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TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
FOR THE PERIOD:
3:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 16. 1984

The House met at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR.SPEAKER(Russell): Order, please!

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR.SPEAKER: The hon. member for Fogo.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Fisheries (Mr.Morgan). I think, is quoted in today's Evening Telegram as saying that he is contemplating issuing licenses to salmon fishermen other than those issued by the Federal Department of Fisheries. I wonder if that quote is accurate? If it is, could he indeed expand on just what the statement means for the House of Assembly and for the people of Newfoundland?

MR.SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR.MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, the issue is such an important one for the fishermen of our Province, as mentioned yesterday during the Question Period and, as agreed upon by the Opposition, that is a disastrous policy put forward from Ottawa, it is a very damaging policy and it seems like the policy position is almost inflexible. There is no indication that changes will be made to the plan which favours the sports fishery in Atlantic Canada versus the commercial fishery, which shows that the Government of Canada is recognizing the Atlantic salmon as a provincial fish and we are catching New Brunswick salmon, this kind of an attitude, despite the fact that Northern cod is Canadian fish, suddenly the salmon is to be a provincial fish. Because of the

MR. MORGAN:

effect it is going to have on the inshore fishermen of our Province, and because there is no indication that Ottawa is listening to what the union and ourselves, the government, and indeed the Opposition is saying, we want changes as Newfoundlanders, that I have asked a number of legal

MR. MORGAN: advisors to look at the possibility of dealing with the issue directly ourselves. How? In fact, the legal opinion is - and, I understand, that of the courts as well - that indeed we do own the seabed, the three mile territorial limit. If we do indeed own that, as now indicated, legally, well, that would mean we would be able to licence some activity in that zone, and, of course, the fishermen who operate within that three mile territorial zone catch salmon. Ottawa is not listening to the fishermen's concerns and frustrations, despite the fact that we have compromised, for conservation purposes, as a government, as has, in this case, the union on behalf of the fishermen. But unless there is some progress made on the existing and ongoing talks by the officials today and tomorrow and some changes made by Mr. De Bane on this policy, within the next few days we are indeed considering in a very serious way, it is being pursued now, the possibility of our licencing directly the salmon fishermen in our Province and let them fish in our waters according to a proper, put-in-place policy that the fishermen and the union will indeed support, without jeopardizing any of the stocks or without taking any measures contrary to conservation purposes. Now, Mr. Speaker, it is a very, very drastic measure to take, it is a very drastic policy to consider, this new one. It is my position so far as minister that it would have to be fully dealt with through all legal channels, to look at all legal ramifications. I have people giving me advice today. Further, if we can and do indeed issue licences to fishermen within the three mile territorial zone and take over the licencing of fishing activity there, can we also control other things tying into that, such as the fishing seasons? Can we control the gear they use,

MR. MORGAN: the type of gear? There are still legal questions which remain unanswered on that part of it. I understand we can licence. As of right now I understand the legal opinion is we can indeed licence. But if we cannot control the seasons after we licence, that means that if fishermen put their nets in the water as of May 20, 1984 they would still be operating in violation of a federal government regulation which we would not be able to control. So the key thing

MR. MORGAN: is if we can control the licencing, plus, in fact, control the seasons, we are going to very much indeed pursue vigorously the possibility of putting in place our own licencing system for the first time in the Province, dealing with the fishermen's problems on our own.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Right on! Right on!

MR. TULK: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. TULK: What the minister has said is indeed a very real departure from the policy of the government and indeed it is a radical change from the licencing policy for fishermen. If, as he says, it is the case, then what it essentially means is that the minister has the power to licence any sort of fisherman in this Province. Now, this is a very serious matter; it is a very serious action that he is contemplating taking. I want to tell him that on this side of the House we are against the salmon management plan, as we have said so often. But to make sure, I want to ask him if he has investigated the possibility of what can happen to fishermen in this case if, indeed, such a licencing scheme is put in place by the Province?

He tells us he is getting legal advice. Just who is he getting his legal advice from? Is he consulting with the Department of Justice? Where is the legal advice coming from? Because it is very important that the minister know before he makes any move exactly where he stands, where the Province stands, and where the fishermen in this Province stand, and what the legal ramifications are for them. So I would ask the minister where his legal advice is coming from and what are the probabilities for fishermen in this case, if he

MR. TULK: goes ahead and issues his
own licencing scheme?

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, obviously that is
the reason why we are having it pursued from every legal
aspect, to ensure that the fishermen are indeed going to
be protected. The fishermen are saying,
and they are saying it loud and clear- I heard a couple
of interviews this morning on the various media with
fishermen speaking on behalf of groups of other fishermen -
that this weekend they are going to defy the existing

MR. MORGAN:

federal regulations. Well, if they do that at the present time they will be subject to penalty through the legal system because they are violating a law or a regulation set down by the Government of Canada, and then they are subject to the heavy hand of the law. We saw what happened in Nova Scotia on that last year.

So if we do anything here as a government, we will do it after analyzing and assessing the situation totally and fully, legally in particular, to ensure that when we do something to enable the fishermen to fish that they would be doing it quite legally, and not be subject to acting in any kind of illegal way.

MR. NEARY: Who is giving you your advice?

MR. MORGAN:

Right now, Mr. Speaker, I will say I am somewhat tempted to almost condone the fishermen going out and defying the existing regulations because the regulations are bad policy.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Right on.

MR. MORGAN: We have an inflexible minister, inflexible officials who will not listen to reason, who will not listen to Mr. Cashin and his union, which speaks on behalf of all fishermen, who will not listen to this House of Assembly and the Opposition with us. He will not listen to reason in Ottawa. Because of all of this, why should we have 40 per cent of the incomes of fishermen taken away this year as a result of a bad policy favouring sports fishery in New Brunswick? Why should we let that happen?

Now, Mr. Speaker, that is the issue. I am saying the last resort is to look at the possibility of us acting legally, properly and legally under

MR. MORGAN: law of our being able to
licence fishermen and being able to control the season.
Now, I say again, there is no point in licencing the fishermen
if we cannot control the season. What would happen is we
would issue a licence next week to fishermen and then
shortly after that they would realize that they cannot put
their nets in the water until the time limit set by the
Government of Canada which controls the seasons of
the fishery. If that is not clarified there is no
point in issuing licences. The licence issue is not the
key issue, it is the seasons of the licencing system
for salmon fishermen.

MR. MORGAN: If it is clearly determined, and I say again, if it is clearly determined in the next number of hours, through competent able, the best we have available to us. legal advice, and we are convinced that the legal advice is right, we will indeed pursue further the possibility of issuing licences and controlling the season at the same time to enable fishermen to properly and adequately prosecute the salmon fishery in our Province the same as last year.

MR. TULK: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) did not inform this House where he is getting his legal advice from. And I would ask him, in the interest of fishermen in this Province and in the interest of the legality of what he is doing when he stands to answer the next supplementary - perhaps it slipped his mind - would he now tell us where he is getting his legal advice from? But let me ask him another question and I will come back to the legality. Yesterday in the House the minister seemed, I think it is fair to say, somewhat hopeful that he was going to work out something with his buddy in Ottawa, the federal minister - I suppose he is his buddy, he may not be today - but he seemed somewhat hopeful yesterday that he was going to work out a solution with him. Now is it the case that, given what has happened today, what he is saying today, with the statements that he is making that he has lost all hope that he can work out a solution with the federal Minister of Fisheries (Mr. De Bane)? That is very important and I would ask the minister if that is the case. Are we now in a situation where nothing can be solved for the Newfoundland fishermen?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Fisheries.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, the fishermen put

MR. MORGAN: their nets in the water last year May 18; May 18 is Friday, two days away. We have two officials in from Ottawa today to pursue the issue further, that is from the official level. Mr. De Bane will not even be able to assess that position until sometime, I understand, after this weekend, and then we are into next week. And if the fishermen cannot be told what the final decision of the federal government is until the middle or the end of next week, what is the point of changing the seasons anyway, the season has already passed. So there is no point in procrastinating,

MR. MORGAN:

unless they are procrastinating intentionally down to a point to say, "Oh, well, it is too late to change the policy now because of the delay we are talking about has already passed." So what I am saying at the present time is if they were sincere in Ottawa about making changes to the satisfaction of the Fishermen's Union, and indeed the members of this House of Assembly - not just the government, the members of the House, because we are all on side in this issue - if they were sincere about making any changes, surely they would not have to wait until now to send officials down to meet with the people of Newfoundland after-what? - almost a month ago Telexes went back and forth from here to Ottawa, including one Telex jointly signed by Mr. Cashin's union and myself pointing out what should be done with regard to changes to the Atlantic salmon policy for this year. We have not even had a response to that document, that Telex except a meeting held Monday with a number of fishermen and the union with Mr. De Bane, and a meeting being planned for next week. And I am saying that if that kind of procrastination continues it will be beyond the point of even changing the dates of the season because it will be all passed and it will be too late. That is what I am saying at the present time. I am saying, "Sure, I am still hopeful that reason will prevail, that the federal officials, the advisers, will listen to what is being said from Newfoundland and will persuade the federal minister or influence him through their advice to change a policy which is having a drastic effect, by the way on, the LaPoile district - the hon. member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary), I am sure will agree - where people who earned \$15,000 from salmon catch will not earn \$1,000 this year from the salmon fishery. They had \$15,000 last year, they might not even earn

MR. MORGAN: \$500 this year from salmon.
When you take away suddenly \$15,000 from an inshore fisherman's income in the Province, that is drastic stuff, Mr. Speaker. And, when I reflect again, it is all being done in the name of conservation, it is only in the name of conservation, it is being done to satisfy the appetite and the demands of the Atlantic Salmon Federation, which represents strictly and totally the sports fishery interests in New Brunswick.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, the federal Minister of Fisheries (Mr. De Bane) is indeed being somewhat inflexible on this issue and has not acted over the past three weeks, but I would remind the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) for Newfoundland that for the past three weeks he has done nothing about it either. But let me say to him that we are glad to see on this side of the House that he recognizes that in LaPoile district the salmon fishery has practically been cut out, that the income will be practically nil, and we are happy to see that he no longer agrees with the two-week ban on commercial salmon fishing as he did originally. But let me ask him another question. If he brings in his own salmon licensing scheme is he prepared to pay for the legal costs of fishermen prosecuted by federal authorities? remind him that if he brings in legislation or if he brings in a regulation in this House, or whatever he does, the legality of that could be challenged in the courts, and that is where it will be proven whether it is legal or not as was proven with the Upper Churchill legislation that we passed. Is he prepared or is the government prepared to pay for the cost that may be incurred by individual fishermen if they are prosecuted by the Federal Department of Fisheries?

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, first of all, may I contradict and quite clearly point out that the hon. gentleman is wrong in his preamble by claiming I have done nothing in the last three weeks on this issue. We sent Telexes, but more than Telexes, I sat down for a three hour discussion with Mr. Earl McCurdy, who flew into the meeting from Newfoundland. I

MR.MORGAN: sat for three hours with Dr. Art May, with Mr. Scott Parsons, with Mr. Eric Dunne, who is in charge of the Newfoundland region here for the federal government, and with my -

MR.NEARY: That was before the last three weeks.

MR.MORGAN: That was ten days ago. That was a week or so after the last Telex went up there from the union and myself. And there were meetings held this week between the union and the federal government. So it is not right to say nothing has been done. The fact of the matter is that nothing is being done in Ottawa. We are doing our part to fight it but nothing is being done in Ottawa. Now to get back to the legal aspects gentleman should understand this, I said earlier we would issue licenses if there was clear-cut indication, no question at all, that what we were doing was quite legal and proper and would have have no adverse affect on the fishermen, that the fishermen

MR. MORGAN: would not be penalized, would not be acting illegally, they would be acting quite properly and legally under our system, that we would only do it then. Now if the fishermen do anything on their own, obviously at the present time they are in violation of a federal regulation and are subject to prosecution, to having their fishing gear seized. What they will do with 3,000 to 4,000 fishermen I do not know. I guess they would use every possible law enforcement agency available to them over and above their own fisheries officers and try to impose penalties, etc., and prosecutions on the individual fishermen. If we take any action it will only be after we are convinced, totally and fully, no question whatsoever, that what we are doing will result in any action on the individual fishermen. It will only result in the federal government challenging our actions here, which is the same thing that is being done in Quebec, by the way. The Province of Quebec had been delegated authority to licence fishermen. Mr. De Bane and the federal Cabinet have taken that delegated authority to licence fishermen back from them this year. So what did Quebec do? Quebec says, 'Now, one second here. You have taken it back from us, we are going to take it back again through a law passed in the National Assembly of Quebec.' And it was done, the bill has been passed. That bill gives the Province of Quebec the right to licence fishermen using fixed gear attached to the seabed within three miles of the coast. That is what is now being done in Quebec. Now it is up to Canada through the Supreme Court to question that

MR. MORGAN: legislation, to challenge it through the courts and to prove Quebec legislation is not valid. It is up to the Government of Canada, not up to the individual fishermen. They are not involved in the dispute. They have got a licence from the Province of Quebec, they are not going to challenge the thing through the courts. It can only be challenged by some other government, so if we do something here, and if we end up doing it after we are convinced we are doing something quite legal and proper for the benefit of our fishermen in this Province, if that is done and we are convinced we are doing what is right, it is then up to the Government of Canada to challenge what we are doing in the courts and determine that what we are doing is not valid.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, I suppose it has slipped his mind again for the third time, but I would ask the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) again to repeat where he is getting his legal advice. Now let me ask him a supplementary question related to the statement he just made. He is saying, and I know that this is true, that individual fishermen are indeed contemplating putting their nets in the water come May 18. It is a fact that they are. He has indicated that he is somewhat dubious as to whether or not he is prepared to give them his support. Let me ask him this question. If individual fishermen do put their nets in the water regardless of what regulation is in place, is the government prepared to provide whatever legal aid is necessary for those fishermen in case of prosecution by the federal government? Is he prepared to do that?

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

MR. MORGAN: First of all, Mr. Speaker, with regards to the sources of legal opinion, we are leaving no stone unturned, are using all sources of legal opinion. I would welcome an opinion from my friend, a brilliant lawyer - although we fought in the House, my friend is a brilliant lawyer; not a good politician but a brilliant lawyer - the member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry). I would welcome his opinion, for he is quite knowledgeable in offshore. My colleague, the House Leader (Mr. Marshall), might not agree with me, but, like my colleague, the House Leader is brilliant in law, so I will ask his opinion as well as help us out here. It is for Newfoundland's sake, for the fishermen's sake, so let him give us an opinion as well.

Mr. Speaker, then, when we are convinced that all legal angles are covered -

AN. HON. MEMBER: What about the other lawyers in the House?

MR. MORGAN: Yes, my colleague from Humber East (Ms. Verge) is a brilliant lawyer, as is the member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Roberts) who is not in the House right now. Naturally, we will bring in a legislation if we are convinced we can go that route. Right now, Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear, we are not convinced we can go that route. I am not saying we are convinced we can go ,but we are pursuing the possibility to determine if we can - if we can.

MR. NEARY: Say it if you are going to.

MR. MORGAN: We are determining if we can, and we count on the help of every legal advisor in this Assembly, both sides, to help us. If we are right, and we are all convinced as lawyers and politicians that we are right legally, then if we take action we would naturally disclose our source of legal opinion and advice, naturally we would, and bring it into the House.

Now, on the other matter, which is a rather serious matter because this weekend, for example, Saturday morning, if suddenly there are 2,000 or 500, or 1,000 fishermen who have their nets in the water and suddenly the R.C.M.P. - and I am telling you that it is a pretty big issue out in rural Newfoundland right now. Down on the South coast, in LaPoile district, it is the biggest issue to hit that coast, I think, in the last number of years, except for the hon. gentleman, who is always an issue. But seriously, the hon. gentleman would agree that it is a big important issue for the fishermen down there. And if they put their nets in the water down there, or anywhere else in the Province, and the law enforcement agencies are called in and action is taken against them, well, right now it is the responsibility of the individual fisherman, what they are doing.

Now, I am not saying I condone breaking regulations, or breaking the law, I am not advocating that, but the fishermen have been saying loud and clear they intend to do it, and I am saying to prevent that kind of messy situation, having individual fishermen

MR. MORGAN: penalized, or thousands of them, we are pursuing the possibility of doing something legal and proper, if we can do it legally and properly, to prevent any penalization of individual fishermen because of any violation of any law. That is what I am saying.

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

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.
Hon. members are aware that it is the Attorney General (Mr. Ottenheimer) who gives advice to the Cabinet and to the ministers. It does not make any difference what the other legal minds in the House think, it is the Attorney General who gives the hon. gentleman advice, who gives the Cabinet advice.

MR. MORGAN: The member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry) can, too, if he wants to.

MR. NEARY: I am going to ask the hon. gentleman if he has discussed this matter with the Attorney General, the Minister of Justice (Mr. Ottenheimer) or is the hon gentleman just speaking off the cuff, off the top of his head, making statements that he cannot back up? Has he discussed the matter with the Attorney General and, if so, what did the Attorney General agree to do about this?

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

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, the Attorney General is not involved in licencing of fishermen, at least I hope not, in any other province. He will arrange for legal counsel to be available to all departments of government. Whenever an issue needs clarification or legal opinion, counsel in the Justice Department is available to all departments of government, in fact, all agencies of government. So that is one source of legal opinion, obviously. But surely if we are going to deal with such a major issue as that we would want every possible diversification of opinion, diversified opinion, from all sources wherever we can find it in, and I have done that. As of the last twenty-four hours, I have gone to a number of prominent people who are quite knowledgeable in marine law. And the hon. gentleman from Mount Scio (Mr. Barry), maybe he can comment accordingly during the debate this afternoon, or even during Question Period now, that what I am saying is to date the legal opinion is that we can licence within the three mile territorial zone, providing, of course, the gear will be fixed to that zone and fixed to the seabed in that three mile territorial limit. But the question that is now being addressed and awaiting legal opinion is upon doing that, licencing to operate within that zone, can we then also control the seasons? If we cannot legally control the season there is no point in taking action on licencing, because the season is the issue at the present time. Licences are already

MR. MORGAN: out there issued to the fishermen, but the licences are controlled by seasons set by the regulations of the federal government. That is the legal aspect not addressed. And the legal people are now looking at it to determine if we can also set the seasons.

MR. TULK: Just like that!

MR. MORGAN: The hon. member for Fogo (Mr. Tulk), like myself being a layman with regards to this matter, may laugh, but the hon. member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry), I think, is listening to what I am saying and I am sure he will agree that there are two questions to be addressed.

MR. NEARY: You have gone mad. I think you have gone off your rocker.

MR. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. gentleman thinks I am gone mad, he should talk to some of his fishermen who I talked to yesterday and this morning from around the South Coast who are saying to me, 'Do not leave any stone unturned, pursue every possible angle because we are not getting any support from our member'. And they are not getting any support from their member. He is too measly, he is too afraid, he does not have the courage of his convictions to attack the federal government on the issue

MR. MORGAN: because he is afraid he may lose his Senate appointment. Let us call a spade a spade.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. MORGAN: Am I gone mad now, Mr. Speaker? The fishermen are saying that he is not going to jeopardize his appointment set for the middle of July. "Our member is not going to jeopardize his appointment the middle of July to the Senate. He is not going to attack the federal government, a policy approved by the Government of Canada with a leadership convention coming up and the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. De Bane) being a key organizer with the Chretien campaign," and he is supporting Mr. Chretien. Let us call a spade a spade in the House. Why should the fishermen suffer the consequences of these kind of mealy mouths in the House of Assembly who are afraid to take stands outside the House on a major issue? That is the whole issue today.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MORGAN: Mealy mouth, mealy mouth, mealy mouth politicians. And then he stands and says, Oh, I am gone mad. Yes, Mr. Speaker, gone mad. The fishermen understand what we are trying to do for them. That is what the people in Ottawa said about the new legislation now approved in Quebec; "They cannot licence the fishermen in Quebec, they have not got the right to licence fishermen with fixed gear, to put in lobster traps, put fixed gear in the three mile zone. They have no right to do it." But last week I found out that the legal people in Ottawa are saying, "I am not convinced that we should even challenge the legislation through the Supreme Court because we are going to lose. Let us have New Brunswick go ahead and challenge it first." So New Brunswick is now taking action to question the legislation

MR. MORGAN: of Quebec, because New Brunswick will be so adversely affected by a new policy put forward by the Quebec Government. Now the theme in Ottawa is, "No, let us hold back for a while. Let us not challenge the Quebec legislation on licencing of fishermen. We may lose the case." Ottawa is saying this. "Let New Brunswick go ahead first and challenge the legislation to see what happens there." So now they are dubious in Ottawa with regard to the right of provinces to licence activity of fishermen within a certain zone, in this case three miles.

Mr. Speaker, to the question that was asked, again I want to say that this is not an issue that suddenly an off the cuff comment is made about. It is not. It is a serious issue and we are trying to find every possible angle of resolving a serious issue to retain the incomes of thousands, in this case 4,000 commercial, full-time fishermen in the Province. That is what we are trying to do.

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

MR.NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I believe the hon. gentleman owes it to this House and owes it to the people of this Province to identify the legal advice that he has. As I indicated, it is the Attorney General that gives ministers and the Cabinet advice. Now would the hon. gentleman indicate -

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

MR.SPEAKER: The hon. President of the Council on a point of order.

MR.MARSHALL: I should have risen on a point of order when the hon. gentleman asked the question before. The Minister of Fisheries (Mr.Morgan) answered the question anyway, but he is clearly out of order in asking what advice the minister has received from law officers. I refer to Beauchesne, page 130, "A question oral or written must not: (gg) seek information about matters which are in their nature secret, such as decisions or proceeding of Cabinet, advice given to Crown by Law Officers, etc." So, Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order because the precedent should not established of the hon. gentleman getting up and asking ministers what advice they have received from legal officers of the Crown.

SOME HON.MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR.BARRY: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR.BARRY: To that point of order. The Government House Leader (Mr.Marshall) is totally out of order in making such a ridiculous submission. The

MR. BARRY: Leader of the Opposition
(Mr. Neary) and the member for Fogo (Mr. Tulk)

quite legitimately asked, as they are entitled to, whether the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan), a Minister of the Crown, in giving advice to the House whether that minister has sought advice from Her Majesty's Attorney General, which is the only legal advice that the Minister of Fisheries is entitled to rely on.

MR. MORGAN: That is not true.

MR. TULK: It is true.

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

MR. BARRY: If the Minister of Fisheries is saying that as Minister of Fisheries he is entitled to take a position which is contrary to the legal advice given the minister by Her Majesty's Attorney General, then I would like for him to confirm that that is his position so that we can know that a new parliamentary procedure is being established in this government.

MR. MORGAN: To that point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Fisheries to that point of order.

MR. MORGAN: I find it rather strange that the member now not a minister in the Opposition stands and says that the only legal opinion that a Minister of the Crown is entitled to receive would be from the Attorney General.

MR. BARRY: Rely on.

MR. MORGAN: Well, rely on. We have not brought in anything to rely on yet. I am saying we are listening to all opinions. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, I recall—and I am sure I am correct in what I am saying—when that same member

MR. MORGAN: was a Minister of the Crown responsible for Energy and the offshore, he engaged legal opinion from various parts of the world, the best expertise we could find, and rightly so.

MR. BARRY: Through the Attorney General (Mr. Ottenheimer).

MR. MORGAN: Yes, engaged through the Department of Justice. We are entitled tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, any minister here, on behalf of government to engage legal counsel above and beyond the Attorney General's legal counsel but it all channelled through the one Department of Justice. That is straightforward, Mr. Speaker, there is nothing out of order on that.

MR. BARRY: Again to the point of order, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. BARRY: If that is the precedent the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) is relying on, he should go back and check the Orders-in-Council. To my best recollection the advice received from task forces of lawyers that were set up, for example, on the Upper Churchill went to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Ottenheimer). The Minister of Energy made the request of the Minister of Justice, but the report went to the Minister of Justice, the Attorney General, who then gave advice to Cabinet and to the Minister of Energy. I would submit to the Minister of Fisheries that he is engaging on a very perilous course if he stands and asks the fishermen of this Province to engage in a course of conduct based on the legal advice of anybody other than the Attorney General, the Minister of Justice of this Province.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The Chair has heard enough argument for this point of order. The section quoted by the hon. the

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): President of the Council (Mr. Marshall) on the bottom of page 130 and top of page 131 of Beauchesne, shows the question is out of order if it does 'seek information about matters which are in their nature secret, such as decisions or proceedings of Cabinet, advice given to the Crown by Law Offices, etc.'" I am not entirely certain the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) was asking what advice had been given or asking what source of advice the hon. the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) was contacting.

MR. NEARY: So that question is in order then, Mr. Speaker, I presume?

MR. SPEAKER: The time for the Question Period has now expired.

MR. NEARY: Too bad. Could we get the answer by leave?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

PRESENTING REPORTS BY STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MR. AYLWARD: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. AYLWARD: Mr. Speaker, the Select Committee of the House of Assembly appointed to enquire into, hear evidence upon and make recommendations concerning the draft bill, 'An Act To Incorporate The Certified General Accountants Association Of Newfoundland,' has completed its deliberations. Having studied the proposed legislation and hearing evidence from the Certified General Accountants Association of Newfoundland, the Society of Management Accountants of Newfoundland and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Newfoundland, the Committee recommends the introduction of the attached draft bill, 'An Act To Incorporate The Certified General Accountants Association Of Newfoundland.'

MR. AYLWARD: The Committee is of the opinion that the proposed draft satisfies the recommendations and the requirements of the Certified General Accountants while addressing the concerns of other interested parties.

Mr. Speaker, while I am standing I would like to thank the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, the hon. member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Roberts). I wish to note that we started this Committee before the last provincial election, and I would like to thank former members of our committee, the former member for the district of Terra Nova, Mr. Lush, who served with us; the member for Conception Bay South (Mr. Butt), who did a lot of work on this Committee; and the member for St. John's West (Mr. Barrett). And the Committee now looks forward to starting its deliberations on The New Companies Act, and we welcome to our Committee the member for St. Mary's-The Capes (Mr. Hearn), the member for Grand Bank (Mr. Matthews) and the member for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): It being Wednesday, we proceed with Motion No. 5 on the Order Paper which was introduced last Wednesday, and, of course, this is the second day for it. The debate last day was adjourned by the hon. member for Bonavista North (Mr. Cross).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. CROSS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In rising today to speak to this motion so ably moved by the hon. member for the Bay of Islands (Mr. Woodrow), I want to say that I will be supporting the

MR. CROSS: resolution. I see it as a very good resolution. I can support every word that is in it. It is a good resolution. Certainly it has a good chance of passing in this hon. House. It is not political, and naturally it was presented by a member who has a concern for an area of the Province that he represents.

Mr. Speaker, as I said prior to adjournment on last Wednesday, I am familiar with the West Coast of the Province and I visited that part of our great Province on many occasions. In fact, Mr. Speaker, not only the West Coast but I can honestly say that I have sailed around the Island of Newfoundland from Cape Bauld to Port aux Basques, along the Northeast Coast and the South Coast, and also I have sailed as far North in Labrador as Cape Mugford, which is very far up the Coast of Labrador. And although I have not sailed through the Strait of Belle Isle, I have many times driven the Viking Trail and I have also visited the Codroy Valley and the Port aux Basques area on quite a few occasions. And I can agree with the mover of this motion that it is a very picturesque and scenic area of our Province.

MR. CROSS: I listened with much interest to what has been said in debate on both sides of the House . The member for the Bay of Islands (Mr. Woddrow) did a good job in introducing the motion, and I enjoyed what the member for St. Barbe (Mr. Osmond) had to say. What he said amply proves that he has an understanding of what goes on and what has gone on in his district.

The hon. the member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry) mentioned the attractions that some of the European cities have for tourists and he said that we must have more than scenic attractions and wildlife to attract tourists, and I can agree that we must have more. In the growth of the tourist industry in Newfoundland there must be events planned and sites developed to keep the tourists busy for longer than they intended to stay, and, Mr. Speaker, entertainment for them to ensure their return.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren), a former student of mine, may I say, talked about the Norma and Gladys, and his opinion was that she should not sail around the Province carrying tourists but be used as a museum, in a fixed position. Mr. Speaker, I beg to differ with him. I would say that as long as the vessel is seaworthy, and we should leave that to the inspectors, she should sail our waters as a relic of the past, as part of our heritage that should be preserved. That vessel is a symbol of the banker and the schooners that sailed to the Labrador by the hundreds. The sight of her on the waters of Newfoundland would fill the hearts of many of our older people with joy and give the younger ones a glimpse of the past that is a part of our history.

Mr. Speaker, it was Oscar Wilde who said, "Anyone can make history, but only dedicated individuals can preserve it."

MR. CROSS: Mr. Speaker, the hon. the member for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock) indicated that we were not putting enough of our dollars into our resource-based industries, tourism included. And, Mr. Speaker, I am inclined to agree with him that it is from those industries that new dollars are created. I am firmly convinced that the present government would be putting more dollars into the industries if the dollars could be found.

Ever since Confederation, for twenty-three years under the Liberals, and for the past twelve year or so under the Progressive Conservatives, the vast bulk of our dollars have been spent to bring services to our people, and with spiralling costs I am afraid that practice will have to continue in future.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly say this because the dollars are few, and, as I said in an earlier debate, we have three avenues for money and those are taxes, borrowing and resources,

MR. CROSS: Mr. Speaker, if we cannot get a greater return from our major resources - our hydro and our oil - to give us the dollars to develop our non-renewable resources, our tourist potential, our fish, our forests and our agricultural potential will not be developed to their fullest to give us more new dollars.

Mr. Speaker, all of Newfoundland has great potential for tourism. Every bay has different scenery and a different cultural heritage. The area of our Province that I represent has much to offer in tourism. The waters of Indian Bay can boast some of the best trout fishing anywhere in Newfoundland. And very often, Mr. Speaker, the prize fish on the long weekend has been taken from the waters of Indian Bay. Last Spring on a Friday evening as people were arriving I sat in the home of a man in Indian Bay and listened to the cars and the trucks and the trailers and the jeeps passing by to go in. It was just one steady rush of traffic for about two hours. That area has much to offer to the sportsman. And, Mr. Speaker, we have berries of all kinds that can be picked in the wild. The many ponds and woods through the area have small game. The beach of Cape Freels North, go anywhere in Newfoundland, cannot be surpassed by any beach in the Province. We have old scenic buildings; the Barbour House in Newtown, the Blackwood House in Wesleyville, the old historic churches whose rafters rang with hymns and sermons held for sealers before they left to prosecute the seal fishery. We have the community of Greenspond with its old buildings and a fascinating museum, Mr. Speaker. There was a period in the history of Greenspond when more fish, cod liver oil, seal oil and seals, more tons of these commodities were shipped from Greenspond more than any other shipping port in Newfoundland in that period of history. Yes, Mr. Speaker, every community, from

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MR. CROSS:

Gambo to Cape Freels North

including Greenspond, has something different to offer to the visitor whether he is a Newfoundlander or a Canadian or from any other nationality.

MR. CROSS: Mr. Speaker, before I take my seat I want to let all members and the people at large know of an event that is taking place in the great historic district of Bonavista North starting on May 28. I am sure everyone in this hon. House has heard of David Blackwood, a native son of Bonavista North who was born in Wesleyville. He is a young artist who has made his mark already, one whom I believe is destined to become a great Newfoundland-Canadian artist. The Cape Freels Arts Council will be opening a special exhibition of the works of David Blackwood, and some forty-five prints will be on exhibition starting at 7:00 P.M. on May 28, 1984, carrying through until June 2, at Memorial Elementary School, Wesleyville. Why not come along and view the works of art of an esteemed great Canadian artist? Thank you very much.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas): The hon. member for Humber West.

MR. BAIRD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the resolution so ably presented last week by my colleague, the member for the Bay of Islands (Mr. Woodrow) on the tourist industry and promotion for the various attractions for the West Coast. I noticed, which is very rare in the five years I have been in the House of Assembly, that members of the Opposition and Government sides seem on the same line and are very supportive of this resolution. It is probably a first in many ways, and I am very pleased to see it.

To start off, Mr. Speaker, I think tourism is big business for small business. Millions of dollars enter our Province annually through the thousands of tourists who visit our shores by air, water, motor coach, recreational vehicles and by car. Many, many thousands of Newfoundlanders derive their source of employment from the tourism industry.

MR. BAIRD: Mr. Speaker, this administration is very cognizant of the importance of the tourism industry and the spin-off effects it has throughout the Province in the catering business, handicrafts, travel guides, hunting, etc. And in 1982, Mr. Mike Joy, who is the former manager of tourism for the Province, was transferred to Corner Brook as the tourism officer for the West Coast of the Province. Since Mr. Joy has come to Corner Brook, I am very pleased to say that many, many more motor coach trips, which originate down in the States and Mainland Canada, have been visiting the Corner Brook area, Gros Morne back again.

MR. BAIRD: I would say every member of this House of Assembly, including the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) has been fighting and encouraging CN Marine to supply a better, bigger, more capable ferry than we have had on the Gulf, which has really been a cattle boat for many, many years. I understand in 1985 we will have a much faster, modern ferry which should encourage tourism, especially the tourist who come to Nova Scotia and sometimes, because of bad weather conditions on the 90 mile Gulf stretch, change their minds about coming here.

However, I do feel that the 90 mile water stretch certainly should be subsidized by our federal government to the tune where the comparisons are pretty similar to the Trans-Canada Highway. When you consider the cost of travelling anywhere in Canada in comparison to that 90 miles for the tourists to come to the Province, it is certainly a big deterrent. A lot of people with limited funds arrive in North Sydney and once they learn the fares on the ferry go back to either P.E.I. or the Maritime Provinces or where they came from rather than coming over and spending a few dollars which are badly needed in our area.

My colleague from the Bay of Islands (Mr. Woodrow) gave us some details. I think the Gulf ferry, as I just stated certainly should be subsidized. The cost works out to thirty cents a mile by car on the Trans-Canada Highway. We are Canadians now and should be paying a fare based on 90 miles at thirty cents a mile. We should be paying \$27.00 on the Gulf ferry.

MR. NEARY: It is not much more than that now.

MR. BAIRD: I think you would work it all out and see what it would cost you if you have three or four passengers in your car and have a meal.

MR. WOODROW: Two hundred dollars back and forth. Just two people, one trailer, costs \$100 each way.

MR. BAIRD: I can get the figure for the hon. member if he would like, but I do feel that it certainly should be subsidized. However, Mr. Speaker, I will dwell on the West Coast of the Province where I represent an area. Certainly the weather, the scenery, the salmon fishing are excellent - no fog, very few Townies - and it is really an area where -

MR. WARREN: You are the only one.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. BAIRD: - tourists seem to enjoy themselves.

MR. RIDEOUT: The Speaker is upset, 'Ray'.

MR. BAIRD: The Speaker is not exactly from in town, he is out where they keep quite a few cattle.

However, Mr. Speaker, the previous two or three speakers have elaborated on the various aspects that are out there, the beauty of the Gros Morne National Park, where considerable dollars have been spent these past two years by our federal government, I am very pleased to say. It certainly is a big tourist attraction. The Bay of Islands tour boats offer cod jigging. Woods Island is as pretty an island as any I have seen, and I have been around quite a while. We have the Stephenville Festival, the Bonne Bay regatta, and, this year for the first time, we have a Strawberry Festival in Humber Valley.

MR. BAIRD: I do not know how many members from this area have visited Big Falls in the Sir Richard Squires Park on the West Coast. Big Falls, of course, is the national park and I have been there with several busloads of tourists who came in and you can go there any time in the Spring and Summer and see schools of salmon continually jumping the falls there. It is a beautiful park, a very natural park, and a big attraction on the West Coast, and every tour bus that comes in wants to visit that park. However, the road to that park is in a deplorable condition and has been for many years. The member for the West Coast area - Mr. House is a member for that area, Mrs Verge, Mr. Woodrow and myself - have all had meetings with the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe), and I am very pleased to see that he recognizes the problems we have, but even with limited resources I am still very optimistic that very shortly when the roads programme is announced some upgrading will be done in that area this year. The Humber River, I think, some of you people are familiar with it, is the best salmon river in the Province. Certainly it has been yielding the bigger salmon. Last year the biggest salmon landed by a Corner Brook native was thirty-seven and three-quarter pounds, the year before it was twenty-nine and a half pounds, and every year the largest salmon landed always comes from the Humber River. Of course, unfortunately now with the way the federal government has been

MR. BAIRD: managing our salmon stocks, we are down to the situation now where we have to catch and release the grilse only. So tourism in general will suffer somewhat when tourists and locals alike will not be able to go and catch the trophy salmon that every one has been after for years.

In the St. John's region you have some downhill skiing, but because of the weather most people in here have been going to the beautiful West Coast Marble Mountain ski area where we have skiing from mid-December right up until March month. I am very pleased to see the Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor) had a meeting only one month ago with the councils in Corner Brook and then called for proposals from private enterprise whereby that area can be developed into a year-round resort. If anybody has gone up on the ski lift and looked down over the Humber Valley, that whole area, there is certainly a big potential there for a year-round resort. I feel that nothing but good can come of that area and that within the next couple of years there certainly will be a year-round resort there.

So if all of you members would like to come out to the West Coast, I am sure that you will find we are a hospitable people.

MR. TULK: Do you still have that boat?

MR. BAIRD: My boat, unfortunately or fortunately, I sold last week. But if you do come out and you have a few dollars I will see that there is a boat available for charter to you. And if you pay for the boat, I might even accompany you.

MR. BARRETT: No more free rides.

MR. NEARY: You have been a free ride for the last four or five years.

MR. RIDEOUT:

You are on your last free ride.

MR. BAIRD:

I will not discuss free rides today. There are lot of boats available for charter on the West coast. Again, as I have stated, the weather is certainly ahead of anywhere on the East coast, and up where the hon. member is from, where the ice is still hampering things. We have no ice in Corner Brook. We have an ice-free port, we have an eighteen hole golf course, we have a mill there which I think will be straightened away very, very shortly. It is certainly a big tourist attraction. When tourists come to Corner Brook they like to go to the mill and visit the golf course.

In the Wintertime we have plenty of snow for skidooing. Anything you want is on the West coast. And, of course, the members are second to none. Now, there is one particular spot on the South-west coast and I am not too sure of that particular member. However, he has been around for a long while and I certainly -

MR. NEARY:

A Victorian object.

MR. BAIRD:

When I was growing up I was always told to have respect for old age and longevity, and seeing that that member only has a short time left - if he does not make the Senate, well, then, there is an election coming up so I guess I will only have to look at him for another year out of the next ten or fifteen years that I intend to spend here.

MR. NEARY:

It was only back in 1982 you said you would miss me if I were not here.

MR. BAIRD:

I would miss you like a hole in the head.

MR. BAIRD:

I disagree with the member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry) who last week was over in Europe - I cannot afford to go to Rome and to all the areas to which he travels, so I pretty well travel in our own area. I am going to the South coast this year, maybe down around Belleoram somewhere. That is the trip I take South - when he talked about the tourists not being interested in just coming in to see trees and wilderness areas. I would like to disagree with the member for Mount Scio very, very strongly. I have been associated with many tourists, and for many years I have done a lot of work and promotion in tourism, long before I became involved in politics,

MR. BAIRD: and I think the big things they enjoy which draw many, many back again and again is our wilderness and unspoiled scenery. There is nowhere in this Province where you cannot go to a river or brook and dip down and get a glass of water to quench your thirst, when there is nothing else available, which is certainly not too common in the rest of North America. So, Mr. Speaker, I have no intention of taking up my twenty minutes, since I know there are some others on our side and over there who would like to speak, and if you need twenty minutes to say what you want to say, it should be left unsaid. But I certainly would like to finish up with a little poem that most of you are probably familiar with. I think it is certainly befitting our Premier, a man who is certainly doing what he can, the first Premier, really, who works an eighteen hour day -

MR. NEARY: He is the laziest. You were doing all right until you got up to that.

MR. BAIRD: - contrary to what the member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) says. One thing about the member from LaPoile, I do not know if he is lazy or not but his mouth certainly is not lazy. If we could only harness that for energy we would not have to worry about the Upper Churchill Falls.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. BAIRD: However, as I think our Premier has lived up to this little poem, I am very pleased to say, I support him 100 per cent. It probably is much too late for the hon. member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry) to read this now because he is gone. 'When things go wrong as they sometimes will,/'

MR. BAIRD: 'When the road you are trudging
seems all uphill,/ When the funds are low and the debts
are high/And you want to smile but you have to sigh,/ When
care is pressing you down a bit,/ Rest if you must but don't
you quit,/ Life is queer with its twists and turns,/ As
every one of us sometimes learns,/ And many a failure is
turned about/when we might have won if we stuck it out,/
Don't give up though the pace seems slow,/ Your success may
come with another blow,/ And you never can tell how close
you are/It may be near when it seems so far,/ So stick to the
fight when you're hardest hit,/ It is when things are worst
that you must not quit.'

In conclusion, I would like to encourage the Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor) and to congratulate him on the job that he has been doing. I would like to see our efforts stepped up even moreso with the 27 per cent unemployment we do have on the West Coast. Tourism means dollars and dollars mean jobs. So again I would like to encourage the minister to keep up his efforts and step up his efforts. I am very supportive of the motion and I would like to thank the member for the Bay of Islands (Mr. Woodrow) for introducing it.

Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NEARY: After listening to the previous two speakers, Mr. Speaker, I am almost tempted to say, 'Praise the Lord'.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution that we are debating today, Private Member's Day, I believe this is identically the same resolution that was introduced by the hon. member for the Bay of Islands (Mr. Woodrow) on two previous occasions. This is the third kick at the cat, I believe. I do not know if the hon. gentleman changed a word in the resolution.

AN HON. MEMBER: He would not give up.

MR. NEARY: It is the same resolution. And, Mr. Speaker, I notice hon. gentlemen who have participated in the debate so far are finding it very difficult to say new things in supporting this resolution. We are going to support the resolution because it is a motherhood issue and there is nothing controversial in it, nothing sinister about it. It was brought in by the hon. gentleman in good faith, I think, for the third time. So we are going to support it. But in supporting it, Mr. Speaker, I would like to put forward a number of things to the House that I feel should be done in the way of promoting tourism in the Western part of the Province.

As hon. members are aware, I represent the gateway to Newfoundland. I represent the community, the region of the Province, that is the first part of Newfoundland that tourists see when they step ashore in Port aux Basques. Port aux Basques is the gateway to Newfoundland and is recognized as such, of course, in the Terms of Union. So therefore, Mr. Speaker, the first item that I would like to deal with as far as Western Newfoundland and Southwestern Newfoundland is concerned is the ferry service itself. And the member for Humber West (Mr. Baird) touched on it there

MR. NEARY: briefly when he talked about subsidizing the ferry service across the Gulf.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as hon. members are aware, the Government of Canada, the people of Canada, already subsidize the ferry service across the Gulf to a large extent. But I think what the hon. gentleman meant, and the hon. gentleman came close to supporting an idea of ours that we have been pushing for a long time, is to make the Gulf ferry an extension of the Trans-Canada Highway. I think that is what the hon. gentleman meant. Now that is different than subsidizing the service. We claim that if we are ever to have a successful tourist industry in this Province that we have to provide free ferry service across the Gulf, that it has to be considered an extension of the Trans-Canada Highway. Now I realize that is a major reform but, Mr. Speaker, when you look at it it is so obvious, it is as plain as the nose on your face that people will come down to

MR. NEARY:

North Sydney, come down to Nova Scotia, sometimes they neither have the time nor the resources to come across and visit Newfoundland, their budgets will not permit them to come across to visit Newfoundland. They budget for a couple of weeks holidays and they usually end up in Nova Scotia and will not cross the Gulf because of the additional cost and inconvenience. So if we are ever to make a success of our tourist industry, then I think we are going to have to start lobbying seriously to make the Gulf ferry service an extension of the Trans-Canada Highway.

Some people may just say, "Well, how do you do that? That is impossible." Well, I am not going to talk about the details of that today.

AN HON. MEMBER: You pave it.

MR. NEARY: No, you do not pave it. But, Mr. Speaker, we have a new ferry coming on shortly after the Caribou. They were going to call the new ferry the Gulf Span and CN Marine in their wisdom recently, and I congratulate them for doing this, named the ferry the Caribou, they changed the name from the Gulf Span to the Caribou, called after the Caribou that was torpedoed during the Second World War with such a heavy loss of life in the Gulf. As members know, the Caribou operated between Port aux Basques and North Sydney for years and was torpedoed I believe in 1942 or 1943 with a heavy loss of life. So they are going to call the new ferry the Caribou.

Now that ferry will carry upwards of 500 vehicles. 500 vehicles will be dumped on the roads in

MR. NEARY: Port aux Basques all at once, and that ferry will probably operate on fast turnaround during the peak of the tourist season so you can imagine the traffic that is going to be dumped on the roads in Port aux Basques during the height of the tourist season. And I believe, Mr. Speaker, with the introduction of this new ferry service that it would be a good time to carry out this major reform of making the ferry service an extension of the Trans-Canada Highway, and that tourists and vehicles be carried on first come, first served basis. And when they enter the yards, the parking lots on the North Sydney side and on the Port aux Basques side, they be given a ticket and that they board the ferry in order of the ticket number that they have; first come, first served.

MR. DINN: Tourists first?

MR. NEARY: First come, first served.

MR. DINN: Oh, not tourists.

MR. NEARY: No, not tourists, a first come, first served basis.

I think if we had the actual figures now of the number of tourists coming into Newfoundland that we would discover that the larger percentage of the tourists who are visiting this Province now are former

MR. NEARY: Newfoundlanders coming home to visit their relatives and friends and their families, coming home to attend anniversaries and celebrations of one kind and other. Most of the passengers carried across the Gulf, I would submit, are former Newfoundlanders returning home. When they come they stay with friends or they stay with relatives or they stay in their own homes, and I would submit to the House that we will never reap the benefits that we should be getting from the tourist industry until we encourage the independent, the tourist with no strings attached who is just looking for something different, looking for a place to go, looking for a little tranquility, Mr. Speaker. We will never have a successful tourist industry until we attract that kind of tourist, the first-class tourist, not saying that the former Newfoundlanders are not first-class because they are, but they do not stay in the hotels or the motels or use public facilities; they sometimes camp in the parks, but they usually get off the ferry and head for their homes.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what has happened in the tourist industry in Newfoundland in recent times with the energy crisis, with the high price of gasoline, and the high cost of travel, and the high cost of motels and hotels? Well, perhaps the hon. gentleman, the member for Bay of Islands (Mr. Woodrow) who introduced this resolution could tell us that the majority of tourist coming into Newfoundland and Labrador at the present time stay on the West Coast. They do not come to the East Coast for the reason that I just gave, it is too expensive, and apart from that they can see everything they want to see in the Western part of this Province. And there has been a concerted effort in recent years, I know down in Port aux Basques, where they have Telidon down there in the lobbies of the hotels and in the CN ticket office

MR. NEARY: waiting room, they had Telidon explaining to tourist , people coming across on the ferry why they should spend their holidays in Western Newfoundland. I think it worked to a large degree, because most of the tourists in recent years , I would say in the past five years coming into this Province, come down as far as Deer Lake and they turn off and go down through Gros Morne National Park and they all want to go up and look at L'Anse-au-Meadow and then they turn around and come back again, spend a little time in Bonne Bay, probably around the Corner Brook area and Humber Valley, and then down in the parks on the way back to Port aux Basques.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I see nothing wrong with that. I tell you one thing ; in my trips back and forth to Port aux Basques during the Summer holidays I do detect - here on the East Coast you would never say we had a tourist industry- but when you go down to Bonne Bay and down to Corner Brook, the Humber Valley, and down in the parks between Corner Brook and Port aux Basques, you see licence plates from all over Canada and some from the United States. So these tourists are not now finding their way onto the Avalon Peninsula, and I believe the hon. gentleman is trying to encourage that because that is what the resolution is all about.

I am all for that, Mr. Speaker, As a member who represents a West Coast or a Southwest Coast district, I am all for that because I can tell this House that I do not believe there is a part of the Southwest Coast or the West Coast that I have never seen or have not gone to in recent times, and I can say, Mr. Speaker, that the Western part of this Province is unique,

MR. NEARY: it is beautiful, there is no question about that. My two favourite parts of Newfoundland are Bonne Bay and the Humber Valley. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt about it that I think tourists recognize this and when they come into the Province they now do not have to come and look at a mass of brick and concrete. In St. John's they can see that, in their own communities, in their own home towns. They want to see something different. Unfortunately, the climate is not the best in this Province, we have to admit that, so therefore we have to make the best we can of a short tourist season, we have to concentrate on a few months out of the Summer, but apart from that I agree with somebody earlier who made the statement that we have to look at our other attractions, such as the Marble Mountain skiing resort where we have year-around attractions for tourists in this Province; skidooing could be a big thing, fishing through the ice. How many people in New York or Chicago or Toronto or Montreal would love to spend a few days skidooing in Labrador, or skidooing in Western Newfoundland or Southwestern Newfoundland or fishing through the ice? They would love it. It has never been promoted, in my opinion, but I think it has great potential. You cannot beat the outdoors, Mr. Speaker, people love it. But, let me say this, that although I am high in my praise of the West Coast, I am rather disappointed that the members from out in the Western part of the Province have not pushed for a convention center for Western Newfoundland. You know, Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest needs that we have in the community of Port aux Basques - the gateway to Newfoundland, the first impression tourists get when they come into this Province - our greatest need is a motel or a good hotel. Now with all due respect to the people who operate the motel or the hotel in Port aux Basques, the Holiday Inn chain, well, Mr. Speaker, I think we

MR. NEARY: made a mistake when I was a member of the Smallwood administration, I think we made a mistake. We had a new Holiday Inn on the drawing board for Port aux Basques, but at the time the gentleman who built the present hotel, who had a guarantee from the government, defaulted on his loan and we decided to take back the hotel and not go ahead with the construction of a new Holiday Inn similar to the one in St. John's and in Clarendville and in Corner Brook and in other places. I think that was a mistake. We are in desperate need of a new hotel or motel in Port aux Basques. I am happy to say that a young entrepreneur in Port aux Basques is presently actively pursuing the possibility of constructing a motel in Port aux Basques and I compliment him on it and I hope that he gets the co-operation of the administration there opposite. But I would like to see, Mr. Speaker,

MR. NEARY:

a convention centre somewhere in Western Newfoundland. I do not think everything should be put in St. John's. I think that Convention Centre we are talking about should be put somewhere on the West Coast. I think we should have sufficient convention facilities in Port aux Basques for holding medium-size conventions.

Mr. Speaker, how many organizations have called me, have written me, have written the Chamber of Commerce and the tourist people in Port aux Basques asking if the facilities are there to hold a convention in Port aux Basques.

DR. COLLINS: Smallwood missed his big chance.

MR. NEARY: Why? How did he?

DR. COLLINS: When we joined Confederation he should have established the capital in the centre of Newfoundland.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, there may be some merit in what the hon. gentleman says but what I am talking about is facilities. We lack facilities in Western Newfoundland and Southwestern Newfoundland.

MR. MATTHEWS: How about Rose Blanche?

MR. NEARY: Rose Blanche is a unique community. I suppose more pictures have been taken of Rose Blanche, and I have a sketch of Rose Blanche, I have a picture in my office of Rose Blanche. It is a unique community. And the lighthouse down there, by the way, is falling down. I believe now it is gone too far to restore, unfortunately. They should have taken it and turned it into an historic site. The same thing in Cape Ray; there is a Dorset site in Cape Ray that is being completely ignored. There is not even a sign up to indicate that there is a Dorset site there. The university went

MR. NEARY: out there several years ago, before my time, and robbed all the artifacts. I do not know what they did with them.

MR. CARTER: Would you repeat that outside?

MR. NEARY: Yes, I would. We have a museum now in Port aux Basques and the astrolabe that was discovered in Isle aux Morts is put in the museum in the summertime. But where are the artifacts that were taken away by the university?

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

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

MR. CARTER: Mr. Speaker, we are so used to hearing slander and libel from the hon. gentleman that it rolls off our backs like water off a duck's back. He just has accused the university of robbing some artifacts. I am quoting his actual words. He should either be made to apologize for that or asked to repeat that accusation outside the House.

MR. BAIRD: Shame!

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

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, there is something else that I want to mention before my time runs out and that is the Trans-Canada Highway between Corner Brook and Port aux Basques. I would say that is the busiest part of the Trans-Canada Highway in this Province, apart from nearer St. John's, because of the tractor-trailers that come off the ferry, and the Trans-Canada Highway was not built for heavy equipment. It was built for the travelling public. It was built for the motoring public. Mr. Speaker, I believe that we are going to have to face up to the fact that the Trans-Canada Highway

MR. NEARY: cannot handle the traffic. It is like a cowpath compared to the roads in Nova Scotia and in other parts of Canada, and we have to look at twining the Trans-Canada Highway. There is no question about that.

MR. STAGG: There has been some good Trans-Canada Highway built since 1972.

MR. NEARY: There has been some good Trans-Canada built since 1949.

MR. DINN: It was only a cowpath.

MR. NEARY: It is now, compared to what we need it is a cowpath. And it has to be twined and it is something we should look at as soon as possible.

MR. NEARY: I do not know if the engineering feasibility study has ever been done but if not it should be done. And, Mr. Speaker, also - I only have another few seconds left - with regard to some of the provincial parks on the West Coast, some of the problems with them, as hon. members know, are, for instance, the road near the Big Falls camping ground is not paved; some are filled beyond capacity and need to be enlarged. The Cheeseman Park in Port aux Basques, the Minister of Tourism (Mr. Windsor) said, 'Yes, we are going to enlarge that park because it cannot handle the tourists that come into this Province', but what happened? The Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe) had the enlargement done up in St. George's in his own district in a park that is never used by people. So they have to stop playing politics with this. Greater promotion of the area is needed. All these concerns were brought out at a tourism seminar in April in Corner Brook, an economic conference on the future of the West Coast area. Hon. gentlemen will recall that these recommendations were made. And I support these recommendations because I have been in that Cheeseman Park in the Summertime. I mean, the administration there opposite can bury their heads in the sand, they can play all the politics they like, they can move it up to St. George's and give it to the member for St. George's but, Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that park cannot handle the traffic that is going through it in the Summertime. And they are not going to force them to go to another park, they want to be near the ferry when they can get up in the morning and cook breakfast or have a night's sleep and go aboard the ferry and go on across the Gulf. They are not going to sleep in St. George's.

MR. DAWE: It is a lovely spot.

MR. NEARY: It is a lovely spot. I was in it, as a matter of fact, a few days ago. But we are going to support the resolution, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, I do

MR. NEARY: not have more time to talk about the potential of the Western part of this Province but it does have a great tourist potential but I am afraid we are not taking advantage of it as we should.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. member for St. John's Centre.

DR. MCNICHOLAS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It gives me great pleasure to support the resolution introduced by my colleague, the member for the Bay of Islands (Mr. Woodrow). I remember many years ago being invited to spend a week in Bonne Bay with an old friend of mine, George Tapper, who is no longer with us, and I must say that it was a memorable week for a number of reasons. I certainly think it was one of the most beautiful areas I have ever seen, and I managed to see quite a number of places around and Woody Point and visiting Gros Morne which at that time was just in its infancy, and I am certainly looking forward to seeing it again. I remember the third day we were there my host had a small launch with a small cabin and he insisted that he take my young son, who was about seven or eight at the time, and myself across whatever the bay, across to the other side, and we were just halfway across - fortunately we were looked over the stern, the two of us - and the boat exploded. What happened was that somebody in fact did steal some of the gas from the engine the night before and, of course, it spilled over and when the engine heated up we had an explosion. I think if anybody was in the cabin at that time he probably would not be around today, but we managed to get the fire out - the boat was a wreck - and we were taken off by some people who came to our rescue. Anyway, it is a trip that

DR McNICHOLAS:

I will not forget for some time. I think, Mr. Speaker, a lot of us do not realize the importance of tourism to us here in Newfoundland. I think particularly we do not realize the potential that is here. And if you look at many other countries that have nothing like the natural amenities and potential facilities that we have, yet we are not making the best of them. I was interested in the comments of the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) about the ferry service from Sydney to Port aux Basques, and I liked the comment of the hon. member for St. John's North (Mr. Carter) when he spoke last Wednesday, that he felt that that service should be subsidized. And as the Leader of the Opposition said it should be an extension of the Trans-Canada. I certainly think the tourists should be encouraged to come here and they should not have to pay a penalty to be able to come from the Mainland to here. I think the amount of money they spend, the amount of interest, etc., that they would show would be more than compensated by what we would lose on subsidizing or in fact having a free ferry service.

I was interested in last weekends paper where the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, their convention organization was here and they were very impressed with it and they gave a whole list of national companies and clubs, potential conventions that are very, very interested in coming here. I think this is a thing that with the proper encouragement will develop into a very lucrative field which we need so badly here. I think there are many improvements needed in the tourist business. I do not

DR. MCNICHOLAS: like saying it but I feel I must; I have noticed for many years that the catering establishments in Newfoundland compare very unfavourably with catering establishments in tourist areas and in cities on the Mainland and certainly in Europe. There seems to be some type of resentment or indifference or a terrible casual atmosphere in hotels and restaurants from the top down, the waiters, the waitresses, the staff; they seem to think that they do not have to go out of their way to look after their customers. Maybe on the Mainland they have an ulterior motive, they are looking for a big tip, but whatever it is I certainly do not think that we compare, generally speaking, I do not think that we compare favourably with the many other places in the world that depend on tourists and .

DR. MCNICHOLAS: catering. A thing that must appall tourists when they come here is the way we look after our cities and towns and the streets. They are generally neglected, in many cases neglected; there are papers flying around the place, they are not kept clean. If you compare cities or towns in Switzerland and some places in England - I am not referring to the slums, the slums are always dirty, but in the main streets and that, car wrecks in side streets, car wrecks out in this beautiful country of ours. I know this has been flogged to death, it has been talked about before, but actually we are not doing very much about it.

Another thing that we are in very bad need of here, and I know that we need federal money and we need provincial money, and we need more money, is our road system. It is not one that attracts a tourist. Our roads are bad and I think we all know that.

Another thing that I think we are shortsighted about is in looking after the very affluent group that want to come here, that is our hunters and fishermen. I do not think that we should be charging them exorbitant rentals, in fact, we should go out of our way to encourage them to come here.

I am well aware that the recent restrictions on salmon has nothing to do with the provincial government, that it is a federal regulation, but I just cannot see salmon fishermen coming all the way here to Newfoundland to fish with the very restricted conditions that have been imposed on us in the last few weeks.

Mr. Speaker, I think this tourist business has tremendous potential. I remember,

DR. MCNICHOLAS: going back many year to my student days in Ireland, in Dublin, our tourist facility, if you like, at that time was bad. The potential was there but it was not exploited. There might have been good reasons for that, that was the time we were going through an economic war with Britain, and it was a matter of survival rather than catering to tourists. I remember very well in the middle of that our lifeblood for Ireland, our cattle industry was completely banned from Britain and, in fact, friends of mine and my own relatives had to do away with their cattle and got a subsidy of ten shillings, which was \$2.50, so that we would kill off these cattle because the British Government would not allow them to go into Britain. And, you know, Mr. Speaker, it might be

DR. MCNICHOLAS:

stretching the imagination, but there is a bit of a parallel here now between Newfoundland and Ottawa as we in Ireland had to fight and get our rights and we did get them, and I think that we have to do the same here.

We have the Trudeau Government who do nothing for our tourist industry, do nothing for anything, unlike Joe Clark, when he was there in his short six months, went out of his way to look after us.

I hear the Opposition all talking about Mr. Chretien, what he is going to do, but I did read in the weekend paper that he said the rest of Canada did not want to be blackmailed by Newfoundland. So maybe he is showing up in his true colours after all.

MR. WARREN: He is a good man, boy! A good man!

DR. MCNICHOLAS: Your other friend, Mr. Turner, I think since he got into trouble in Manitoba is sitting on the fence and is not prepared to tell us anything. Now Mr. Mulroney, will have to have to get off the pot, too, and tell us just exactly what he is going to do. I feel sure he will in the next few weeks. It is time that we heard.

DR. COLLINS: You are being frank.

DR. MCNICHOLAS: I do not mind being quite frank and honest about it. I have no axe to grind with anybody. We would like to hear just what he has to offer. I know here I am just fed up with this endless borrowing and scraping that we have to do here, not alone for tourism, which we are discussing now, but for every other thing. The history of Newfoundland, as I have read it, is for 400 years there have been just a few rich people here and the vast majority of people have been poor. Quite frankly I cannot see

DR. MCNICHOLAS: any change in that unless we get a big influx of money from the oil revenue and other things that will come with that. After all, we have been in Confederation now - how long? - thirty-five years; we still have about half or a little bit more than half of the income of the rest of Canada. I do not think there is any hope for our young people except to emigrate in many cases. And our old people, well, I would just like them to have a better future for the rest of their days.

The big problem, Mr. Speaker, in all of these things that I can see is where is the money going to come from? I was reading in the weekend about loads of jobs in our forests in an article by this man Edgar Baird of Gander who says -

MR. NEARY: A good man, by the way.

DR. MCNICHOLAS: - that we have one person here for every 4,000 acres and in Scotland, which he compares with here, there are sixteen. But the important thing about all of this article, he says, is long-term capital investment, and I agree with him, but where is that money going to come from?

DR. MCNICHOLAS: He says it will take a life-time to complete. I agree, it is necessary. He says there will be 20,000 people employed. Fine, but where are we going to get that money? Where are we going to get the money in the fishery? I am not going to dwell on the fishery because we are not discussing that, but I am quite sure there will be millions and millions more money wanted before that is a really viable entity instead of struggling as it is today. Look at smaller things. St. Lawrence Mine that we want to open up at the present time, there is a company there that will put in their own money. the provincial government will put in their own money but what are the federal government doing? Sitting on the pot.

Mr. Speaker, I want to get back to the tourist business, this tremendous potential we are missing. The hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) talked about a convention center in Port aux Basques and in other places. I agree with him. I think that would be great but the biggest mass of our population lives right here in St. John's and we do not have a convention center here yet. Anybody who knows anything about convention centers know that they lose money, they lose money directly. So the reason for them is to get the mass of people in to spend money in the hotels and in the stores and in all the ~~secondary~~ catering establishments that go with conventions. If we have a large convention center right here in St. John's, and I think that is the first place we need it, that will attract conventions of 2,000 to 3,000 people; we can have new hotels here, we can have a terrific tourist industry. Now the city of St. John's have given a site to us worth \$2 million or \$3 million for free, for nothing. The provincial government set aside \$1 million in their budget, just some weeks ago, for that same convention center.

DR. MCNICHOLAS: Again, the federal government is sitting on the pot and they have not come up with one cent for that convention center. Mr. Speaker, that convention center is very important, it is one that I am particularly interested in because the obvious place for it is right in the heart of St. John's Centre which I have the honour to represent.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, all I want to say is that I want to be a member of this team that will have the money so that we will have a good tourist industry, so that our forestry, our fishery, our mining, all of these will prosper. I do not want to be a member of a team that just gets handouts from Ottawa. I do not believe that the next elected Prime Minister of Canada, Brian Mulroney, wants us to be a recipient of charity. I think he is going to forge a deal on the line of Joe Clark and right what is now a terrible wrong.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. the member for the Bay of Islands (Mr. Woodrow) is to be commended on bringing in such a good resolution. I am sure it

DR. MCNICHOLAS: is one that we can all support and enthusiastically support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, in addressing this motion let me say, first of all, that the member for Bay of Islands (Mr. Woodrow) is to be congratulated. I think it is correct to say that the motion has appeared on the Order Paper but, as the member for Humber West (Mr. Baird) said, it always appeared somewhere down the line. He has finally got it up to the top. It is a resolution that is becoming of the hon. gentleman. It is a resolution of a true parliamentarian, a person who in his resolution is completely, as far as I can see, unbiased, who makes a statement about certain areas in his own district and then extrapolates that to the rest of the Province, takes it and says that we should make all kinds of efforts in the rest of the Province.

I have only one little bit of disagreement with him and that is that I am not sure that his emphasis on what the provincial government should do is strong enough, he just says, "encouraged". I think it should be much stronger than that, that the provincial government should be pushed in some way to do more than they are doing. But I have to say to him that overall the resolution is that of a true parliamentarian, or a person who believes what he says and who has put it on the Order Paper as a private member's resolution should be.

It is a shame that the member is still a backbencher in this House, He is, as I said, a true parliamentarian. There are rumours around

MR. TULK: that the Cabinet is going to be shuffled within the next little while, and my advice to the Premier would be that there is a lot of deadwood over there now that he can flick out and take in a member like the member for Bay of Islands (Mr. Woodrow).

MR. WARREN: And the member for St. John's Centre (Dr. McNicholas).

MR. TULK: And possibly the member for St. John's Centre, although the last remarks were from the member for St. John's Centre and I have to say that they were not in the same true parliamentary style as the member for Bay of Islands usually gives us. As I said, the member for Bay of Islands, Mr. Speaker, is to be congratulated and we on this side will certainly have no difficulty at all in supporting such a resolution. And I would expect, since this government is always looking for unanimous consent of the House, that once the unanimous consent of the House is given, and I know that this is the hope of the member for Bay of Islands, that once unanimous consent is given by the House then we will see the government take the appropriate action to see that his resolution comes to some sort of fruition and that there will be, and this is the key phrase, that there will be further development, further efforts by the government, more than they are now doing, to see that the tourist industry in this Province is enhanced and is pushed forward, that every effort by the government toward the tourist industry in the Province is increased tremendously.

MR. PATTERSON: (Inaudible).

MR. TULK: No, no, you do not have to play partisan politics. You see, that is where the member for Placentia (Mr. Patterson) differs from the member for Bay of Islands, all partisan politics.

MR. PATTERSON:

You have never

invited me over there.

MR. WARREN:

No, thank God!

MR. TULK:

You hear the member

for Bay of Islands (Mr. Woodrow) stand in this House and get on with partisan politics, but the member for Placentia (Mr. Patterson) has

MR. TULK:

that buttoned down-Tory mind. He is a nice fellow, but he cannot get out from under the partisan politics and say, yes, you can have unanimous consent on a resolution of this nature without - you have to cross the House for some reason or other, you have to go over and sit by them to agree with something that they say.

MR. PATTERSON: I will never forgive the Liberals for bringing the shrews to Newfoundland.

MR. WARREN: And I can never forgive the Tories for socking it to Newfoundlanders.

MR. TULK: The member for St. John's Centre (Dr. McNicholas) who just sat down, I detect a great deal of sadness in the member for St. John's Centre.

The last two or three times that he spoke in this House all we heard from him was a litany of doom and gloom. He does not seem to be either bit cheerful about what is happening in the Province, what is happening with his government.

MR. BARRY: He is devoid of hope.

MR. TULK: That is right. He is devoid of hope. The member for St. John's Centre is devoid of hope. I would say to him that if we can have this kind of agreement, and if the government will act on the unanimous decision of this House, then this is one area where we can expect the government to take the resolution put forward by the member of the Bay of Islands (Mr. Woodrow) and unanimously approved by the House, and we will see some action in the tourist industry.

The member for Humber West (Mr. Baird) made a very good speech. He does not speak too often in the House but today he made a very good speech when he talked about the restrictions that are placed on our tourist industry by that Gulf ferry. I am sure that the member for

MR. TULK: the Bay of Islands (Mr. Woodrow) would agree, because I believe that he is, at least, a small 'l' Liberal. The member for the Bay of Islands is a small 'l' Liberal and it just remains to get him on this side of the House where he can be a big 'L' Liberal. But I am sure that he would agree with the hon. member for Humber West (Mr. Baird), that that is one of the restrictions, it is the biggest restriction, I think, the biggest restriction to the development of tourism in Newfoundland.

MR. OSMOND: I said that last week.

MR. TULK: You did? I was absent last week. If that is what the member said I agree with him totally.

It is my belief and it is the belief of everybody on this side. I would almost say it is the official position of the Liberal Party of Newfoundland and Labrador, that the Gulf ferry should be an extension of the Trans-Canada Highway.

MR. WARREN: Hear, hear.

MR. TULK: I do not believe there should be any charge for Newfoundlanders on that thing. I do not believe there should. It may be a cost to the federal government but if it is a cost to the federal government, then it is a cost to make Newfoundlanders equal to the rest of Canadians. In the same way I do not believe the Prince Edward Islanders should pay to get off that island either and so on. Wherever there are ferries I think they should be extensions of highways.

The member for Humber West, I believe, suggested thirty cents a mile, the same as you would for roads. Well, I do not care to buy that but certainly it is a proposal that is far better than what we are now having to put up with if you want to cross the Gulf, either going or coming.

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Tape No. 1713

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MR. TULK:

I have taken a trailer and just gone to Port aux Basques and across the Gulf and went through the Atlantic Provinces, and if you talk to people who

MR.TULK:

want to come to Newfoundland from the Mainland of Canada, want to come to Newfoundland and Labrador, one of the things that they will tell you is that in order to come to Newfoundland and Labrador it will cost you another weeks holidays. In other words for what you will spend on getting across the gulf you can come as far as North Sydney or go down to the States somewhere and spend another week. You can pay for the grocery bill, pay for the cost of your trailer and so on and spend another week on holidays with your family. So you would have to be somebody who has a tremendous desire to come to Newfoundland or some kind of a fool to cross the gulf. I have not done it in the last couple of years, but it would probably cost \$200 to \$250 across and go back.

MR.WOODROW: It is thirty dollars for a car, thirty dollars for a trailer and ten dollars per person, so for a trailer and ten it comes to approximately \$200 for you and your wife return.

MR.TULK: To go across one way?

MR.WOODROW: One way costs \$100.

MR.TULK: I recognized that three or four years ago, The last time I did it was about three years ago and I recognized that at that time, I believe it cost me \$200 to get my family across the gulf and back.

MR.WOODROW: Was that only one way?

MR.TULK: Yes. It cost probably more than that, I am not sure. But there is a point to be made.

If you are on three weeks holidays and you have money for three weeks holidays on the Mainland, if you are going to come to Newfoundland you are going

MR. TULK: to need money for four because what it will cost you to cross the gulf would pay for an extra weeks groceries and trailer rent in a park.

So I believe that the gulf ferry should be an extension of the Trans-Canada Highway, as do the rest of the people on this side.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not know how serious this government is about tourist development. I find that it is put in a department, it is a hodgepodge department, the Department of Development, Department of Housing, I do not know. The Executive Assistant to the Premier probably knows how many departments are down there. Tourism is in it. What else is in it? Tourism, Housing, Development. What else? There must be something.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is it.

MR. TULK: That is it, A hodgepodge thrown together. And I believe that Tourism is important to this Province, and has a lot of potential for employment.

I think a fellow like the member for Baie Verte-White Bay (Mr. Rideout) or the member for Bay of Islands (Mr. Woodrow) should be given a Cabinet position or certain special responsibilities, to develop tourism and to pay special attention to what has to be done to see that the tourist industry in Newfoundland is developed to its fullest potential. And there is absolutely no point in anybody trying to say we have developed the tourist industry in Newfoundland to its fullest potential. The member for Humber West (Mr. Baird) again mentioned that there is 27 per cent unemployment on the West Coast. I suggest to him that in my own district, I suppose, it is starting to pick up now because the fishing industry

MR. TULK: is starting to open up. But tourism in Newfoundland, I believe, can bring some Winter employment as well as Summer employment, although the greatest majority will obviously be Summer employment. But the point has been well made by a number of speakers that we do have the highest unemployment rate in Canada, and in particular among our youth. And if there is an area where we can perhaps use the creativity of young minds to develop new methods in creating employment, then I would suggest that it is in the tourist industry. Because the tourist industry is something that could be a stimulus to young people, to create new ways of employment, to create

MR. TULK: new jobs and so on. So it is very important and should receive a great deal of attention from the present government.

The Leader of the Opposition

(Mr. Neary) pointed out that another problem that we face in this Province is that once you get off that ferry in Port aux Basques you have to come over some of the worst roads that you can find anywhere in Canada. They are probably the worst roads. Certainly as a main highway, as the Trans-Canada Highway, as the centre highway throughout a province it is, I believe, the worst highway in Canada. So the Gulf ferry keeps the tourists away, but once he decides to spend another \$250, once he decides that he is going to take another week of his holidays that he could spend somewhere else, he gets off in Port aux Basques - and there is another point to be made, that I do not believe that the Summer accommodations are in Port aux Basques that are needed. Chesseman Park is a very beautiful park but I do not believe it provides the -

MR. NEARY: It is not nearly big enough, for one thing.

MR. TULK: It is not near big enough and besides that, as a place where people enter the Province, late at night sometimes, I do not believe that it provides the type of service that you need. If you have a family in a trailer -

MR. NEARY: Small children.

MR. TULK: - small children in a trailer or tents or whatever, and you have to get out in middle of the night and usually it is raining over there, it does that -

MR. NEARY: The Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe) tried to force them up to St. George's, because the extension that we should have gotten went out to his district.

MR. TULK: Well, I know. I went through that. I had to leave Port aux Basques - what time is it the boat gets in Port aux Basques, is it eleven o'clock?

MR. NEARY: (Inaudible) and the survey showed the Cheeseman Park.

MR. TULK: That is right. What time does the boat get in Port aux Basques?

MR. NEARY: She does a turnaround in the Summertime.

MR. TULK: About eleven o'clock some nights.

MR. NEARY: Before that, eight o'clock.

MR. TULK: Eight o'clock.

How far is it down to that - is it Crabbes River Park?

MR. NEARY: Yes. That is quite a hike.

MR. TULK: I had to drive that with a travel trailer and with three kids in a car on a rainy night when I should have been able to get off the boat and if I wanted -

MR. NEARY: It is eighty or ninety miles.

MR. TULK: - it is ninety miles. If I wanted to get in the Cheeseman Park there should have been room somewhere in Port aux Basques to stop that trailer and put my kids up for the night. So it becomes something that nobody after the first time wants to go through. So if you come here as a tourist one time you are not coming back the second time.

But in any case, the Trans-Canada Highway, getting back to that, it is a very important issue. When the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) was speaking of parks he reminded me of a park that is not in my district really, it is in the member for Bonavista North's district (Mr. Cross), the park is the cut off point between my district and his, and I am talking about Windmill Bight, and Windmill Bight Beach.

MR. CROSS: I know where it is.

MR. TULK: I am surprised that the member does know where it is. According to what we heard down in Wesleyville Saturday night they do not know where the member is.

MR. NEARY: The silent member they call him.

MR. TULK: There you go.

MR. NEARY: The silent member.

MR. TULK: That was Liberals of course, we will forget that. There were 350 Liberals in the room - was it? But in any case, if we could -

MR. CROSS: You broke the fire regulations.

MR. NEARY: We did, by the way. We did break the regulations. There was standing room only.

MR. TULK: We have a problem those days with fire regulations. We have problems with fire regulations every time we hold a meeting. The first thing we have to do is send somebody out to delay the fire marshall. We do have problems, but it is a great problem to have.

MR. TULK: The park called Windmill Beach Park, it has probably one of the better beaches in the Province.

MR. CROSS: (Inaudible) beach is better than that one.

MR. TULK: Well, let us just talk about that one in particular. There are beaches along The Straight Shore everywhere. If you want to go down to Musgrave Harbour you will find a better one still than you will find anywhere. The provincial park itself needs to be expanded, needs to have tremendous expansion carried on, and if you go down to that beach there is hardly anything, no kind of organized activity which should be there as an attraction for people to come to the park. But the point is that if you attracted more people to the park I do not know where you would put them. Now people have to go out and park in gravel pits and so on. There have been applications put in and there has been representation, because I have made it myself to the Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor), as probably the member for Bonavista North (Mr. Cross) has - I certainly made it myself because it is near Lumsden and so on, and my people use it - to do something

MR. TULK: with that park to increase the size of it. I have got a feeling that the kind of thing that was just related by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) in regards to the district of St. George's and his own district as it affects Cheeseman Park is going on in that park.

MR. NEARY: It is absolutely ridiculous what they are doing.

MR. TULK: I have got a feeling that it is too close to my district, it is too close to a Liberal district. And the member for Bonavista North (Mr. Cross) can be shoved off in the corner anyway, in order that the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Dawe) and the Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor) and the Cabinet ministers can get exactly what they want to get done.

MR. WARREN: What about the Norma and Gladys?

MR. TULK: I think the member for Bonavista North was standing up saying that the Norma and Gladys should keep going up and down the Coast on tours rather than doing what you said, and that is making it a floating museum. I happen to agree with you.

MR. WARREN: Hear, hear!

MR. CROSS: That is normal over there.

MR. TULK: Sure it is normal. It is normal for great minds to think alike and the member for Bonavista North would not understand that.

AN HON. MEMBER: You have four minutes.

MR. TULK: Four minutes? How time flies.

MR. WARREN: The member for Terra Nova (Mr. Greening) agrees with us.

MR. TULK: The member for Terra Nova agrees with us on the Norma and Gladys?

MR. GREENING: It is going into Terra Nova National Park.

MR. TULK: That is a good spot for it. I would not argue with that at all. I think it should be in Clarendville, because that is where the Norma and Gladys was built. But if you are going to pass that boat off to a private entrepreneur, which I understand is what the bid is all about, if you are going to pass that boat off you can make up your mind now, you can write it down, as my grandmother used to say, in your daybook, that you have seen the last of her, she is gone.

AN HON. MEMBER: I ran more salt water over my eyebrows than you ever saw.

MR. NEARY: He rang more out of his socks, my son, than you ever sailed one.

MR. TULK: There was more ran out of my long rubbers than you ever saw.

MR. WARREN: Your leaky ones.

MR. TULK: Leaky ones, too.

In any case I believe that we should keep the Norma and Gladys in public ownership, that we should take it to Clarendville where it belongs and do the kind of thing that the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) was talking about.

Look, we have spent \$1.8 million on the thing. They talk about their assets, they talk about ownership and everything else, and all at once they are probably going to say - I hope the Minister of Tourism has more sense - they are probably going to say, 'Alright, give it to somebody private for \$80,000.' Was it \$80,000?

MR. WARREN: The highest bid was \$80,000.

MR. TULK: That boat could be restored and she could be put in Clarendville. I believe she should be put in Clarendville.

AN HON. MEMBER: She should never go to Clarendville.

MR. TULK: No, Clarendville.

MR. TULK: She was built in Clarenville, take her back to Clarenville. She should go to Clarenville and become -

MR. STAGG: They all said the Norma and Gladys was a waste of money. Now they want us to spend more on her.

MR. WARREN: Sit down, boy!

MR. TULK: He is back! He is back! He is back, Mr. Speaker, trying to toddle into the Cabinet. He spends a couple of days a week seeing what little news he can make to get into the Cabinet. But I would bet that a member like the member for Bay of Islands (Mr. Woodrow) or the member for Baie Verte-White Bay (Mr. Rideout) -

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

MR. TULK: - is going to make it before him.

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

MR. TULK: We support the resolution.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT: Well, Mr. Speaker, how the clock turns. I remember only a few short years ago being on the other side of the House and joining with my colleagues of the day ridiculing the government over the Norma and Gladys, and they were saying, 'You should sell it. You should get rid of it, it is a waste of money.' The Norman and Gladys and Tom we used to call it in those days when, I was over there. The Norma and Gladys and Tom we used to call it. We used to poke all kinds of fun at the then Minister of Tourism -

MR. TULK: Who were they?

MR. RIDEOUT: We used to, myself included and my colleagues over there - about the great waste of money on

MR. RIDEOUT: the Norma and Gladys. It should be sold, it should be gotten rid of, and now you will hear the Opposition, Mr. Speaker, coming full circle, 365°, and saying, 'Do not get rid of the Norma and Gladys. Whatever you do, do not get rid of the Norma and Gladys, she is so important to us.

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

MR. SPEAKER (Russell): Order, please!

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

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is in keeping with the rules of this House to make false charges and accusations against members of the Opposition. The fact of the matter is when they sent the Norma and Gladys around the world we said it was a waste of money, that the Norma and Gladys should have been kept home, it should have been used for a floating museum, taken in on shore and mounted and looked after and kept in this Province. We always advocated that, but the administration there opposite elected to do all kinds of silly, foolish things involving extravagance and waste of taxpayer money and that is what we objected to. So if the hon. gentleman is going to make charges and accusations, Mr. Speaker, let him back them up with facts.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not really a valid point of order. It is obviously a difference of opinion between two hon. members.

MR. RIDEOUT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. RIDEOUT: Now, Mr. Speaker, that is truer than the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) yesterday talking about the lazy Premier making his Canadian tour around the hockey games

MR. RIDEOUT: in Edmonton, when he is as far away from Edmonton and will be for the rest of this week as the hon. gentleman is. So that is what you call fact.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to have a few words to say on this resolution. And I must say in the beginning, Mr. Speaker, that this was a real good debate this afternoon. I did not hear any partisan comments from either side of the House, not even from the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary), which is unbelievable, but not even from that hon. gentleman. It was pretty reasonable, logical, thought-out debate, non-partisan, no partisan jibes exchanged at all until the hon. gentleman for Fogo (Mr. Tulk) got to his feet and then the debate began to fall to the floor. Then it began to get nasty, then it began to get partisan, and that is too bad, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TULK:

And now you are up.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Mr. Speaker, let the record

note that I never interrupted the hon. gentleman once. That says something for my courtesy and the lack of his. But let me say, Mr. Speaker, that I believe that this resolution is a very refreshing resolution to see on the Order Paper. I am glad that after three or four attempts my colleague for the Bay of Islands (Mr. Woodrow) persisted, he did not give up, he persisted and we finally have a resolution on the Order Paper that addresses something that I believe is very, very important to the development of this Province, and that is the development of tourism. It is all very good -

MR. NEARY:

Thanks to you he had it on there.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Well, I am also a very humble person,

Mr. Speaker.

But, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to say that it is all very good and all very

MR. RIDEOUT: important, and rightly so, for us to be debating day after day in this House the big issues of the day; the offshore issue, the hydro issue and the unemployment issue. All those kinds of issues are important enough to be debated, but sometimes we seem to, perhaps, lose sight of the forest because of the trees and there are other important things that we should be talking about, and tourism potential in this Province in terms of the resolution that the hon.gentleman put down, is something that is very, very important.

Now, I have to take exception to some of the comments made by the hon. gentleman for Fogo(Mr. Tulk). I do not believe that the fact that tourism is a division in the Department of Development detracts from the development of tourism potential in this Province. As a matter of fact, one of the other things I would like to say is that when my friend from Stephenville(Mr. Stagg) was Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Development(Mr. Windsor), one of the things he took under his wing and concentrated his attention on was tourism and he did a fantastic job in the year or year and-a-half that he spent toiling in that department. I know, because I went to numerous meetings with the Tourism Association of Newfoundland and Labrador, and with the Hotel/Motel Operators, and with the Lounge Association. He had an excellent rapport with those people and he made great strides, Mr. Speaker, in trying to encourage those people, listening to those people, taking their advice, and developing it into Cabinet papers. A lot of government policy was finally decided by the initiative that that hon. gentleman took not on his own but in terms of liaison with those people out there in the field, with the Hotel/Motel Operators, the Lounge Association and the Park Operators and this sort of thing, and a lot of good work was done.

MR. RIDEOUT: And I must be honest and frank and say that I was disappointed when he left that position because he was doing excellent work there.

AN HON. MEMBER: Who is that?

MR. RIDEOUT: The gentleman from Stephenville (Mr. Stagg).

MR. RIDEOUT: Mr. Speaker, the last -

MR. STAGG: I did not hear all that, would you repeat it?

MR. RIDEOUT: I will write you a letter and tell you how much I praised you.

The last "THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED" in this resolution, Mr. Speaker, is what I would like to concentrate on, because I think speakers from both sides of the House today, and I am sure last week, although I was not here to hear the debate, concentrated on the tourism potential, the tourism development aspect of the West coast. I would like to perhaps extend that a little further and talk about the tourism potential and tourism development activity in my part of the West coast, which happens to be the Baie Verte Peninsula.

Now, the Baie Verte Peninsula has not exactly laid on its laurels and waited for something to happen in tourism. There is a lot of potential on that Peninsula, there are a lot of good operators on that Peninsula, and they have gotten themselves together in the last couple of years, and again with a lot of encouragement from the member for Stephenville (Mr. Stagg) when he was in that position, and they have tried to develop a tourism developmental package for the whole of the Baie Verte Peninsula. And one of the things they have concentrated on is the Dorset Eskimo site at Fleur de Lys. I know the hon. the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) made some minor reference to Dorset sites today, but I want to speak about it a little bit more,

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MR. RIDEOUT: particularly as it
relates to the Baie Verte Peninsula. We have
encouraged them in that regard,

MR. RIDEOUT: so much so that we have encouraged the operators in that area to try to develop a tour package based around the Dorset areas on the Baie Verte Peninsula. We have renamed the Baie Verte Highway, for example, Highway 410, from the Trans-Canada Highway down to Baie Verte and on to Fleur de Lys and LaScie, the Dorset Trail which, I think, was natural for us to do. We had competitions in the schools and various names were presented, and the Development Associations and ourselves finally decided on the Dorset Trail.

We now have big signs at the intersection of the Trans-Canada Highway and at various points down the Baie Verte Highway, naming and pointing out that this is the Dorset Trail. It goes on to Fleur de Lys where there is located one of the, as I understand from talking to archaeologists, finest Dorset Eskimo sites in all of Newfoundland and Labrador. That site, I have been told, dates anywhere from 100 A.D. to 1000 A.D., one of the oldest Dorset Eskimo sites, certainly on the Island. There may be something older in Labrador yet to be discovered, but there has not been anything like it discovered on the Island before.

Now, what does that tie into in the overall tourism potential of Dorset? What it ties into, Mr. Speaker, in terms of the Baie Verte Peninsula, is that the Dorset Eskimos were not just Eskimos, they were miners. They were the first miners known, as far as I can find out. Historically, they were the first miners known to this part of North America. They used to go around to the various sites in Labrador and on the Northeast coast, however they used to get there - in their kaiaks, or their skin canoes, or whatever - and they would mine out the sides of the soapstone quarries to get materials for their pots and pans, and their

MR. RIDEOUT: cooking utensils, and soapstone for their spears and whatever else they needed. They used to quarry, in other words. Back in 100 A.D., or 1000 A.D., or 1500 A.D. they used to do that kind of mining activity.

Now, of course, in the overall larger picture that takes us into another predominantly tourist potential, tourist development potential on the Baie Verte Peninsula, is the whole history of mining on the Baie Verte Peninsula. The government has declared the Dorset Eskimo site in Fleur de Lys to be a Provincial Historic Site. The site has now been declared, excavation has started, and over the next number of years, please God! we will develop that into a very high-profile tourist attraction. The consistency is there, and the history is there, and the logic is there to tie that in with the mining history of the Baie Verte Peninsula. Because mining did not begin on the Baie Verte Peninsula when they started mining asbestos in 1966, or when they started mining copper at Rambler in 1963, the old Terra Nova mine operated in 1810 and 1813. The old mines in Ming's Bight and Tilt Cove operated in that same period, and some of them before that. So you have the consistency, and the only part of the Province that can claim this consistency is the Baie Verte Peninsula; you have mining going back to somewhere around 100 A.D. to 1000 A.D. and continuing on from that time up until 1984. So the most logical place in Newfoundland and Labrador for a miners museum, to depict the history of mining in Newfoundland and Labrador, is the Baie Verte Peninsula, and this government, I am proud to say, is now moving in that direction.

They have already given approval to the Baie Verte Peninsula Development

MR. RIDEOUT: Association, for example, to build a miners museum in the town of Baie Verte, and that is now under construction, on the old Terra Nova mine site that was mined back in 1810 and 1813.

One of the first pieces of railway in Newfoundland took ore carts from that mine out to the tidewater mark. That is still there, the old ore carts are still there, the old underground mining excavations are still there. That, tied in with the Dorset Eskimo mine site in Fleur de Lys, gives a continued pattern of mining on the Baie Verte Peninsula long, long, long before

MR. RIDEOUT: any white man ever heard tell of this part of North America. Now, Mr. Speaker, that is very significant historically. We happen to believe, on the Baie Verte Peninsula, that it is very significant in terms of potential tourism development, and we intend to pursue that tourism development option in every possible way. We are working with the development association, we are working the Dorset site in Fleur de Lys, we have renamed the highway the Dorset trail, we are doing everything we can possibly do to package a tour. And I believe that is also significant, Mr. Speaker, in terms of you got to have something in Newfoundland and Labrador to take the tours off the Trans-Canada, you have to have a hook. The Baie Verte Peninsula is forty miles off the Trans-Canada Highway, so they are not going to come along and look at the sign and say, Baie Verte, Fleur de Lys and La Scie, nothing there. There is nothing at the intersection to say what is down there. You have to have something to draw them off that Trans-Canada and get them down on the Baie Verte Peninsula, get them down on the Northern Peninsula, like they are doing through the Viking trail tourism potential development packages, get them out onto the Bonavista Peninsula, get them out into the real Newfoundland that does have something to offer tourists.

Last Summer I was very fortunate, during the 400th Anniversary promotional tours, to do a number of promotional tours in various parts of the New England States and even as far as Washington. And the interest that is into a package tour, the interest that is into a bus tour, where you can put together a brochure, a very nice, well-prepared brochure; where you can take those people, what you can show them, how you can accommodate them. They are interested. Mr. Speaker, the market is there. And what I am saying is that up until this last, perhaps, two or three or four years, or five years, this Province has not tried to exploit that kind of market. I think it is going to be a long way down the road

MR. RIDEOUT: before we can expect people from Europe or the United States to be rich enough to fly in here and rent cars and go to Baie Verte or go to Fleur de Lys or go to Bonavista or go to St. Anthony. Our geography, Mr. Speaker, is what I am saying, lends itself against that kind of tourism development. But the kind of tourism development offered by the package tour operators, where you take your Baie Verte Peninsula and your Dorset site or whatever, and your Northern Peninsula and your Vikings and all of that and package it into something that can be marketed and sold, that market is there. We saw that last Summer when we did the promotions in the US. And the proof of the pudding, like the old fellow says, is in the eating. There was a tremendous increase in bus tours over the last couple of Summers in this Province, because for the first time we have gone to that market and we have tried to, number one, package and number two, market certain areas of the Province, not the whole of Newfoundland and Labrador. That is fine, that is great, we should try to sell that too, but certain areas of attraction in Newfoundland and Labrador.

MR. HISCOCK: Bus tours were down last year.

MR. RIDEOUT: Bus tours were up last year, Mr. Speaker. I beg to differ with the hon. gentleman, they were up and they were up substantially over the year before. I do not know where the hon. gentleman gets his statistics from. I suppose it is like the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) saying that the Premier is in Edmonton at the hockey game. If you think it, it is a fact. It does not have to be a fact. The fact of the matter is that statistics show that the bus tours were up in this Province last year over the year before. Now that is a fact.

MR. RIDEOUT: So, Mr. Speaker, what I am saying is that we have made a decided effort on the Baie Verte Peninsula to plug in an attraction and I think that that is what other parts of this Province have to do. They have got to identify attractions, they have got to publish and preach an awareness and try to plug tourism into that awareness and into that attraction. And that is very, very important.

Rendez-vous Canada was another thing I intended to mention. That is one of the most positive developments in tourism that we have seen, well, I suppose, ever in Canada. You know, I have participated in some of it in a small way, there are other members I know who have gone right across the country participating in it, and every region of the country that has attractions that can be plugged into are plugged into and an awareness can be made. Rendez-vous Canada is a very excellent piece of work.

So, Mr. Speaker, in closing, I only have a couple of minutes left, I believe it is great that our colleague from the Bay of Islands (Mr. Woodrow) persisted in his determination in getting a debate on another area of our economy that perhaps sometimes we lose sight of. It is important! Every dollar that comes into this Province through tourism is a new dollar. It is a new dollar, it is not recycled, it is a dollar we did not have before. So that is important. And there are times we perhaps lose sight of that because of the bigger issues, but I believe that it is important that our colleague did not lose sight of it, he kept his determination, he kept lobbying to get it in the right place on the Order Paper, and finally this year we were able to get a debate on something different. I do not remember us having a full two days debate on tourism related issues in the nine years that I have been in the House, to be honest with you. You know,

MR. RIDEOUT: it has been raised from time to time in Question Period, or perhaps some reference was made in the Throne Speech debate or Budget debate, whatever, but I do not remember us ever having a two days concerted debate on tourism potential and how we should go about selling that potential. And we have come a long way in that over the last couple of years.

That does not mean though, Mr. Speaker, that the job is done. We are always going to have to compete with the rest of Atlantic Canada. We are going to have to compete with the New England States. Our geography sometimes lends itself against us because of our location. We are going to have to be very, very competitive to get our share of that tourist dollar. But the potential is here, the selling can be done, the market is out there, and we have to direct enough financial resources to that market to draw those people in here so that those new dollars can go a long way toward developing further the economy of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Thank you, Sir.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

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

MS. VERGE: Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to wholeheartedly endorse the motion so well put last week by my colleague, the member for the Bay of Islands (Mr. Woodrow), that government encourage the further development of the many attractions on the West Coast of Newfoundland, and, in particular, the attractions that he enumerated in his recitals, the Gros Morne National Park, the Humber Valley, Marble Mountain, and the Bay of Islands, and, also, that we all promote the Western region as a major recreational centre.

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MS. VERGE:

Mr. Speaker, I think it would be appropriate to add that we should all promote the Western region as a major cultural centre and it is this aspect of the tourism potential of the West Coast of Newfoundland that I would like to concentrate on in my remarks this afternoon.

MS. VERGE: On the West Coast of Newfoundland, over the past three or four years, there has been a flourishing community of artists centered in Stephenville and Corner Brook. In Stephenville there is now the Stephenville Festival of the Arts going into its fifth season, I think it is.

MR. SIMMS: It is its sixth season.

MS. VERGE: It started in 1979. That would make this season the sixth season, as the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth (Mr. Simms) corrects me. And in Corner Brook the professional theatre company, Theatre Newfoundland/Labrador, which operates for most of the year, roughly from September through June, ending just as the Stephenville Festival of the Arts starts, these two theatrical groups compliment each other. Some of the same artists are involved in each. For example, Maxim Mazumdar who initiated the Stephenville Festival is still the Artistic Director and it was he who also initiated Theatre Newfoundland/Labrador. The present Artistic Director of TNL is Edmond McClean who has had active involvement and participation in the Stephenville Festival. In the Western region are several resident painters and crafts people. Several of these live year-around, some seasonally, in Woody Point, Bonne Bay. It seems that the scenic beauty of the Western region, with the mountains, the trees, the water, has an appeal for artists. I have heard artists from all over who have chosen to live in that part of Newfoundland, remark about the power of the natural beauty of the area for them. Also, the pleasant climate seems to be a positive feature in the eyes of artists who live and work in Western Newfoundland.

Mr. Speaker, the Stephenville Festival of the Arts has successfully integrated artists with international reputations from different parts of Canada, our

MS. VERGE: own Province, Newfoundland and Labrador, points West, Central Canada, Western Canada, artists from the United States, in particular New York State, New York City, perhaps the cultural center of North America and from Europe. In its five years, since the beginning in 1979, the festival has grown tremendously. Perhaps many of us would have thought the idea of an internationally known festival of the arts in Stephenville, Newfoundland, would have been ridiculous, would have been impossible had we heard it before 1979. But people like Maxim Mazumdar and Cheryl Stagg conceived that idea. More than that, with considerable foresight,

MS. VERGE: with courage, with what could be called gall, a lot of hard work and talent, they have built the festival. It has a solid foundation. It is getting better and better artistically year after year. It is drawing more and more people. The audiences were noticeably bigger last year than in any other year. As a matter of fact, last year people had to be turned away from shows and this year the rush is on for advance bookings. The festival has been extremely well managed under the exceptionally capable leadership of Cheryl Stagg who is the producer, and who I think is now called the administrative director of the festival. It is a year-round operation.

Last Summer, at the end of the festival, in early August, the programme for the 1984 festival had already been decided and was announced. In the Fall, publicity had been mounted. The brochure which I am holding has been in circulation for a couple of months now. It itemizes the 1984 festival offerings, some seven plays and shows with some special, more esoteric student productions, the festival being associated with a provincial drama academy which precedes the actual festival with the staging of shows for general audiences and the festival involving students of the drama academy but which features in the key roles professionals from all over the world, including professionals born in and resident in Newfoundland and Labrador, professionals from other parts of the world who have chosen to make their homes in Newfoundland and Labrador. This season's offerings begin with Cyrano de Bergerac, starring Gordon Pinsent, our own Gordon Pinsent from Grand Falls, Newfoundland, who is perhaps

MS. VERGE: the best known Canadian actor, and who will guarantee excellent national publicity for the Stephenville festival this year. Memoir a play about Sarah Bernhardt; A Newfoundland songbook, which will be premiered at Stephenville; Waiting for the Parade, quite a well-known and successful play; the Broadway smash musical Guys and Dolls; Side by Side a show with favourite show tunes by Sondheim and others; and the happy children's musical, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoats. Joseph was performed at last year's festival.

MS. VERGE: I was one of the lucky people who got to see all the shows at the 1983 Stephenville Festival, including Joseph, and I would highly recommend that. It was exceptionally well performed, well acted, magnificent music, very entertaining. It left all the audience on a high.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the key people involved in these productions include the interesting mixture that I mentioned before - original Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, professionals as well as amateurs, professionals who will be coming to Stephenville from all across Canada and from the United States, from the leading centres of theatre in North America. I mentioned Gordon Pinsent, who is perhaps the best known artist starring at Stephenville; also Robert Doyle, who is a well known costume designer and stage designer out of Halifax; Meggan Robertson from New York City; Raphael Vegad from Calgary, Alberta; Frederich Adelle, who heads the drama department at Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia; Charles Macha - I may be mispronouncing that name, I have not met him yet - from Buffalo, New York; Ian Menney, originally from Scotland now living in Corner Brook; Dennis Keans, from some part of Newfoundland, who is just completing a degree in Music at Memorial University in St. John's and who has been a featured soloist with the Memorial Chamber and Festival choirs in concerts here in St. John's; Alma Hennessey, originally from Grand Falls, now teaching Music in Corner Brook; Tom Kerr, the artistic director of the Neptune Theatre in Halifax, and on and on and on. I should mention Marelyn McLean, one of the finest actresses in Newfoundland today, born in Happy Valley, Labrador, now a professional actress living and earning her living in Corner Brook.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that while the Stephenville Festival is known among artists and fans of theatre in other parts of Canada and some parts of the Northern

MS. VERGE:

United States, I feel it is not yet well enough known in Eastern Newfoundland, it is not yet well enough appreciated by the people of St. John's, for example. As I said before, the audiences are getting bigger and bigger each year and last year people were actually turned away. People could not get seats to see some of the shows last year. And, Mr. Speaker, with the superb marketing effort that is being made by the managers of the Stephenville Festival in advance of the '84 Festival, tickets may be in short supply this year. But I would like to take advantage of this opportunity in the capital city, in the hope that some of my remarks may get reported by the St. John's news media, to try to spread the word among the many people in and around St. John's, who I

MS. VERGE: know, would love what is going on in Stephenville, if only they knew about it and if only they get the opportunity to go across their own Island and sample some of the superb theatre that will be staged there this Summer.

Mr. Speaker, I have gone to four of the past Stephenville festivals, I just missed one year when I physically could not get there, and I met all kinds of people there, the artists, the colleagues and friends of the artists who have come there from outside our Province. I remember meeting a woman from Alberta who came to see one of the main shows two years ago. The only reason that she came to Newfoundland was to go to the Stephenville Festival. And I can understand that, Mr. Speaker. Why do people go to Stratford, Ontario? Why do people go to Niagara-On-The-Lake, Ontario? Why do people from Newfoundland go to London, England? I myself have gone to London, England, mainly to go to the theatre. And I think the government of our Province, which has supported the festivals from the beginning both through the Departments of Tourism, now Development, and Culture, Recreation and Youth, can do much better. We can add much better support, not only financial support but moral support, and provide better promotion to add to what is already been initiated, created, and built through the perseverance and hard work of the individuals I named, Cheryl Stagg and Maxim Mazumdar. It is a private sector operation with a lot of community and area support, and business support. But there is a need for ongoing and sustained financial and moral and promotional support from the provincial government and also the federal government.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have here a photocopy of a federal government Tourism Canada ad for Summer tourism attractions. First there is a picture of

MS. VERGE: Roy Thompson Hall in Toronto, plugging Toronto. The big attraction of Toronto that is highlighted here is culture, is the big cultural festival that will be going on in Toronto in June. Next to that, Mr. Speaker, is a picture of the L'Anse-au-Meadow Viking Settlement site with a plug for Newfoundland's tourist attractions, and in the text, 'While the Viking saga unfolds, visit Stephenville between July 16 and August 4 for three weeks of plays during the Festival of the Arts. That is the kind of recognition that the Stephenville Festival of the Arts needs from government

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

MS. VERGE: And I am pleased with the efforts that our provincial government have made to support and foster the Stephenville Festival of the Arts. And I look forward to being part of ongoing and improved measures to encourage, to give more opportunities for that Festival of the Arts to thrive.

MS. VERGE: Mr. Speaker, as an aside I might mention that the Stephenville Festival of the Arts co-ordinates and directs the schools tour which is now in its fifth season. The schools tour was started in the Fall of 1979 and it amounts to a tour of the province's schools by a small group of young professional artists who perform material which is chosen by the schools group in consultation with the Education Department's curriculum personnel and it always features material from the school curriculum as well as other selections that are considered appropriate for student audiences. Each year the company visits schools, small and large throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. Mr. Speaker, the artists visiting the schools not only perform, making theatre come alive, come off the page for students, but also, Mr. Speaker, the actors talk to the students, talk to the teachers, offer workshops, offer advice for the high school credit course in Theatre Arts which is now being offered in fifty-six schools across Newfoundland and Labrador. Some 1100 students are now doing the credit course in Theatre Arts. So, Mr. Speaker, the Stephenville Festival has had many spinoff benefits, not the least of which is a boost to the tourism industry of Western Newfoundland.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. member for the Bay of Islands.

MR. WOODROW: Mr. Speaker, I think I probably should call this the great debate. I would like, first of all, to thank all hon. members who took part in the debate on the motion I introduced in the House of Assembly last Wednesday, namely tourism in the Western regions. Of course, members extended it out to tourism all over the Province, including Labrador. Mr. Speaker, I would like to, and I think I should, comment on the remarks that some of the members made.

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MR. WOODROW: First of all, the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) suggested removing all taxes imposed on food sold in restaurants in the months of June, July and August; number two, reduce the tax on gasoline during the same period because it would encourage Newfoundlanders to travel within the Province and would encourage many people to come to the Province; and finally, to remove

MR. WOODROW: the 12 per cent sales tax on clothing.

MR. WARREN: A good suggestion, right?

MR. WOODROW: Of course these suggestions are good, but I think the bottom line is the Province cannot afford to remove the sales tax and, secondly, it would be difficult to distinguish tourists from the every-day person or the traveller, say, the non-tourist.

MR. NEARY: Get Lazybones home and you would save some money.

MR. WARREN: Put a tether on him.

MR. WOODROW: I would, and so would the hon. member - I agree with him on this - like to see the sales tax removed from handmade articles, handicrafts.

I would like to say that during two visits I made to Labrador in 1983, handicrafts were very expensive. For example, a black bear skin was \$1200, including sales tax. Other items were also very costly. And the same could be said for the Island portion of the Province, especially at airports where prices are really exorbitant. So if we want to get tourists to return they have to be able to say nice things about our Province, and not that they were ripped off. And this is something I think worth giving a bit of attention to.

The member for St. Barbe (Mr. Osmond) gave a little history of how Gros Morne National Park came to be recognized. In the early 1900s, warships came in there from England and had royalty on board, who liked the area so much they stayed longer than planned and went back to England and reported the great scenery in the Bonne Bay area, very important.

He also mentioned Lee Wolfe, an American who came to Lomond and the park area in the late 1930s and 1940s and brought American tourists. So these

MR. WOODROW: two people, as you know,
played a major role in the development of the Great
Northern Peninsula area.

 Now the hon. member for
St. John's North (Mr. Carter) came very close to agreeing
with me about my suggestion that the Gulf run should be
part of the Trans-Canada Highway, when he said that the
North Sydney - Port aux Basques ferry should be heavily
subsidized by government on a trial basis.

MR. WOODROW: Incidentally, the member from Fogo (Mr. Tulk) went along with my suggestion. The hon. the member for Mount Scio (Mr. Barry) took us to London, Florence and Rome where he had gone on a recent business and holiday trip. Whilst there is no comparison between these places and Newfoundland in numbers, we can nevertheless learn a lot from them. The many souvenirs, for example, sold in the stores and other things in those places remind you of these particular places he mentioned. I would like to say to the hon. member that his speech brought back memories to me as I travelled there myself and saw what he saw. I also travelled in, for example, the Middle East and I would like to say that especially in the Holy Lands, in Europe and in the Middle East actually people thrive on tourism.

The hon. member for Stephenville (Mr. Stagg) discussed the Stephenville Festival and the hon. the member for Humber East (Ms. Verge) enlarged on that subject, that it is becoming more popular every year. The member for Port au Port (Mr. Hodder) - I do not mean to insult the member from Burin - Placentia West (Mr. Tobin), I am sure he will not mind when I say this - talked about how the Port au Port Peninsula is fast becoming the French capital of Newfoundland.

The hon. the member from Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock) took us from Port aux Basques all the way up to Point Amour and L'Anse-au-Meadows, the Viking site, and over to Labrador and Quebec, and mentioned Professor Tuck, who discovered the body of an indian in Point Amour, and discovered the Basque whaling site in Red Bay.

I have here an article from Maclean's Magazine, May 14, 1984, called 'Travel Canada for Summer Fun' and it is interesting.

MR. WOODROW: 'The Vikings are sailing into Newfoundland this Summer - come share the adventure. Newfoundland is full of surprises. Adventurous Vikings as far back as 1050 A.D. liked what they found so much they settled here for a while. This year the Saga Siglor, the type of ship thought to have been used by Leif Ericson during the epic North American voyage of discovery, will drop anchor at L'Anse-au-Meadows, and be there August 17, 1984 to August 23, 1984: That is a great honour to that particular part of our Province. 'The Norwegian adventurer Ragnar Torseth is master of this incredible vessel. While the Viking saga unfolds, visit Stephenville between July 16, 1984 and August 4, 1984 for three weeks of play during the Festival of the Arts, or sail to St. John's for the Regatta Day Folk Festival on August 1, 1984, for some traditional music, song, dance and storytelling. Come have a Newfoundland adventure. We will capture your imagination and conquer your hearts.'

I think, Mr. Speaker, this is really very significant.

MR. WOODROW: I also noted the remarks of the member for Bonavista North (Mr. Cross). The member for LaPoile (Mr. Neary) supported the Gulf run becoming part of the Trans-Canada Highway, as I pointed out last Wednesday in the resolution. There is 27 per cent unemployment in the Corner Brook area and it would be nice if we had the Convention Centre over there. I certainly agree with the member on that. The member for Humber West (Mr. Baird) explained very well some of the tourist attractions in the Western region. The member for St. John's Centre (Dr. McNicholas) spoke very nicely. The member for Fogo (Mr. Tulk) agreed with me that the Gulf run should become part of the Trans-Canada Highway, and I believe if this happens we will have a lot of tourists come to Newfoundland. The member for Baie Verte - White Bay (Mr. Rideout) gave an excellent speech. I already mentioned the member for Humber East (Ms. Verge), and all members the good attractions in the Western region.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say it was a great and lively debate. Once again I thank all members and feel that the Western region in particular and Newfoundland and Labrador in general has a great future for tourism. I will end up by speaking about the Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor). The Minister of Development advised me he could not be here today because he is speaking to the Chamber of Commerce in Port aux Basques.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WOODROW: But I have had discussions with him about the future of tourism for the Western region. And he told me to mention in my talk today that he would be announcing a proposal for Marble Mountain

MR. WOODROW:

in Steady Brook shortly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WOODROW:

Mr. Speaker, I really feel overjoyed and I really feel pleased that so many hon. members took part in the debate. As I said last week, in fact, tourism is tenth on the list. Maybe as a result of our working together and talking together and discussing this together, doing it on a co-operative basis and getting every member to agree, I do feel that tourism hopefully in 1985 - 86 will come a lot higher on the totem poll. I think this is a great Province we are living in. And we are going to have a lot of free time on our hands. One of the ways I think for us to use that free time is certainly to have more done for tourism. It is a great country, God bless it, and God bless Canada and God Bless Newfoundland. God Guard Thee, Newfoundland.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear! A good speech!

MR. SPEAKER (Russell):

All those in favour of the resolution, "Aye".

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

"Aye"

MR. SPEAKER:

Those again "Nay".

I declare the resolution carried.

MR. MARSHALL:

That is about the only thing the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) was not against, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

It being Wednesday, I do now leave the Chair until tomorrow, Thursday, May 17, at 3:00 P.M.