. But, meanwhile, those on social assistance, or those who have to depend on employment insurance for six months of the year, the only way you can go is if you can go to the banks and look for loans first, put yourself in debt first, or, as a last alternative we will give you a grant.' This is what the Minister of Education said this morning in her Ministerial Statement.

And the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) said on Budget day that the Minister of Education had good news for us. You call that good news, Mr. Chairman, where we have 80 per cent of our students who are in university and trade schools today in there because they want to advance their education and they are hoping that this government can continue, as the Smallwood administration did, to give them the opportunity to get a decent education regardless of cost? Regardless of what the cost is the Newfoundland treasury should be able to help those who are unable to help themselves.

MR. WARREN: There are many students in the Province today who want to go to university but because of the restraints of this government they will be unable to do so.

Now, Mr. Chairman, let us look at the Social Services Department. It was only yesterday that the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development (Mr. Goudie), and the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey) received a telegram from twenty individual groups and town councils in Labrador begging the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development to try to put some sense into the Minister of Social Services' head, to try to tell him to wake up and realize that there are special circumstances pertaining to the four social workers who were dismissed by the Minister of Social Services.

The Minister of Social Services went in and dismissed those four social workers without any grounds whatsoever. And what did he do, Mr. Chairman? Instead of taking the trouble to find out from those four social workers what had happened, he goes ahead and calls a press conference.

I am glad to see the Minister of Social Services is back in his seat, because I am sure he will take the opportunity to rebut what I am saying very shortly. The minister has made a drastic error and he will never be forgiven by the people in Labrador. I will advise the minister that he has made the worst error that his department could ever make.

And, Mr. Chairman, I would venture to say that when this case goes to the Supreme Court - in fact, it is on its way to the Supreme Court - and I would say there are indications that the minister jumped the gun. The minister is trying to tell the native people who live in the country in a tent, eight

MR. WARREN: or ten of them in a tent, that 'you have to charge for board and lodgings'.

MR. TULK: Is that what he is doing?

MR. WARREN: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
The Premier said the other day that one of the most compassionate men in his Cabinet, and one of the most compassionate Social Services Ministers in all of Canada is the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey) in this Province.

MR. NEARY: God help the poor people of Canada.

MR. WARREN: I would say, Mr. Chairman, that the other Social Service Minister across Canada cannot be much of it. They cannot be much of it when we look at that Social Services Minister

MR. WARREN: who has trampled social assistance recipients throughout this Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Now this is the kind of government we have to withstand. And, Mr. Chairman, I am ashamed, the twenty groups which sent a telegram to the minister, are ashamed of his action, All they are doing is asking him to rescind his action, to rescind his decision and take a moral approach to the incident, Because one individual in his office in Goose Bay figured he was the King of Labrador all of a sudden, these four social workers had go. I would strongly suggest to the minister that he has made an error and it is high time for him to get back to reality and realize that there are many people in this Province who are not as fortunate as the minister is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (McNicholas): The hon. Minister of Social Services.

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Chairman, it is not my intention to respond to what the hon. gentleman is talking about and raving about, four social workers. That matter is before the courts and consequently he should, in his wisdom if he has any left, leave that matter to the judiciary to decide. One of those people has taken the matter to court and that is his privilege. The other three have protection under the wage and working agreement and they are going through that process. Why does the hon. gentleman not put a button on his mouth and wait until the people in the know decide who is right and who is wrong. The hon. gentleman wants to talk about breaking laws and Native peoples and all of that. We will debate those issues, Mr. Chairman, at the appropriate time. Let

MR. HICKEY: me suggest to the hon. gentleman something that he should be much more concerned about, since he has such compassion, as one would gather from listening to what he is saying today, maybe he might tell the House how he justifies dragging out this debate with his colleagues so that the social assistance recipients he is concerned about will not get their cheques on Monday because my officials throughout the Province will have no authority to write a cheque. And all the clients who come in to visit my fifty-two offices throughout the Province will find the answer, "No, sorry, we have no money, no money voted by the Legislature because the Opposition if filibustering, will not pass Interim Supply, will not grant money to the House, drags out the debate, making cheap political points - or I should say trying to make cheap political points. The hon. gentleman talks as though everything is fine, the civil servants are going to be paid. Not so, Mr. Chairman, not so. All of them will not be paid if the Interim Supply is not passed today. But my chief concern, Mr. Chairman, is the social assistance recipients for whom I am responsible and accountable for, and I am telling the hon. gentleman, and all hon. gentlemen opposite, that if Interim Supply is not passed this day social assistance recipients will not have their cheques. As a matter of fact, Mr. Chairman, we are already late. The cheques would have gone in the mail by now, but they are being held; we cannot send them, there is no authority to pay, there is no authority to spend money. If the hon. gentlemen opposite are so compassionate, instead of wasting the time of this House talking about four social workers who took decisions, and,

MR. HICKEY: as I said, those matters affecting those four people are being dealt with in the normal course of events using the mechanisms which are at their disposal to use, namely the wage and working agreement and, in one instance, the court. We will all know about that issue in due course as to whether or not my staff and I were right or whether or not we were wrong. And we stand on our decision.

MR. TULK: Do not stand on your record.

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Chairman, I am not going to prolong debate and I am not going to waste any time because time is of the essence. Let me make an appeal to hon. gentlemen opposite, that if they have any compassion left, for the sake of those

MR. HICKEY:

people who have to depend on the state to eat on Monday and Tuesday and every other day, they let their compassion rise sufficient to pass this bill. Because they know it is going to pass anyway, they achieve nothing, but they hurt those who are hurting already, Mr. Chairman. So let them show where their compassion is. And let the hon. gentleman for Torngat Mountain (Mr. Warren) come in the Chamber instead of peeping in through the door, let him come in and take his lumps. He has dug another hole for himself; he laboured to bring forth a mountain and he brought forth a mouse - four social workers. Mr. Chairman, I would suggest the hon. gentleman be more compassionate -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. HICKEY:

- and pass this bill so that people who have no jobs to provide for themselves can continue to eat.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward):

The hon. member for Mount Scio.

MR. BARRY:

Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) went on for a time this morning and took the same approach that the Premier has taken on a number of occasions where there seems to be great satisfaction derived from pointing out the problems experienced in other provinces, particularly our sister Province of Nova Scotia. We see the Finance Minister virtually gloating over the difficulties which he sees or which he projects the Nova Scotian economy to be about to experience in future years as their current account deficit, its overall deficit appears to grow. And he gets great satisfaction from seeing that that appears to be growing at a rate higher than Newfoundland's.

MR. BARRY: Now that is going to go a long ways, Mr. Chairman, in bringing the Province of Nova Scotia, the Government of Nova Scotia on side with the Premier and his government when he seeks to have that Province approve a constitutional amendment to give Newfoundland certain rights with respect to the offshore. That is really the way to go about bringing the governments of other provinces on side, that is really the way to obtain support from the Premier and the Government of Nova Scotia, to gloat over the way that the economy of that Province, in the Minister of Finance's (Dr. Collins) opinion is deteriorating.

We also see the Premier and the Minister responsible for Energy (Mr. Marshall) time after time getting up and criticizing the Government of Nova Scotia for signing the offshore agreement. Now it is one thing to say that the agreement signed by Nova Scotia is not acceptable or suitable for Newfoundland, but Mr. Chairman, to get up and criticize that government! What presumptuousness, what arrogance for the Premier of Newfoundland to purport to say to the Premier of Nova Scotia what is good for the Province of Nova Scotia. That is the business of the government and the people of Nova Scotia. And if they want to sign an agreement for their province which they feel is good for their province, that is their right.

Now, Mr. Chairman, we have, I believe, a very bad attitude shown, exhibited by the Premier, by the Minister of Finance, we have a continuation of the attitude which has turned off the rest of Canada towards the members opposite, towards the government opposite. The rest of Canada has tuned out to any attempt by the Premier or his

MR. BARRY: government to describe the equity of the position that all Newfoundlanders would like to see with respect to the offshore, namely this Province having a fair share of revenue and having a substantial involvement in management of that resource. And it is the attitude typified by the statement of the Finance Minister (Dr. Collins) today that is the root cause for the people of other provinces the governments of other provinces tuning out. They do not accept that the ravings of the Premier, when he goes on television and when he attempts

MR. BARRY: to sell Newfoundland's case, they do not accept that that is reasonable because of the attitude shown in the statements such as the one made by the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) today. Now, perhaps, Mr. Chairman, this is merely a sign of the arrogance which is appearing in many other areas on the part of members opposite and on the part of the government. Again we have a good example. We see the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) out on business of the Province, Mr. Chairman, invited to the opening of a hospital - as the Leader of the Opposition and as the member for LaPoile - invited to the opening of a hospital in his district, and we see the basic common courtesy that traditionally has been extended to the Leader of the Opposition by the Premier, ignored. Now, Mr. Chairman, it is either arrogance that the government believe that they can have their little plane, they can play their little games with their government plane and they can use that, Mr. Chairman, as though it were their personal play toy; it is either the arrogance of that attitude or else it is the vindictiveness directed towards the Leader of the Opposition for daring to get up and question whether the government is utilizing the airplane in a proper fashion, for daring to get up and ask whether the taxpayers' dollars are being spent in a correct fashion. So we have either arrogance or vindictiveness as being the reason for forcing the Leader of the Opposition to travel from Stephenville to Halifax in order to get back to St. John's when there were empty seats on a government plane, empty seats on a plane chartered by the people of this Province coming back to St. John's. There is no need of that, and I would ask the Premier and members opposite to shape up and start treating the assets of government not as their own assets but as the assets of the people.

MR. BARRY: And the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) is one of the institutions that the people realize is protecting the rights of the people of this Province. Now again we have this arrogance that pervades government today in Newfoundland, we see this arrogance typified by the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey) when he gets up and he says, 'Members of the Opposition are wasting their time and wasting the time of the House when they dare talk about the rights of individuals in this Province, when they dare get up and ask whether four social service workers in Labrador are being treated fairly and properly by their government.' This, Mr. Chairman, is a waste of time? It is now the policy of this government that it is a waste of time for members of the Opposition to question whether the rights of individuals are being respected, whether the rights of individuals are being protected.

We had the opportunity, Mr. Chairman, of questioning the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development (Mr. Goudie) on this point and, Mr. Chairman, we learned from the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development that he was not consulted by the Minister of Social Services before the minister took his highhanded and arbitrary and inflexible action.

MR. TULK: And he is the Minister for Labrador and Northern Development.

MR. BARRY: The minister has a particular responsibility for Northern affairs in his portfolio, but even if he was not the only minister from Labrador, Mr. Chairman, with three of his own constituents being so dealt with, and one constituent of the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren), what is the response of the Minister of Rural,

MR. BARRY: Agricultural and Northern Development (Mr. Coudie)? We have, Mr. Chairman, his response that he had not received a Telex from other groups in Labrador. Now this is an incident that has been debated in this House, has been raised in the media over the past three weeks, and the least the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development should have done was to call up to his constituents, or call the contacts that he has in his district and find out, not just rely upon the information that is sent up to him through the Department of Social Services, if he got

MR. BARRY: any information, but he should have made contact directly with his constituents -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. BARRY: - and he should have consulted with the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey) before that minister made this decision.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!

Before recognizing the next speaker, I take great pleasure in welcoming to the Speaker's gallery today the hon. Donald Johnston, Minister of Regional Economic Expansion and Minister of Science and Technology.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. DINN: Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. DINN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to have a few words in the debate. First of all, the hon. Mr. Johnston, who is in the House just now and has been recognized by the Chair, ought to be aware that maybe not all the leadership contenders are into the race federally yet for the Liberal leadership, the hon. the member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry) might bolt at any moment!

Mr. Chairman, that is about all I have to say about what the hon. the member for Mount Scio has to say. I think I will take the same attitude as the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) takes when he indicates that all we have to do with the member for Mount Scio is give him a little rope and he will hang himself.

MR. SIMMS: More exposure.

MR. DINN: And the more exposure he gets the more he is heading towards that. As a matter of fact, in his maiden speech as a Liberal member in the House,

MR. DINN: he just about did that and I think he is a non-issue now in the Province, so now I will deal with some of the issues in the Province.

I would like to deal with what the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) said with respect to the airplane trip yesterday. Well, he was invited out to the opening of a new hospital, the first hospital in the five-year programme that was dealt with by this administration, the first hospital in the five-year programme, and where was it put? Well, obviously, the pork barrel was out of vogue. The pork barrel is out of vogue in this Province because the first hospital that was built under the programme was built in, lo and behold, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition's district. And not only that, during that particular Budget debate, the Leader of the Opposition voted against that budget, so he obviously did not even want the hospital to go there.

MR. SIMMS: But he had the nerve to show up there.

MR. DINN: Mr. Chairman, I would like to deal a little bit with the airplane trip. Well, as I understand it, the Leader of the Opposition yesterday attempted to get a trip-in from Stephenville and he approached the Premier and said, 'Mr. Premier, I am going to St. John's. Is there any room on the aircraft?' Well, the Premier, being a very busy man, and having many things on his mind, said, 'Well, I do not know how many people are going on the airplane or how much baggage there is or what the weight limitations are, so you will have to check with the gentleman who is arranging that for me and see what he has to say.'

MR. DINN: Well, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) obviously did not want a trip in, he just wanted to make a point, as is his wont. I mean, he is continually attempting to camouflage issues. He did not even approach the gentleman who was co-ordinating that trip. He was not refused a flight in. He went to the Premier; the Premier said, 'Well, there is a gentleman in charge of that. He is going to make sure that there is not too much baggage or that there are not too many people, that there are enough seats for everybody. Go and see him and he will see what we can arrange.' He did not go and approach him, he did not even ask. And he came into the House of Assembly today and made a big issue about the fact that they would not give him a ride in from Stephenville, when he did not even ask for a ride of the gentleman who was arranging the trip.

MR. BARRY: He asked the Premier.

MR. DINN: Now, the hon. the member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry) is breaking the rules of the House by interrupting. He is obviously smarting from the fact that the attitude of the Leader of the Opposition is to give him enough rope and he will hang himself. He made his maiden speech in the House as a Liberal and he just about did that. He is continuing on on that same road and I would venture to guess that, in a month or two, the member for Mount Scio will be a has-been as he is a has-been in his district.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to deal with one or two other items.

The hon. the member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan) got up today and talked about what the government is not doing in the budget. He did not talk

MR. DINN: about anything that the government was doing. He attempted, for example, to deal with Norman's Cove in his district and Municipal Affairs treating them poorly because the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mrs. Newhook) last year gave them \$50,000 for water for the people in his little town of Norman's Cove, \$50,000 she laid out last year in her budget for water for the people of Norman's Cove, and the hon. member did not think this was a good idea. He also said, 'You are driving municipalities into the ground.' Well, there is only one other person that I know of who spoke out on the budget with respect to Municipal Affairs and how the government is driving them into the ground, and that is the Mayor for Carbonear, who is the President of the Federation of Mayors and Municipalities. Well, I do not know what his

MR. DINN:

political affiliation is, but he is the only president of the mayors and municipalities since I can remember - now if you go back far enough, of course, you will get back to when the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) was involved in that association, so, I mean, the same sort of thinking went on then.

MR. SIMMS: There was no government then.

MR. DINN: But all of the presidents of mayors and municipalities throughout my time in this House of Assembly since 1975 and as Minister of Municipal Affairs for three years -

MR. SIMMS: And a good one.

MR. DINN: - 1976, 1977 and 1978, all the presidents of the Federation of Mayors and Municipalities have been espousing the fact that they want to have more control over their destiny and they want to be more responsible and they want to get into property tax, but they are a little bit scared, they need a little bit of encouragement and they have gotten that sort of encouragement. And, lo and behold, the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mrs Newhook) comes in this year and she says, 'Well, now we have a bit of difficulty. We are spending about \$25 to \$30 million yearly installing water and sewer and local roads and fire trucks, which the hon. member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan) talked about - fire trucks in different municipalities, and we think that it is time that municipalities paid a little more of their share, but not the total share.'

MR. SIMMS: 80 per cent or something like that.

MR. DINN: Up to this point in time,

MR. DINN: for hon. member's benefit, the Province has been paying 85 per cent of the debt charges for all water and sewer that has been installed in the different municipalities in this Province. In 95 per cent of the municipalities of this Province, the provincial government -

MR. SIMMS: Does that go back to the Liberal days?

MR. DINN: No, it does not go back to the Liberal days. I mean, there was hardly a drop of water in the Province only in St. John's, where we paid for it ourselves.

MR. SIMMS: I see.

MR. DINN: But, Mr. Chairman, what we are attempting to do is this; since we are spending \$25 to \$30 million for water and sewer and local roads in this Province, we have, I venture to guess. - I know in my day in Municipal Affairs, just the requests for one year from municipalities for water and sewer in this Province, which I know I did it up one year, amounted to something like \$225 million, so that is an example.

MR. SIMMS: What?

MR. DINN: The requests for water and sewer in this Province, because they have been neglected for about twenty-three years, the requests that were coming in amounted to about \$225 million per year for the needs of our people for water and sewer. And we attempt, through our small budget here in this Province, to spend \$25 to \$30 million for water and sewer in this Province. And are we saying to the municipalities, as they do in just about every province in this country, are we saying, 'You are the government of that town or that city or that community, and if you

MR. DINN: want water and sewer you should pay for that, you should pay all of the debt charges on that? We are not saying that.

MR. SIMMS: That is what we are being accused of.

MR. DINN: In Nova Scotia the municipalities pay just about all of the debt charges with respect to water and sewer. I spent some nine years there.

MR. SIMMS: The local municipalities?

MR. DINN: Oh, yes, the local municipalities pay it. They get assistance from the government with respect to loans but the loans are paid back in Nova Scotia by the municipalities and the counties.

MR. SIMMS: I see.

MR. DINN: Mr. Chairman, here in Newfoundland the municipalities are now paying approximately 15 per cent, about 15 per cent of the debt charges on utilities. So what we are saying to the municipalities-

MR. RIDEOUT: They are not even paying that much.

MR. DINN: Some municipalities are up to 15 per cent.

MR. RIDEOUT: Of their fixed revenue.

MR. DINN: That is right, of their fixed revenue, but it is up to 15 per cent. Some municipalities -

MRS. NEWHOOK: That is the minimum.

MR. DINN: Yes, 15 per cent is the minimum now, right. And what we are saying to the municipalities is that 15 per cent, you should

MR. DINN: take a little more, you should pay a little greater share of that utility.

MR. SIMMS: Up to 50 per cent.

MR. DINN: No, it is not 50 per cent, it is not 80 per cent, it is not 45 per cent, it is 20 per cent. So we are saying to the municipalities we will pay the 80 per cent still but you will have to pay a larger portion. And every president of the mayors and municipalities that I am aware of up to this year, when Mayor Reid from Carbonear, the hon. member's district -

MR. PEACH: A fan of the hon. member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry)

MR. DINN: A fan of the hon. member for Mount Scio. He has one fan? One fan in the Province?

MR. SIMMS: There are two down there now, I think.

MR. DINN: Well, he has two fans in the Province. Well, Mr. Chairman, he is the only president of the Federation of Mayors and Municipalities that I am aware of who has come out and said that the municipalities are being driven into the ground.

MR. DINN: Mr. Chairman, they are saying 20 per cent of their fixed revenue towards the utilities that we are paying something like \$25 million to \$30 million a year to have installed so that people can have adequate water and sewer and local roads in their municipalities, and fire trucks.

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

MR. DINN: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.
I will get back to the debate a little later on.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Mount Scio.

MR. BARRY: Mr. Chairman, first of all, I want to correct two misleading statements by the Minister of Labour and Manpower (Mr. Dinn). The first is that there was no request made by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) to come back on the government plane. The fact is that the Leader of the Opposition requested the Premier directly, face to face, to make the arrangements; the Premier indicated that he would look into it and that was the last the Leader of the Opposition heard about it. So that is falsehood number one. Now falsehood number two, Mr. Chairman, is contained in the statement made by the Minister of Labour and Manpower last night before the Estimates Committee where he indicated Mr. Chairman, by his lack of information given to the media, that he had no notice that the Opposition would not be at the Estimates Committee, when, in fact, the Opposition House Leader (Mr. Hodder) went to the minister and informed him that because of other commitments the members of the Opposition would have to reserve the remaining questions until the minister's estimates came back to this House at which time we will get an opportunity to pass them. The member made arrangements

MR. BARRY: so that the minister would not have to have his officials down there at the committee meeting. The minister misled the press, misled the people of this Province by not referring to that, and I would invite the press to question the minister with respect to the discussion he had with the Opposition House Leader (Mr. Hodder).

Now, Mr. Chairman, I would also be very interested in hearing the response of the hon. Minister of Labour and Manpower (Mr. Dinn), the minister whose department has a responsibility for monitoring the unemployment in this Province and trying to do something about it, Mr. Chairman, although you would never believe it from the inaction that we have seen, I would like to ask members opposite if they agree with the statement by Statistics Canada that the recession is now officially over. I am wondering, since we had a Day of Mourning in the past, whether members opposite are now going to declare a public holiday. I wonder if they are going to take full page ads in The Daily News and The Evening Telegram and other papers around the Province, are they going to take full page ads to inform the thousands of unemployed around this Province that the recession is officially over? It is the same, I guess, as the fact that Spring has also officially arrived and all you have to do is look out the window. Mr. Chairman, the recession is now officially over according to Statistics Canada, and I wonder if members opposite and the Minister responsible for Labour and Manpower support that? Is the recession officially over in Newfoundland? Can we have a statement from members opposite on that point? Has the recession finished? Can our thousands of unemployed now rejoice? Rejoice, hallelujah, the recession is over!

MR. BARRY: Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that we have a long ways to go before the recession is over in Newfoundland. And the reason the rest of the country is moving ahead, the reason the rest of the country is recovering, the reason people in the rest of the country are going back to work is because we have a double burden on the people of this Province. We have had the burden of the recession, which is now officially over, but we also have the burden of lack of economic development policies, lack of proper manpower training policies, lack, in other words, of any government policies that are directed at getting the thousands of our people who are desperately looking for employment back to work.

Mr. Chairman, everywhere you go in this Province today you are finding people, not just students who have gone through four or five years of university or trades school, vocational institutes, fisheries college and are now out looking for employment, not just those, Mr. Chairman, that is bad enough, but picture what happens to the psyche of a young person who, goes into his chosen profession or career with great enthusiasm and works hard and gets his degree or

MR. BARRY:

diploma or certificate and is all ready to go and all of a sudden, Hold it! No jobs. No jobs, Mr. Chairman. Picture what that individual feels like after a year or two years looking for employment. But, Mr. Chairman, I think that even worse is the situation - and you run into these people, I know members opposite have their constituents coming up to them. I have had them daily, Mr. Chairman, contacting me over the last several weeks - of the person who has worked, all of his life he has been employed, he is in his mid or late fifties, early sixties, several years away from receiving the old age pension, he has been off work so long there is no longer any unemployment insurance coming in, he is driven back to the stage where, first of all, what little savings he might have had, what little equity he might have built up in his house is drained away, and finally, Mr. Chairman, he is being driven to fall back on social assistance.

Now, picture, Mr. Chairman, what that gentleman feels two or three years later when he is looking for work and he is told by the Premier, 'Hang tough, hang tough', he is told by the Premier, 'We do not want to do this with respect to the offshore because it might overheat the economy'. Now, Mr. Chairman -

MR. CALLAN:

Some heat.

MR. BARRY:

Some economy - we have to get back to the reality of today in Newfoundland. We have a government that has lost touch with reality, we have a government that lost touch with the hardship that is being endured right now by people all throughout this Province, we have a government, Mr. Chairman, that has become arrogant, that does not care about the rights of individuals. It is a waste of time to talk about the rights of individuals in this House. We have a government that has become arrogant with respect to the use of

MR. BARRY: government property, that is prepared, Mr. Chairman, to create difficulty for the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) in performing his duties, his duties given to him by the democratic process in this Province. They are prepared, either through arrogance or vindictiveness, to make life difficult for the Leader of the Opposition, to make it difficult for him to do the job which this House of Assembly and the people of this Province expect him to be able to do.

Mr. Chairman, we have a government that has reached the stage where it only wants to hear the things that agree with its position.

MR. NEARY: That is right.

MR. BARRY: We have a government, Mr. Chairman, that discourages alternative suggestions being put to it, discourages public servants from putting both sides of an issue, whether it be in a Cabinet paper or presentation to a minister. They have reached the stage where they virtually tremble for their jobs if they happen to deviate from the 'new think' of members opposite, from the 'new think' of the Premier and members of his government.

Mr. Chairman, we have a situation where there is a lack of sensitivity, a lack of concern for the ordinary person in this Province shown by members in this government. I do not believe it is because they do not care, I think it is because they have lost touch with their districts, they have lost touch with their constituents, they have lost touch with the real needs of the people of this Province.

We have

MR. BARRY: a copy, Mr. Chairman, of the Telex that was sent to the hon. Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey) on March 13, 1984. "The Labrador Native Women's Association is not pleased with the action you have taken in regard to the dismissal of four social workers, as we understand it, over a Social Services policy that appears to be contrary to the particular needs of a particular culture, namely that of the people of Davis Inlet and Shesheshit. The Labrador Native Women's Association have grave concerns about the implications that this policy, or perhaps others, might have for the Innu and settler and as well as the Innu peoples throughout Labrador. However, the dismissal of the social workers in our opinion does not solve the problem at hand and it will be just a matter of time before it will surface again. We call upon your department, and other departments of government, to take a hard look at the inclusion of and to ensure active participation of Native groups and indeed that of all peoples affected in Labrador when tailoring policies for the Province. We support the stand taken by the social workers in question and ask you to reconsider your decision." And we have the minister responsible for Northern affairs (Mr. Goudie) saying he was not consulted by the Minister of Social Services, he was not consulted despite this letter to the minister. The Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development was copied with that letter. Arrogance, Mr. Chairman. Arrogance.

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

The hon. Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, just a brief comment or two. The hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) earlier on said that when I rose earlier in the morning in regard to the Interim Supply Bill, I was imploring, I was begging and so on and so forth. I would just like to clarify what the passage of the Interim Supply Bill means, or at least if it is not passed what the difficulty will be. And I would like to discuss that in regard to the public servants' pay cheques.

Now I think hon. members probably know that next Wednesday is payday, Normally speaking on Friday, when there is a Wednesday payday, on Friday the cheques go out because they often have to go long distances, they have to go outside St. John's, outside the Avalon Peninsula, they have to go to the West Coast, they have to go to the Great Northern Peninsula, they have to go up to Labrador and so on and so forth, so we like to get these cheques out a number of days beforehand so that they are in the individual's hands by Wednesday when his pay is due him. And, of course, many people rely on their pay cheque when they are due for their ongoing household and other expenses. So we like to make sure that that happens. We do not have the authority, though, to send out cheques; the Comptroller General cannot send out cheques of a date related to which he is not fully assured that the government will have authority to spend money. In other words, the Comptroller General cannot send out a cheque, say, today, March 31, dated April 2 in the absence of an Interim

DR. COLLINS: Supply Bill, because until the Interim Supply Bill comes down there is no authority for government to spend money on April 2. So that will mean that, unless, of course, the Interim Supply Bill is passed today, And this was one of the points I was bringing out this morning, even though the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) ridiculed it and tried to make some sort of partisan point about it, even though they ridiculed that and, of course, in ridiculing it sort of ridiculed really dependents of public servants on their bi-weekly pay cheque. But that was the point I was making was that if the Interim

DR. COLLINS:

Supply Bill is passed in this House today those cheques can go in the mail and the public servants will be able to cash them, and have them to cash, on April 2. Now if the Interim Supply is not passed today, clearly it will not be passed at the earliest until sometime on Monday. Now we would not be able to use the normal means of getting paycheques out then, so that the public servants would have them and able to cash them on Wednesday. It just would be physically impossible to it in the normal way.

So we would have to try to bring in some new way, some expeditious way of doing it. We would have to use courier services or airplanes or whatever. Whatever we do it would be a great cost, it would be a considerable cost to government to do it. It would be more costly than using the mails and so on. So that is one point. If the Interim Supply Bill is not passed today it means that there is going to be extra costs on the citizens of this Province in trying to overcome that difficulty.

Now, even if we do bring in these special measures, it is very, very likely that many public servants still will not get their cheques. Because the only thing we can do, of course, will be to send them out to district offices and hope that the public servants will be able to travel to the district offices and get them. Now at this time of the year, in particular that is by no means certain. For instance, if we send the cheques out, say, late on Monday or early Tuesday, say, to Corner Brook, an individual say who is living in St. Anthony, the only way he can get it is to travel down to Corner Brook, down the Great Northern Peninsula. That may or may not be possible; certainly it will be very costly for him as an individual,

DR. COLLINS: there is no doubt about that. You know, it is most unlikely that he be able to arrange it at no cost to himself. Someone would have to go down and get the cheque or someone would have to bring up the cheque, whatever it is, and there is going to be cost involved. Undoubtedly the individual, the public servant, is not concerned, he is the man caught in the middle, shall we say, is not concerned in this, but he would be faced with cost in getting his cheque. But even apart from that it may not be physically possible for him to get it. And it is quite clear that people, say, on the Coast of Labrador almost certainly - well, I can say certainly will not get it. Because we could have the cheques sent to Happy Valley/Goose Bay, and then there is no way that in twenty-four hours they can go from Happy Valley/Goose Bay down, say, to Mary's Harbour or somewhere like that. It is absolutely certain that some public servants will suffer if the Interim Supply Bill is not passed today, and that was the point that I was making.

Now the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) can ridicule all of that and say it is nonsense and all the rest of it, but, you know, that is his problem, it is not my problem. I will do the very best, and this government will do the very best we can given the situation we are being placed in by the Opposition's intransigency, but, I mean, that is on their heads, not on our head. We will get them out to the extent we can. If there is a hold-up I just want it to be clearly understood where the problem would lie if that is the case.

Now, Mr. Chairman, just to make a comment on the remarks of the member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry). He said, you know, the unemployment is very

DR. COLLINS:

high in this Province.

Now that is certainly not a new point, it has been high for quite a number of years, unfortunately. And he said that it is due to two things; due to the recession, he was quite correct in that. It is definitely due to the recession. That was stated in the address with the budget. He then said it was also due to lack of policies on the part of this government.

Well , Mr. Chairman, he also said that the recession is no longer there, that is over and done with. Now the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) should know better than that. He is making the point. that people on the mainland, in particular, are making all of the time: If the recession is over in Toronto they say all of the problems are gone. You know, if it is over in Toronto or in Montreal or whatever, the recession must be over in Newfoundland too. Now for the hon. member to come up with that is incredible. The recession is not over in this Province. We have said that? We said that? Just because it is over in Montreal does not mean that everything is hunky-dory down here. For the hon. member opposite to say that shows an abysmal ignorance of what is going on in the real world. He must be in some sort of a dreamland.

DR. COLLINS:

The recession, because it is over in Toronto, does not mean that we are on the upswing. We have a different economy down here. One of the reasons why the recession is not over down here is because we are so dependent on international markets for our resource exports, our fish, our paper, our minerals and so on. Now, why are the international markets so bad for our export resources? They are bad for two reasons: Firstly, the recession might be over in Toronto but it is not over in all the rest of the world. Many parts of the rest of the world who buy our goods are still in recession, that is one problem; and we cannot do a heck of a lot about that, I suppose, as Canadians. The other problem, though, is the Canadian dollar. The Canadian dollar is out of step with most currencies in the world. It is not out of step with the American dollar and, granted, a lot of our exports go to the United States. But a lot of our exports, particularly the ones I mentioned - salt fish, for instance, we do not sell any salt fish to the United States, we send it to Portugal, Spain and so on and so forth. And the Canadian dollar is out of step with those currencies; and it is out of step because of Canadian monetary policy. So Canadian monetary policy may be great for Toronto, and I am sure the hon. member opposite would be most pleased, that as long as it is great for Toronto, that is all that matters. But the Canadian monetary policy is not great for this Province and we have driven that point home time and time again to the powers that be in Central Canada and, of course, we have met with, 'So what, as long as it is good for up here?' And that is what the hon. member wants, he is quite pleased with that. 'As long as it is good for up here, who cares about the rest of the country?'

DR. COLLINS: So we said to them, 'Alright, we are only small beer, we are only a little pebble on the beach. Alright, if you are going to ignore us and you will not change your monetary policy for us - and it is taking the good out of our export markets - you will not do that for us because it is good for Toronto and you will not do it for St. John's,' we said, 'Alright, well, then, ring in the offsetting policies that would take care of the difficulties you are causing us and, particularly, ring in the DREE policies that were supposed to offset this.' Because that is what DREE policies are all about.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Dr. McNicholas): The hon. member's time has expired.

DR. COLLINS: I was just getting into my stride, Mr. Chairman, but I will get back to it.

MR. TULK: Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. the member for Fogo.

MR. TULK: Mr. Chairman, we would let the minister go on, but at the end there, he started to sound somewhat garbled.

MR. BARRY: Only at the end?

MR. TULK: Well, he was getting really garbled, you could not even get the words; the ideas were garbled all the while he was speaking.

Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey), the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) and the President of the Council (Mr. Marshall), for the last few days have been telling us how we are wasting the time of the House, how we are wasting time for doing the things that have to be done in this Province and so on; yet, Mr. Chairman, we are looking at, I think, approximately \$600 million, one-third of the budget of this Province, and what answers do we

MR. TULK: get to questions that we put to the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins)? None. And he wonders today if he is going to get his Interim Supply Bill. Yes, I think he will. I think he will get his Interim Supply Bill. Because, unlike the government, the people on the opposite side, the Minister of Finance and others, this party over here does care what happens to the ordinary people of Newfoundland, the people who are unemployed, the people who are on the rolls of the Social Services Department in this Province. We do care. I wonder is the Minister of Finance concerned that he get his Interim Supply Bill today because the government has already taken certain actions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. TULK: The Minister of Social Services (Mr. Hickey) tells us that the people who are on social assistance in this Province are not going to get their welfare cheques at the end of this month. I wonder if they are already mailed? Are they already in the mail to them? Are they already on the way to them? Do some of them have them? Is the Minister of Finance in a position now where, if he does not get his Interim Supply Bill today, that he will not have the funds in place to back up those cheques that he has sent out? Is that the case?

MR. WARREN: Right on! Right on!

MR. TULK: Are we really being misled in this House?

DR. COLLINS: Is that a question?

MR. TULK: You will get a chance to speak. You will get a chance to answer. It is a question for you to answer in your next ten minutes. I wonder is he trying to cover his rear guard, so to speak? I wonder if he has? I wonder if the cheques are gone? I wonder if there is anybody who has received the cheques? I think there is. I think the minister is now trying to cover his own rear guard and see that he is not left in an embarrassing position on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday.

MR. BARRY: Is he paying without the House's approval.

MR. TULK: I wonder if he is? That is a good question for him to answer in his next ten minutes.

DR. COLLINS: Do you want the answer now?

MR. TULK: No, you will get your ten minutes. There is lots of time, do not rush.

Mr. Chairman, the government says that we on this side are wasting the time of the House. Well, I can tell the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) that this government has wasted the time of the people of Newfoundland in what they have done to the economy in this Province. For example, what is happening to the economy? What is happening to the Gross Domestic Product, which is a good indicator, which the minister's own research, his own documents in his department, show had an increase of 1 per cent in 1983. That looks good. 'We are coming out of the recession,' they say, 'not yet out of it.' The member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry) made that statement and the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) said, 'Well, does he think we did not know that?' Everybody

MR. TULK: in Newfoundland knows that we are not coming out of the recession. Everybody knows, too, that the rest of Canada is coming out of the recession, and everybody knows that in this Province we are not, primarily because of the actions of this government and what has happened to our economy. For example, in the last two years there has been a negative growth factor in the economy of Newfoundland. Now what policies did that? It is in the resource sector? We had this little blue book two or three years ago, it was called, Managing All of Our Resources. I think we are into year three of that book, year three of that blueprint for Newfoundland, and we have seen that since 1981 the economy of Newfoundland, the Gross Domestic Product of the economy of Newfoundland, the value of all the goods and services that we produce, has declined by 4 percentage points. In 1983 there was an increase of 1 percentage point and in 1982 there was a decline of 5 per cent. Now 1 from 5 is 4. Negative, negative 4.

MR. BARRY: Are you sure?

MR. TULK: Am I sure?

MR. BARRY: Is that according to their statistics?

MR. NEARY: That is according to their statistics now but that is not the way it worked out.

MR. TULK: That is a negative growth factor. That is according to A Review of the Newfoundland Economy in 1983 and Prospects for 1984 prepared for the minister's department, one of those documents that he uses for himself.

Now he stands up here in the House today and he tells us, in reply to the questions put forward by the member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry), that the problem is

MR. TULK: international. The recession now is international. It is not Canada this morning. Yesterday it was Canada, the day before it was Nova Scotia, the day before that it was Quebec, and it could have been anybody. It could be -

MR. WARREN: It could be Bell Island tomorrow.

MR. TULK: It could be Bell Island tomorrow, it could be the Native people tomorrow or it could be anybody. As long as the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) can find somebody and lay the blame at their feet rather than sitting back and saying, 'Now, have we really performed as a government?' You never hear him ask that question. You never hear the minister stand up and try to evaluate his own government's performance. Never, never, never.

MR. NEARY: Toe the party line like lapdogs.

MR. TULK: That is right.

So we will blame it on the international recession, we will blame it on the Canadian recession. Yet, if you look, the Canadian GDP has increased by 3 per cent and ours has not - the only province in Canada.

One of these days I suppose they are going to have to sit down to the table with them again, but that crowd over there they seem to be continually to be looking at Nova Scotia. I wonder why? Has the Province of Nova Scotia in the last few years, perhaps through an oil agreement that we should have had signed a year ago, should have had negotiated a year ago, a negotiated settlement, has done very well. Perhaps they have. When you see the government over there protesting day after day about what is happening in Nova Scotia, you have to sit back and wonder, now, are they protesting too much? Are they really protesting too much?

MR. TULK: Is it true that the problems with the Newfoundland economy really lies at the doorstep of the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins), the Minister of Energy (Mr. Marshall) and the Premier of this Province? The total per capita debt, let us look at it. That is a good indication of how bad off we are as compared to Nova Scotia. Let us take a look at it. Ours is getting close to \$4 billion, a per capita debt of close to \$7,000 for every man, woman and child in the Province no matter where he is. If there is a child born at this very minute -

MR. NEARY: As soon as a child is born it is in debt \$7,000.

MR. TULK: - that child is in debt, starting now, \$7,000. Every man, woman and child in this Province owes \$7,000 - not with the student aid that the Minister of Education (Ms. Verge) is putting out over there.

Let us look at the Nova Scotia debt. They are really in serious shape in Nova Scotia, according to the Minister of Finance and his people. What is the total per capita debt in Nova Scotia? Is it \$7,000?

MR. WARREN: About \$8,000.

MR. TULK: No.

MR. WARREN: About \$9,000.

MR. TULK: No. It is going the other way. It is not \$7,000, it is not \$6,000, as a matter of fact it is slightly under \$5,000. And Nova Scotia is in such terrible shape, you would swear from the Minister of Finance speaking over there that tomorrow morning that the Minister of Finance in Nova Scotia is going to wake up with a broke province, with not a dollar to spend. And what has happened as of March 1983? A \$5,000 per capita debt, and that is a good indicator. So is the Nova Scotia economy perhaps in better shape than ours? Is the Nova

MR. TULK: Scotia government better able to deal with its financial problems than ours? The answer is obviously yes. And yet, Mr. Chairman, we get the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) over there every day, the Minister of Energy (Mr. Marshall) standing up and talking about what a terrible thing the Government of Nova Scotia has done.

MR. CHAIRMAN (McNicholas): Order, please!

The hon. member's time has elapsed.

MR. TULK: Already?

MR. BARRY: How quickly time passes when you are having fun.

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

MR. RIDEOUT: Mr. Chairman, we cannot have two like that go one after the other so we will have to try to keep it going back and forth.

MR. CALLAN: Are you going to the mountaintop this time?

MR. RIDEOUT: No, it is a little early in the morning.. It is better at 5:30 in the evening, I must agree with the hon. gentleman.

MR. NEARY: It is too miserable out today to go mountain climbing.

MR. RIDEOUT: Yes, it is too miserable, You got to get psyched up for climbing mountains, you know, and I cannot very well get like that now. I am a bit hungry, too. It is almost 12:40 in the day.

Mr. Chairman, I listened to a number of remarks this morning made by various hon. gentlemen on the other side and a couple of times now the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) and a couple of his colleagues kept referring again to the plane incident yesterday. One of the problems in this House, Mr. Chairman, is that somebody can get up and say something and unless

MR. RIDEOUT: somebody tries to correct the public record, well, that is the gospel then, that is the truth. As long as the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) says it, or as long as one of his colleagues say it, I suppose as long as any member says it, if you leave that unchallenged on the public record, then it becomes the gospel truth and then it gets printed in certain papers and reported and so on, which is fair game. There is nothing wrong with that, I am not complaining about that. All I am saying is that one has to make sure that both sides of the story are told. Because if both sides of the story are not told, then there is a distorted version of what actually took place. And I have to say again this morning, Mr. Chairman, the Leader of the Opposition got up and waxed eloquently about the Premier downgrading his position as Leader of the Opposition, his colleague from Mount Scio (Mr. Barry) got up and waxed eloquently about the Premier flying in the face of democracy and all the terrible stuff that the Premier had done. Now what exactly took place in the terminal out in Stephenville last night? I was not there but I have asked a couple of questions. What exactly took place in the terminal in Stephenville last night?

MR. WARREN: In the hospital it was.

MR. RIDEOUT: In the hospital or wherever it took place. The Leader of the Opposition wanted to come back to St. John's, the Premier and his party had a charter, so the Leader of the Opposition asked him if he could hook a ride into St. John's. Fine. Well, you know, the Premier has some people on his staff or a minister might have someone on his staff to handle that kind of thing, to handle the detail of co-ordinating a trip, whether it be to Port aux Basques or Labrador or wherever,

MR. RIDEOUT: because, you know, there were three or four ministers or four or five ministers involved, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary), there are some staff people, some people from the Department of Health, there could be seven or eight people going to the same place for the one thing, so somebody has to handle the details. You do not expect the Premier to sit down and write out a piece of paper and handle the details of that kind of thing. So normally there is somebody on his staff who will be available and co-ordinate that trip. So the Leader of the Opposition asked to hook a ride back to St. John's, and what did the Premier say? Did he say no?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes after that!

MR. RIDEOUT: No, he did not, Mr. Chairman, he did not say no. He said, 'There is a person on my staff who is looking after that! He said, 'Go ask Mr. Petten. I am sure there is no problem, go ask Mr. Petten.' Did the Leader of the Opposition

MR. RIDEOUT: ask Mr. Petten? No
Mr. Chairman, he did not. He did not ask him. And then he comes in with all his great indignation and stands up for minutes at a time talking about the fact that the Premier denied him a ride back to St. John's. Now, Mr. Chairman, that is simply not true, so therefore it has got to be said over and over again that it is not true. That is not what happened. That is not what took place. And talk about using government aircraft, Mr. Chairman, or talk about charters or whatever, I mean, how many time in the ten years that I have been in this House have we heard the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) say he would never set foot on the government aircraft? He would not even think about it! He would rather walk, he would rather crawl, he would rather do anything that set foot on one of those aircraft with which we were so blatantly abusing the public purse. I have heard him say that 1001 times and I am sure that people in this House have heard him say it.

Now, Mr. Chairman, when I was over there if I could get a ride to Deer Lake on the G and L, I took it. I make no apologies about it. I took it. And I was not the only gentleman to do that while sitting in Opposition. The Opposition House Leader (Mr. Hodder), the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren), the former Leader of the Opposition when he was leader used to use it, as was his right. He had the rank of a minister and if he wanted to get the aircraft to go somewhere he did Mr. Chairman, what was wrong with it? If the plane was going to Deer Lake and there was an empty seat on it and

MR. RIDEOUT: I spoke to a minister, I was never once turned down. Never once when I was over there and there was a seat on the plane was I turned down when I asked for a free trip to Deer Lake. And after I came over here, and the year or so when I was still over here that we still had the plane, lots of the gentlemen on that side would come to me then, after I came over here, is the plane going out to the West Coast this weekend? Is the plane going up to Labrador this weekend? Is there any chance of hooking a ride out with you or the Premier or one of the ministers if they are going somewhere? And we did it, Mr. Chairman, we did it, and rightly so we did it. But everytime we did it while we were doing it for the hon. gentleman's colleagues in Opposition, and myself when I was over there, every now and then we would be over there crawling down behind our desks when the hon. gentleman who is now Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) was up lambasting the government about the use of the government aircraft. We were embarrassed. I was embarrassed and I said so. The gentleman from Port au Port (Mr. Hodder) said that he was embarrassed. Because it was not an abuse, if a minister was going somewhere and there was an extra seat on the plane it was not going to cost the taxpayer any more for me to occupy that seat whether I sat on that side of the House or this side of the House.

So that is the fallacy you see, Mr. Chairman, of what the hon. gentleman gets on with.

MR. RIDEOUT: He asked the Premier for a lift back into St. John's, He did not get turned down. He did not get turned down. The Premier said, "Go ask the man who is co-ordinating this. I do not know how many are going back. I do not know if the Minister of Health (Mr. House) is going back. I do not know if the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Young) is coming back. Go ask him." And did he? No, Mr. Chairman, he did not. And he did not do it so that he could come into the House today and try to make another little issue out of the Premier being so small as not to give him a ride.

MR. YOUNG: He had no intentions of coming back on her, I will tell you that.

MR. RIDEOUT: That is what happened, Mr. Chairman, so that has got to be told and it has got to be told over and over again until it gets recorded

MR. RIDEOUT: that he was not turned down, he was not denied, he did not ask.

MR. CALLAN: He was, he was ignored.

MR. RIDEOUT: If he was going to be ignored, Mr. Chairman, he would not have been invited to be out there.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. RIDEOUT: And rightly so, he was invited, the right thing to do, it was in the gentleman's district and he is the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) besides that. But if he was going to be ignored you would ignore him by not inviting him.

MR. HEARN: Was he recognized out there?

MR. RIDEOUT: I understand he was recognized, yes.

AN HON. MEMBER: He had to be identified.

MR. RIDEOUT: He had to be introduced in his own district, yes. They did not know him.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT: But the point of the matter is that the hon. gentleman was invited, and rightly so.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I would also like to make a comment or two in the minute or so that is left to me. You know, we all have conversions from time to time. I went through a conversion process which I spoke about yesterday. But what I have to really notice, Mr. Chairman, is the hon. gentleman from Mount Scio (Mr. Barry) and the total conversion process in such a short period of time. Well, it has taken me over two years now and I am still getting converted. Every day I see a little bit more of the light. But the

MR. RIDEOUT: total conversion of the hon. gentleman from Mount Scio (Mr. Barry) in two or three weeks is amazing. He talks about the day of mourning. Well, you know, he was in the caucus when we decided to have a day of mourning. I do not think he threw any tantrum and said that is silly or something like that. He is talking about a whole lot of things this morning that I would not mind if it were two years ago, I would not mind if he had been away from it for two years or three years or four years, but imagine two or three weeks, the sudden conversion in two or three weeks! You know, Mr. Chairman, it is phenomenal. The stuff that happens to a person is phenomenal. I said yesterday, and I am going to keep my word, I am not going to have anything to say about the hon. gentleman in a personal way because I went through it, I know what it is like. I went through it and I am not going to say a word about it. If the hon. gentleman believes what he did is right, and I believe that he does believe that, then that is fine with me. That is all I am worried about, that is fine with me. We will debate issues with him, we will argue issues with him, we will do that, that is our right and it is his right, but I am not going to call him any of the nasty words that were called me because I still have the darts in my back, Mr. Chairman, so I am not going to get into that game at all. If others want to do it that is their business, they can go ahead and do it, but I do not intend to get into it because I have been through it and I know what it is like.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward):

Order, please!

MR. RIDEOUT:

I understand my time is up. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. member's time has elapsed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman seems to have a knack of putting his foot in it. The hon. gentleman likes to put his foot in it. Now, Mr. Chairman, I should ignore the hon. gentleman because equals like to deal with equals and I do not consider the hon. gentleman my equal.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Order, please!

MR. NEARY:

But the fact of the matter is that I did not intend to divulge all the conversation that took place between the Premier and myself prior to the opening of the hospital. And I might say that they grudgingly invited me up but did not ask me to say anything, Mr. Chairman. At the sod turning they did not even have the decency or the courtesy to invite me up and they left me out in the audience. And they got scolded so much for that, they got raked over the coals so much for that, Mr. Chairman, that they decided they had to recognize me yesterday for all the hard work I did to try to get that hospital for the people in Port aux Basques.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. NEARY:

And, Mr. Chairman, they did not have the decency or the honour to ask me to

MR. NEARY: say a few words in my own district. And the hon. Premier came with a prepared speech and had 100 people stand and listen to him for forty-five minutes spout off his political propaganda. And some of the people there, some of the people who were forced to stand, Mr. Chairman, had casts. I saw one lady with a cast on her leg. They did not even recognize the Chief of Staff, the doctor who is the Chief of Medicine at that hospital. They did not even recognize him. They made more enemies yesterday and they did more harm! They do not even know how to run an opening, to be honest with you. That is how bad they are over there. Now what happened to the conversation?

MR. TULK: I hear the people out there were totally turned off.

MR. NEARY: The people were totally turned off. It was a little exclusive affair for 100 or so people and the general public were not allowed to participate. But, Mr. Chairman, what was it the Premier said to me that turned me off when I asked him if I could hook a ride back? And I was never

MR. NEARY: against, by the way, planes or any government vehicles being used for official government business. I was never against that. What I am against is the misuse and the abuse of the aircraft, like, as I mentioned, the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe) chartering a plane for \$1,600 to take him to Stephenville so he could go home for the weekend. There is where the abuse comes in.

Now, Mr. Chairman, what was it that turned me off? Well, when I said to the Premier, 'Could I hook a ride back with you? Do you think I could get a ride back because I would like to get home tonight?' He said, 'Well, go and ask Frank Petten.' And I said, 'Well, I would prefer to ask you.' He said, 'Well, look, I just saw Cabot Martin there; I do not know where he came from. But Cabot Martin seems to have a knack,' he said, 'of turning up in places and we have to find a seat for him.'

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: That is what he told me. 'Well,' I said, 'in that case, if that is the way you feel about it, forget it.' But in the meantime, I did get to Stephenville to the airport before the aircraft departed, hoping that maybe I could talk sense into somebody, but they scooted out the door, got aboard the Navajo and took off, and left me at Stephenville airport. Mr. Chairman, where there's a will there's a way. And so, I managed to get back.

MR. TULK: Tell them how you did it.

MR. NEARY: No, I will not. I want to get on to other matters.

MR. NEARY: I said, 'If that is the way you feel about it, if you are not prepared to do it yourself - you are the boss.' I said, 'Who is running this show? Are you the boss or are you not?' 'Well,' he said, 'Cabot has to be looked after. You know Cabot,' he said, 'I have to look after Cabot.' 'Well,' I said, 'look after him. If that is the way you feel about it, look after him.'

MR. MORGAN: He was not going to take a member of the Opposition over his policy advisor.

MR. NEARY: No, of course not! He would not dare.

MR. TULK: He took the official.

MR. NEARY: That is right. He would take his propaganda minister over an officer of this House. I happen to be an officer of this House the same as the hon. gentleman is.

MR. PATTERSON: Not elected officer though.

MR. NEARY: I beg your pardon! Elected, Sir! Elected, yes! Elected, Mr. Chairman.

Now, let me get back to some more important matters in connection with Interim Supply. I would like to ask the Minister of Justice (Mr. Ottenheimer) in connection with the money that he is asking for, does he still intend to proceed with the expansion of the Newfoundland Constabulary, duplicating services in this Province, expanding the Constabulary when they talk about a restraint programme? Is that still going ahead? And, could the hon. gentleman tell us about some of the reports that I have been hearing lately about the Chief of Police being replaced? Can the hon. gentleman confirm or deny whether or not that is correct, that the Chief has fallen into disfavour with some of the hon. gentleman's underlings

MR. NEARY: and that the Chief is about ready to be replaced the first of May or the first of June? Would the hon. gentleman tell us about that? Mr. Chairman, they want to answer questions, I will put the questions to them! Mr. Chairman, if we want to stop the clock - I do not know if my colleagues have any more questions - if we want to stop the clock at 1:00 p.m. we may get Interim Supply through today.

DR. COLLINS: The social assistance recipients must be paid.

MR. NEARY: The social assistance recipients already have been paid Mr. Chairman, and they are not going to be paid tomorrow or Sunday.

MR. HICKEY: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): On a point of order, the hon. the Minister of Social Services.

MR. HICKEY: Let us get this thing straight, Mr. Chairman. The social assistance recipients will not be paid next week, we will not be able to pay them. We have to write cheques on a daily basis.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

That is not a point of order but a point of clarification.

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, perhaps the hon. gentleman can tell us when the cheques go in the mail, whether the social assistance recipients are paid up to date, paid up to this very day, they will be paid until midnight tonight. And there is nobody going to be issuing cheques over the weekend.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to get back to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Ottenheimer), because

MR. NEARY: I am concerned about the morale of the Newfoundland Constabulary. They had a meeting recently. They were told by the administration there opposite that they were going to get a raise this year. There was supposed to be a raise included in the last round of negotiations. Then there is the question of the Chief. Is it true or is it not true that the Chief has fallen into disfavour, that the minister and his underlings are thinking about replacing him? We would like to know why.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is gossip.

MR. NEARY: It is not gossip, Mr. Chairman! It is not gossip! If we can get the answers to these questions, I have a few other questions, and my colleagues may have a few questions to ask. If they agree to stop the clock, maybe by 1:15 p.m. or 1:30 p.m., we may be able to get Interim Supply through.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!

The hon. the Minister of Justice.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Mr. Chairman, with respect to the two questions: The Chief of Police is on sick leave. He certainly is not in any disfavour. The Chief of Police has made a fantastic contribution. He is now on sick leave.

With respect to the expansion

MR. OTTENHEIMER:

of the Constabulary, yes the expansion of the Constabulary will be going ahead into Labrador, July, I believe, is the month, 1984 and Corner Brook in 1986. I gave the statistics at the estimates of the costs with respect to that. And in both areas there will be additional costs the first year, start-up costs. With respect to Labrador West, that is Churchill Falls, Labrador City and Wabush, approximately \$450,000 additional the first year and then a saving of approximately \$100,000 the ensuing years. With respect to Corner Brook, there is a different situation there. I cannot go into it in detail but it is a different formula; there the formula is the Province's costs escalate from 80 per cent to 90 per cent of the costs, with respect to Corner Brook being a community in excess of 15,000, whereas in other parts of the Province it escalates during the contract from 56 per cent to 70 per cent, but in Corner Brook from 80 per cent to 90 per cent during the ten year contract. There the start-up cost for the first year will be an additional \$1.5 million with an anticipated savings in additional years, the years after the first year, of \$500,000. So that is basically the situation there.

DR. COLLINS:

Are we going to stop the clock?

MR. OTTENHEIMER:

The hon. gentleman mentioned it, and I think the government needs to know, and all hon. members need to know. The hon. gentleman mentioned stop the clock with respect to having Interim Supply passed today, I think we would need to know until what time.

MR. NEARY:

Give us fifteen or twenty minutes. Yes, we will pass it.

MR. OTTENHEIMER:

Right. But is the hon. gentleman thinking of twenty minutes, thirty minutes?

MR. NEARY:

Around there.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: By no later than 1:30,
just so that we know. Is that fair enough.

MR. NEARY: That is right.
Probably before that.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Okay. Fine.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!
Is it agreed to stop the clock
at 1:00 P.M. for approximately thirty minutes?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to
ask the hon. Minister of Justice (Mr. Ottenheimer) another
question. I notice in the Lieutenant-Governor's warrants that there
\$5,333,800 -

MR. NEARY: Is the hon. gentleman
listening?

MR. OTTENHEIMER: I am sorry.

MR. NEARY: In the Lieutenant-Governor's
warrants I notice \$5,333,800 required to provide funds for
payment for R.C.M.P. services. Can the hon. gentleman
explain why these additional funds were necessary?

MR. OTTENHEIMER: What that is, Mr. Chairman,
is that the R.C.M.P contract, that is, the contract between the
Province and the Federal Solicitor General's Department for
R.C.M.P. provincial policing in the Province, up until a couple
of years ago it used to be billed backwards, in other words,
you would pay after the service was performed. When a new
contract was signed, the federal government insisted that billing
become current.

MR. NEARY: So you are catching up?

MR. OTTENHEIMER:

That is correct.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Aylward):

Opposition.

The hon. Leader of the

MR. NEARY:

for that information.

I thank the hon. gentleman

Now, Mr. Chairman, in connection with the phase in of the Newfoundland Constabulary province-wide could the hon. gentleman tell the House what it will cost the Province to phase in the policing of the whole Province by the Newfoundland Constabulary? Has the minister ordered any study to indicate whether or not it is feasible to expand the services of the Newfoundland Constabulary at this time? Will there be any duplication of services with the R.C.M.P? And what will it cost the Province for the purchase of vehicles, equipment, headquarters, offices, laboratories, boats, helicopters, and all the other items that are required to police the Province to the same standard as the R.C.M.P.

MR. OTTENHEIMER:

Mr. Chairman, just to clarify it: There is no policy to phase in the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary throughout the Province. The government is operating the principle of having a two-force Province, two forces doing provincial policing in the Province, and both of a provincial nature. Those two forces obviously are the R.C.M.P. and the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary. During the past two and a half years the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary has actually had a fairly significant expansion, but it has been in the areas going out from St. John's - Mount Pearl, then the Northeast Avalon down to St. Philips, Flatrock, and out to Conception Bay South. In terms of area quite large, in terms of population quite significant. Then then the plan is in 1984, July of this year, into Labrador West, and that is Labrador City and Wabush and Churchill Falls, and in 1986 into Corner Brook, and that is only for the municipal police, - well, I will

MR. OTTENHEIMER: say municipal policing,
that is for provincial policing in the municipality of
Corner Brook. It does not affect the rural areas, it is within the
geographic division. And when that has been completed, then
the government will have achieved its objective of having
a reasonable or equitable representation of both forces in
the Province, because

MR. OTTENHEIMER:

as long as the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary is in one geographic area only, even though it is gone out from the borders there, it is not in a geographic sense - it is in a legal sense - but it is not in a geographic sense truly a provincial force. So in order for it to become a truly provincial force, I think certainly it is necessary that it be represented in the continental part of our Province, in Labrador, and that will be achieved, and also certainly in another major area of the Island, not only St. John's and the contiguous areas on the Avalon, and that is where the City of Corner Brook comes into it. But when that is achieved we will then have achieved what we set out to do. In terms of the cost, I will go over it briefly again. There has been no study made or there is no plan, no intention of supplanting the RCMP and having the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary police the entire Province, but only these two additional steps, which I have indicated, into Labrador West and into Corner Brook. In terms of Labrador West, as I mentioned, the start-up cost for the first year of operation will be an additional \$450,000. It will cost us that much more to put the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary there for the first year because, obviously, your start-up cost is largely equipment, cars, communications, identification, furnishings, whatever. And we anticipate a saving in ensuing years of approximately \$100,000 a year.

MR. NEARY:

In what year?

MR. OTTENHEIMER:

After the first year of operation.

After, let us say, the first twelve months of operation.

With respect to Corner Brook, that is obviously a larger contingent, we expect the additional cost will be for the first year - the start-up cost if you wish -

MR. OTTENHEIMER: will cost \$1.5 million more, and we anticipate savings there, after the first complete year of operations, of between \$400,000 and \$500,000. I should point out that essentially the reasons for doing it are basically in terms of policy, to have a two-force Province, not to have all of our eggs in one basket. That is the essential reason behind it and we do expect, obviously, the two forces to work in co-operation, which they have and do, and a certain amount of healthy rivalry is obviously to the good.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I thank the hon. gentleman for the information.

Getting back to the Chief of Police again, the hon. gentleman made a statement that the Chief is on sick leave. Now do I understand from the hon. gentleman's answer that there is no intention at this point in time of replacing the Chief of Police? I just want the hon. gentleman to confirm that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. the Minister of Justice.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: That is correct. The Chief of Police now is on sick leave. He is Chief of Police, there is no other Chief of Police. Obviously, one of the Deputy Chiefs is in charge now but the Chief of Police is on sick leave.

MR. NEARY: And he will come back to his position?

MR. OTTENHEIMER: It is certainly my hope, I do not know what the health situation will be, obviously, but it is our hope.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, could I ask the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) to tell the House: There was \$238,000 in the Lieutenant-Governor Warrants for ex gratia pension payments that was urgently required. Could the hon. gentleman explain that to us and tell us what that \$238,000 was required urgently for?

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

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, that \$238,000 is out of the Consolidated Fund Services and it is composed of widows' allowances, \$120,000, workers' compensation awards, \$11,000 and general pensions. General pensions is where we give ex gratia grants. I am not certain whether this came up in the House even, but there is a stipulation in our Pension Act now which is quite anomalous; it means that if a spouse dies and the marriage has lasted less than a year, a pension is not due. Now we are going to change that, but a situation like that arose and we gave an ex gratia pension in that situation because it would be ridiculous not to do so. And then the Hart Report was \$85,000. The Hart Report was a pension arrangement put in at the Waterford Hospital a number of years ago which applied to workers' pensions out there based on a time when their salaries were extremely low. So that makes up the \$238,000, \$120,000 for widows' allowances, \$11,000 for workers' compensation awards, \$22,000 for general pensions and the \$85,000 for the Hart report.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I do not understand why \$11,000 was for workers' compensation awards. Why would that come out of consolidated revenue? Do not tell me the workers' compensation fund is broke already. I know they

MR. NEARY: had a deficit last year of \$9 million. In 1981 they had a surplus of \$4 million, last year a deficit of \$9 million, this year a deficit of \$10 million. Surely we do not have to take workers' compensation now out of consolidated revenue. I know they are headed for financial disaster down there because of

MR. NEARY: the mismanagement of that board and the political interference of the minister and the administration there opposite, Mr. Chairman, I am aware of that.

MR. TULK: Is it \$10 million this year?

MR. NEARY: \$10 million this year. I mean, the reserves just cannot stand it, Mr. Chairman. The hon. Minister of Manpower (Mr. Dinn) just brushes it off by saying, "We will have an actuarial study done this year again and we will up the assessments." Up the assessments?

MR. DINN: The minister did not say it.

MR. NEARY: He did say it. Mr. Chairman, let me say this also about the statements the hon. gentleman made last night about no member of the Opposition being down for the estimates. The hon. gentleman knew that I was going to Port aux Basques. He knew my colleague was going to Harbour Grace. We told him so. And my colleague, the Opposition House Leader (Mr. Hodder) went across the House yesterday and asked the minister about his estimates and he said, "There is no need to send anybody down because we are just going to call it and let it go through anyway." And that is what my colleague understood, Mr. Chairman, and that is why there was nobody there last evening. So the hon. gentleman took advantage of the fact there was nobody there from the Opposition to take a few cheap, low, political shots -

MR. TULK: Squirt his poison.

MR. NEARY: - and squirt his poison and he is learning that from the Government House Leader (Mr. Marshall).

MR. NEARY: But let me come back to the Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) again, if I could get the attention of the Minister of Finance. There is \$1,245,000 in Lieutenant-Governor's warrants to cover salary overruns at Exon House, Escasoni, Harbour Lodge and the Hoyles Home. Could the hon. gentleman tell the House how this substantial amount was necessary to cover salary overruns? How did this happen?

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

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, those were required because of the transfer from the Children's Home unit down to Exon House. The Children's Home was phased out, there was a need to put some of the children into Exon House, and that required further staff there and there were some overruns because of that. There was also at Escasoni some overrun because there was a creation of twelve new positions there and then there were smaller overruns in some of the other institutions. But one of the main ones was, as I say, the need to put staff into Exon House to accommodate the children when the Children's Home was phased out.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, all these costs should have been foreseen when the budget was brought into the House.

MR. MORGAN: Are you raising (inaudible)

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. NEARY: If we only could get Chubby Charlie to stop shouting across the House, or go outside and yodel a little bit, Mr. Chairman.

MR. MORGAN: I am writing a new song now called, 'The Voice in the Wilderness.' It is the Liberal Party song.

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman sang - what was it? Ladies what? 'Ladies Be Kind.'

MR. MORGAN: 'Lady Be Kind.'

MR. NEARY: 'Lady Be Kind.' It should be 'Voters be Kind'.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, they must have known these costs were going to be there.

Now let me come to another item, then, if we could get Chubby Charlie to just cool it for a minute, Mr. Chairman.

\$224,000 - Property, furnishings, equipment and vehicles. Out of that \$224,000 in Lieutenant-Governor's warrants, could the hon. gentleman tell us how much of that was spent on motor vehicles? What departments they were purchased for? Who they were purchased for? And does it include the Premier's Eagle? And does the Premier have more than one car that he drives? Does he have two cars or one car?

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

DR. COLLINS: Well, Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) ask the Premier how many cars he drives and he could ask that in the next Question Period. I mean, he might drive fifty-nine

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DR. COLLINS: cars for all I know. All I know is that this \$224,000 was related to snow-blowing machines. I am pretty certain that the Premier does not drive those. Now he may, but I am pretty certain he does not. But I cannot guarantee that he does not. I mean, his time is his own and in his recreation period.

DR. COLLINS: He may be a snow-blowing buff
for all I know.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

DR. COLLINS: But I do not think he is.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, we know the hon.
gentleman blows off a lot of hot air, but I do not think
he needs a snowblower down at Tiffany Towers.

MR. SIMMS: Tell us about the anniversary
tomorrow night now.

MR. NEARY: The anniversary is going to be
great. We only have fifteen minutes and I have to try to
get some questions in here.

MR. SIMMS: Tell us about the big surprise
planned for tomorrow night.

MR. NEARY: You ask your boss, the Premier,
about that. He should be able to tell you because obviously
he has agreed to it.

MR. SIMMS: No, you tell us.

MR. NEARY: No, I do not want to upstage
my colleague -

MR. TULK: And the Premier.

MR. NEARY: - and the Premier, although the
Premier will not go, he is sending his representative

MR. SIMMS: I will not keep my mouth
shut because you said so.

MR. NEARY: \$277,000 to cover cash losses
to National Sea Products at Burgeo. Cabinet ordered the
Department of Development to prepare for Cabinet's consideration
to minimize future losses. What I am interested in now,
Mr. Chairman, is this: Will that \$277,000 be recovered
and what steps have Cabinet taken to minimize future losses
in that plant as they said they would do when the Lieutenant

- MR. NEARY: Governor's warrant was issued?
- MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): The hon. Minister of Finance.
- DR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, government's share in that plant was sold to National Sea a number of years ago and one of the terms of the sale was that the Province undertook to cover losses above a certain amount and up to a ceiling. Now this year we did incur this expense as a result of that arrangement to sell. Now this is the last year in which that agreement is in place so there will not be any further losses on that account.
- MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman.
- MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Leader of the Opposition.
- MR. NEARY: I am glad to hear that, but the minister did not tell us whether we are going to get the \$277,000 back. I presume now that is gone.
- DR. COLLINS: No, no. That is gone.
- MR. NEARY: That is gone.
- Mr. Chairman, I have another question for the minister. Last December a list of all rental property that the government had in St. John's was tabled in this House, and one of the rented premises was a unit in an apartment building called Tiffany Towers and the annual rate on it was \$8,912 and the expiry of the lease was April 30, 1984. Can the minister tell the House if the lease on this rental unit will be renewed for 1984/85 and does the department anticipate an increase in the annual rate for the coming year?
- MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister of Finance.
- DR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I am sure the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) would understand if I take notice of that. That is a detail that is known possibly to some officials in the Department of Public Works and Services who are responsible for making such arrangements. I do not know what the arrangement is in terms

DR. COLLINS: of that lease. I accept the Leader of the Opposition's (Mr. Neary) word that the lease terminates at the end of April, but whether there is something in the lease that says it is renewable or will be renewed or what I really do not have that detail. I am sure we could get the detail from some official in the Department of Public Works and Services.

MR. NEARY: Well, that is fine.

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, I accept that as meaning the hon. gentleman will undertake to get the details and tell us what other benefits, apart from a rent-free apartment, what other benefits the Premier gets in Tiffany Towers, whether he gets free food and all the condiments, free toilet paper and free what-have-you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CARTER: You should get free mouthwash.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: So, Mr. Chairman, when the minister is getting the information would he undertake, if we are paying for the Premier's toilet paper, I wonder would the Minister of Public Works and Services (Mr. Young) make certain that it is 'Budget' that he gets so that when he has it in Tiffany Towers that he will be reminded of the disaster the hon. gentleman is and of the negative document that he brought into this House? Everytime he goes to the bathroom he will see 'Budget' and he will be reminded of what a financial mess they have gotten this Province into, Mr. Chairman. And everytime he pulls it off -

MR. TULK: And it has a bathroom smell.

MR. NEARY: - and it has a bathroom smell, that is right. Now, Mr. Chairman, let me ask the hon.

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MR. NEARY: gentleman about the \$500,000
Metal Craft Holdings grants and subsidies was given under
another heading now that

MR. NEARY:

they have set up for this Metal Craft Holdings called Marine Industries Incentive Programme, Capital. Now, are these grants available to other businesses in this Province, Mr. Chairman, or are these grants just made available to those who collect from contractors in this Province and then write cheques and pass cheques over to the Premier every month in addition to his rent-free apartment and his salary and all the other fringe benefits? He gets several hundred dollars from the Tory Party, and you find these gentlemen who pass over the cheques to the hon. Premier involved in all kinds of industries and businesses in this Province that contribute to that fund.

Let me ask the minister if this is a new heading under which anybody can apply or is it only for the favourites of the administration if they happen to be in a business venture that seems to be headed for financial troubles? Mr. Chairman, is that the criteria that is used to bail out these industries? And could the hon. gentleman tell us, for that \$500,000 do we have anybody on the board of directors of that company to protect the taxpayers' investment in that company? And could the hon. gentleman tell us now who the owners of this company are now that it has changed hands and their favourites, their supporters are now gone? Are they still on the board of directors of the new company?

MR. TULK:

Why did the Minister of Forest Resources and Lands (Mr. Power) not bring up about the cut in pay in Bay Bulls.

MR. NEARY:

The Minister of Forest Resources and Lands did not bring up about the 80 cents cut in pay down there because he is too ashamed to bring it up. Mr. Chairman, can you imagine representing a

MR. NEARY: district where the workers get an 80 cent an hour cut in pay and he sits on it. Sits on it!

MR. TULK: And right next to the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. NEARY: Right next to his colleague, the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan), who gets up to pretend that he does not know about it.

MR. TULK: I do not think he even told him.

MR. NEARY: Oh, yes, he did tell him. And then the Minister of Fisheries does not defend the hon. member's constituents. I think it is awful. A shameful performance we saw this morning.

Mr. Chairman, I want to come back to this \$500,000 to Metal Craft Holdings. Can we table the agreement? What are the terms and conditions of this \$500,000? Is it an outright gift, a grant, or is it a loan or a guarantee? What is it? You have a Lieutenant-Governor's warrant for \$500,000 and the only thing we know about it is it goes to Metal Craft Holdings, Grants and Subsidies, Marine Industry Incentive Programme, Capital. Surely the hon. gentleman can provide this House with some details on it.

MR. TULK: It was formerly Easteel.

MR. NEARY: That is what I am asking about, Easteel.

MR. TOBIN: Well, ask about it.

MR. NEARY: Easteel. Easteel. The owners passing cheques out to the Premier, not directly from Easteel but going around the Province collecting from contractors, people who do business with the government, and then the owners passing several hundred dollars a month over to the Premier.

MR. SIMMS: Will you say that outside the House?

MR. NEARY: Yes, I will say it outside the House.

Mr. Ryan and Mr. Dobbin are the ones who passed the cheques over to the Premier, are they not?

AN HON. MEMBER: I do not know anything about that.

MR. NEARY: You do not know? Well, you should find out.

DR. COLLINS: Why?

MR. NEARY: Why? Because it is highly unethical and immoral.

MR. SIMMS: And who gives you your contributions?

MR. NEARY: It is not a contribution, it is a cheque to the Premier.

MR. TULK: A personal contribution.

MR. NEARY: A personal contribution to the Premier. We get no personal contributions from the Liberal Party, we never did. It never was the policy.

MR. MORGAN: Money goes to your party from (inaudible).

MR. NEARY: Who does?

MR. MORGAN: Vodka - you get 10 percent.

MR. NEARY: Go away, boy. Well, is that what the Premier is getting, a commission for collecting this money for the Tory Party?

AN HON. MEMBER: We have a healthy party financially.

MR. NEARY: You have a healthy party financially? You must have. Mr. Chairman, I would have hoped by now that the Premier would have come into this House and declared that he does not consider this to be appropriate, that he considers this to be highly unethical and immoral and dangerous, a very dangerous

MR. NEARY: practice and would
discontinue that practice. Because, Mr. Chairman, these
people, the contributors, are doing

MR. NEARY: business with the administration and when the bagman goes to these people and asks for a contribution they say, Well, we have to keep the poor, old Premier going, I suppose, so here is a cheque for a thousand, or a couple of thousand, or five thousand and be sure and give my best wishes and regards to the Premier.

MR. SIMMS: How foolish.

MR. NEARY: Yes, it is a kind of foolish all right, because that is precisely what is happening. Where does the money come from, could the hon. gentleman tell me? Where does the money come from? Where do the funds come from?

DR. COLLINS: Where does your money come from?

MR. NEARY: Our funds come from the same place that the Tory funds come from, okay? The difference is that the leader of the party, or the president of the party or nobody else is on salary to the Liberal Party.

MR. SIMMS: How do we know that?

MR. NEARY: Because I am telling you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: And that is enough.

MR. RIDEOUT: Have you had your party's financial statement audited lately?

MR. TULK: We will, like everybody else.

MR. RIDEOUT: We had ours done.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Chairman, we have an annual meeting.

MR. RIDEOUT: We had ours audited.

MR. NEARY: Yes, kind of audited alright.

Who was it provided the statement for the Premier's leadership? The gentleman who took off to Montreal, who was in MacPeck with him, the one who caused the fuss in The Globe and Mail. That is the gentleman who prepared

MR. NEARY: the Premier's financial statement for his leadership campaign.

MR. CALLAN: And he did a lot more than that.

MR. NEARY: He did a lot more than that, that is right, he did a lot more and we will get into that later, too.

Mr. Chairman, I said that we would have Interim Supply through by 1:30 p.m.

MR. SIMMS: And you are a man of your word.

MR. NEARY: I am a man of my word. We will come back to this again, but I would like the minister to tell us if that \$500,000 is protected and how it is protected. Do we have a couple of ministers on the board of directors of that company? If so, who are they?

MR. TULK: The member for Grand Falls (Mr. Simms) is probably on it.

MR. NEARY: If I could only get the attention - the hon. gentleman is over there trying to get the fisheries straightened out, is he? Chubby Charlie, the yodelling cowboy.

MR. MORGAN: My next song will be for you.

MR. NEARY: So I would ask the minister to provide us with that information and we will save our other questions for later on, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Aylward): Order, please!

The hon. the Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, it boggles the mind the number of huge thrusts forward made by this administration. I cannot keep them all in mind. There are

DR. COLLINS: any number of programmes. For instance, one of them was NIDC, N-I-D-C, a great thrust forward, another one was OICAP, O-I-C-A-P, This particular one that the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) is referring to is MIIP, M-I-I-P, Marine Industries Incentives Programme. These are just some of the great thrusts forward.

Under this programme these firms who fall within the guidelines of this programme apply for assistance and the application is vetted very carefully by the Department of Development. One of the prime considerations is to bring new technology, new expertise into the Province and also to open up new areas of employment. And that is what happened in this case here, where this new firm, Metal Craft Holdings Limited, took over the former Easteel Industries properties and they were going to expand the operations out there, bring in some new technology and, of course, enhance employment.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Chairman, I think that the other matters were answered during reparté across the House and I do not think I need to go into them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please!
It being near 1:30 p.m., it has been agreed that the resolution shall carry. Shall the resolution carry?

HON. MEMBERS: Carried.
A bill, "An Act For Granting To Her Majesty Certain Sums Of Money For Defraying Certain Expenses Of The Public Service For The Financial Year Ending The Thirty-First Day Of March One Thousand Nine Hundred And Eighty-Four And For Other Purposes Relating To The Public Service". (Bill No. 10).

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

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

MR. SPEAKER(Russell): The hon. the Chairman of Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of Supply has considered the matters to it referred and directs me to report it has adopted a certain resolution and recommends that a bill be introduced to give effect to the same.

On motion, report received and adopted.

On motion, Bill No. 10 read a first, second and third time, ordered passed and its title be as on the Order Paper.

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

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Mr. Speaker, before moving the adjournment motion, and in answer to a question by the

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Leader of the Opposition.
(Mr. Neary), on Monday it will be the government's intention, in terms of the Order of Business, to do either the estimates which are debated in Committee of the Whole House, and they are Consolidated Revenue, Executive Council and the Legislature, and then there is one piece of legislation as well which the government will be introducing very soon, which was distributed today, and that is the Young Offenders Act. I would point out that, of course, the federal legislation comes into effect on April 2, it is proclaimed April 2. This is to a large extent a procedure, which is consequent to the federal legislation in terms of young people and with respect to provincial offences only. So they will be the Orders of Business.

I move that the House adjourn until Monday at 3:00 p.m.

I am sorry, Mr. Speaker.

On Monday at 9:30 a.m., the Social Services Committee continues examination of the Department of Education estimates, and at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, the Resource Committee will examine the estimates of the Department of Fisheries.

On motion, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Monday, April 2, 1984, at 3:00 p.m.