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VERBATIM REPORT (Hansard)

Speaker: Honourable P.J. McNicholas

The House met at 3:00 p.m.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas): Order, please!

At this time I would like to rule on the point of privilege raised by the hon, the Government House Leader on June 6th. The matters raised by the Government House Leader are serious allegations and of the Chair's worthy consideration.

I have not been able to obtain a complete transcript of discussion with the press in which the hon. Leader of the Opposition was reported to have said, and I quote, "The Speaker has lost control of some members." would appear that the tape recording of that discussion has been destroyed, I must rely upon and take the word of the Leader of the Opposition who said in this House on June 6, and I quote: "My recollection of it" - that is the issue - "is that my response was 'No, it is not the Speaker's fault. It is virtually impossible for him to control members of the majority of the House who want to behave in that way.'"

On the strength of those words, 1 must rule that a prima facie case of breach of privilege has been established. However, I must remind all hon, members of this of the some that parliamentary precedents quoted by the hon. Government House Leader repeating. I quote from bear Beauchesne, page 38, paragraph 117, subsection (1): "Reflections upon the character or actions of the Speaker may of punished breaches as privilege." Subsection (2): "The Presiding Officer, though entitled on all occasions to be treated with the greatest attention and

respect by the individual Members, because the power, dignity, and honour of the House are officially embodied in his person."

On page 14, paragraph 26 of Beauchesne: "It is the duty of all Members to uphold at all times the authority of the Chair, reflecting as it does the House itself."

MR. WELLS: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. WELLS:

Mr. Speaker, before dealing with the routine business of the day I want to draw the attention of hon. members of the House to the sudden passing, on Monday of this week, of a very distinguished former public servant in this Province, in the person of Mr. George Warren, who died suddenly on Monday afternoon.

Mr. Warren served this Province and its people faithfully and well for a great many years in the Minister of Deputy office He subsequently Works. Public became Minister of Public Works for a very brief period, but resigned that position after an election following in 1972.

Mr. Speaker, I believe all members this House acknowledge the contribution he made to the people of this Province during a period of time when there was great building necessary, and when the government was involved building of public extensive services throughout this Province.

largely personally เมลร responsible for overseeing a great

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deal of this, and in that particular role he served this Province well. I would ask all members of the House if they would join in extending to Mr. Warren's family the sincere sympathies of the House.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon, the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, we certainly join with the Leader of the Opposition in sending condolences to the family of Mr. George Warren. I knew the gentleman somewhat, after his years as a public servant. I was not too familiar with his activities, not on a personal basis, when he was working for government, but one knew of him, obviously.

I do recall that I met him one time at Litte Heart's Ease where his son, I believe, had a small fish plant. He gave me great courtesies at the time of that visit, and we talked about it a number of times thereafter. It is sad thing to lose such an eminent servant of the people and we certainly join in sending condolences to the family.

Statements by Ministers

MR. RIDEOUT: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon, the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Mr. Speaker, it has been the position of this government to promote and encourage the

secondary processing of our fish products here in this Province in order to create more full-time jobs, improve the economic returns to our fishing industry, increase the level of industrial technology and extend the operating season of many of our fishing facilities. This commitment by government has been confirmed by the fact that my department has spent in excess of million in the area secondary processing over the past two years.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to announce today another initiative taken by this government in an effort to promote secondary processinig in this Province. My department has recently approved a of \$25,000 to grant Greens Seafoods Ltd. Winterton, o F Trinity Bay to offset start--up costs associated with respect to the production and marketing of secondary salt fish products. Several new salt fish products have been developed by the Marine Institute for the Canadian Saltfish Corporation, assisted by \$30,000 grant from Greens Seafoods department. Ltd. have been selected bν Corporation to produce these new products. This company has excellent track record and their staff have developed an expertise achieving top quality excellent vields in both fresh and salt fish products. I am very that confident the strong commitment demonstrated by Greens Seafood Ltd., the Canadian Saltfish Corporation and department will result in a very successful secondary processing operation. I am also pleased to announce that between thirty forty new jobs will be created as a result of this operation.

Mr. Speaker, my department and

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this government remain firm in our commitment to fully develop the fishing industry of this Province, and this commitment has demonstrated time and again through our many initiatives in the areas of secondary processing and the increased utilization of our fishing resources.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for giving me a copy of his statement prior to the House opening. I must say, while I appreciate the initiative taken by the minister in making this rather small grant available for the secondary processing of salt fish — I suppose it will make some contribution to the development of that very important resource - I think the minister has left an opening for me again to remind him and his colleagues that there is another case where \$30,000, invested by the Province, will be creating thirty or forty jobs developing a product we have for is a very which there course, that market. Of must again drive home the fact, I suppose, that, in the case of cucumbers, we have \$15 million to \$20 million being spent to provide not many more jobs, maybe two or three times as many jobs, but, proportionately, nothing near what money invested in the fishery can do for the economy of the Province.

happy to see that Canadian Saltfish Corporation is

its mandate widening broadening its horizons. I do not wish to put down the importance of the Saltfish Corporation, because when it was first established back in the late 1960s or early 1970s, it was badly needed. But I have always had the impression that maybe they should be broadening their scope and getting more involved in a more diversified operation. I am glad to see now that obviously they are doing just that, and I am glad to see that the minister has recognized their importance, I guess, and the part they can play in the development of the salt fishery by making this very, very small grant available to them.

Mr. Speaker, I think this another indication that fishery is our future in Province. I think the salt fish has much greater industry than we have potential developed in recent years in this Province, and, I believe, to give a better balance to the fishery, Mr. Speaker, we should maybe pay more attention to the development of the salt fish industry.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. FENWICK: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon, the member for Menihek.

MR. FENWICK: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker,

Just a few comments, and some of the comments the minister has heard before.

We appreciate the fact that he is trying to develop the secondary fishing processing of our

industry. It is even more interesting to see it being done with salt fish, which, of course, is a traditional product of the Province. But I think minister should be at least honest with us in this House and tell us how he is going to continue on with this kind of policy after that crazy Mulroney/Reagan trade deal is put into place and we end up with a tremendous amount of countervails being imposed on us whenever we indulge in subsidies on our own industries.

Mr. Speaker, what we have is a situation here where the minister is in the last gasps of the ability to interfere with -

SOME_HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. LONG:

All the experts are over there. crowd of experts on free trade.

MR. FENWICK:

Mr. Speaker, unlike the Leader of the Official Opposition, whenever we are making effective comments we usually hear this chorus from the people over there, and I usually consider it a tribute to significance of the arguments. I do not mind. sometimes it is very difficult to be heard, so I would appreciate your silencing them.

SOME HON, MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. FENWICK:

Speaker, fact is, Mr. encourage the Minister of Fisheries to continue on with his development work and make all the grants he can this year, because

know, once this trade deal comes in, you will not be able to do it any more; we will not be able to develop our own economy. know it, I know it, everybody else knows it. So do it now, because you will not do it next year.

MR. LONG:

Hear, hear!

MR. BUTT:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon, the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth.

MR. BUTT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

would like to provide hon. members with an update of sector initiative private announced in this House just over one month ago.

The closing date for applications under the program was May 31, and I am happy to say the response to initiative this เมลร overwhelming, with 96 applications With most of received. applicants proposing several projects in all or some of our provincial parks, the actual number of projects proposed is in the thousands. It is obvious that many persons, companies and groups have a desire to help improve the quality of service and facilities in our provincial parks.

We received proposals covering all 75 provincial parks, encompassing wide-range of projects, including fish sales, retail outlets, equipment rentals, gift shops, laundry services, tours, babysitting services, showers, minature golf, craft sales, bus service, cabin development, water

tourist attractions and slides. and accommodations, wading pools, horseback riding, just to name a few.

Any proposal which is incompatible with the park in question, of course, will be rejected. If it is strictly an environmental type park, we would not want to have those other attractions in there to spoil the original intent of the park.

The applications are under review of committee government officials representing departments; Finance, Development and Tourism and, of course, Culture, Recreation and Applicants will bе proposals informed whether their have been accepted or rejected. within the next couple of weeks. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. HISCOCK: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Eagle hon, the member The River.

MR. HISCOCK:

I thank the minister for the copy of his statement. In looking at the statement, we have Hopefully, questions. minister will provide us with an update on these proposals in the Fall. One question is have is who is going to be liable if somebody using injured while is facilities which are going to put in the parks, the Province or the companies?

Also, Mr. Speaker, we would like to know the written criteria for of these the acceptance

proposals? What ınakes proposal acceptable and proposal acceptable, if they not similar in nature?

are also we thing Another that these now concerned with, applications are coming in being accepted, is will government be giving grants to these companies who are going to be getting into equipment rentals, gift shops, laundry services, etc.?

Another thing that is of concern to the public generally is whether successful applicants were the privy to prior information on this.

We were pleased the extension was Anything which creates given. extra jobs in this Province, Mr. Speaker, this side supports, we hope the minister will table the criteria used to determine the successful applicants.

Mr. Speaker, this government has always prided itself on the rustic Hopefully, nature of our parks. them into will not turn multi-amusement centers.

We support anything which improve the quality of life for our people in tourism. We hope this government helps municipal governments get into more parks, after Look the 1:0 and environment. We welcome the Speaker, and statement, Mr. hope the minister will, in due the written table time. requirements on which are being accepted. projects Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. LONG: Mr. Speaker.

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MR. SPEAKER: The hon, the member for St. John's East.

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MR. LONG:

Mr. Speaker, it is now June 8, and minister promises in this announcement that perhaps in couple of weeks they will have a decision as to which proposals have been accepted or rejected. would suggest not only to the minister but to the rest of the government members over there. this program is already proving itself to be a failure. The absolute absence of any information the minister laughs. I am sure the minister is having fun dealing with proposals and zany ideas for wild From all activities over Province, but I would suggest that what he has demonstrated again today is a total inability to administer this program.

There has been no clear criteria laid out. The minister is hoping to have something in place for the month of July, but there is no indication whether the minister and the department have a system in place to monitor the implementation with respect to some of the issues of liability and legal questions which might be raised.

There is also a real concern about the protection of the parks and the cleanliness - who is going to pick up after these concessions are put in place in the parks? I would also say to the minister that it seems to me, in the absence of any coherent program minister has not brought forward a clear program - he also seems to forget that the parks in this Province are public parks such, and, ลร are the responsibility of governmnent, for the maintenance and provision of services and so on. The minister seems to think that the parks of this Province are going to Ьe

turned over to the private sector and he, as minister, will have a lot less to worry about in dealing with all the Summer activities. Mr. Speaker, the program is clearly going nowhere, and the minister has confinmed it in his statement today.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon, the Minister of Career Development and Advanced Studies.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce today the approval of another 117 projects under the Private Sector Employment Program. These projects involve a provincial contribution of \$416,948, employing 142 employees and \$99,319, employing another 81 students.

Mr. Speaker, the total funds allocated to date, under the Private Sector Employment Program, amounts to approximately \$5.1 million.

As I advised previously, this program has been extremely well received by the private sector. We have received more than 1600 applications to date and more are arriving at our offices daily.

The jobs which have been assisted through this program, Mr. Speaker, are spread throughout all sections of our economy. It is important to note as well that many of the jobs created do in fact provide valuable training. We take great pride and satisfaction, Speaker, in knowing that training, combined with the work experience, will contribute very positively to the future employability of the participants.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. DECKER; Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. DECKER:
Mr. Speaker, the hon. minister has been known to criticize me because I am, in his words, the first one to criticize this program. Now, I am flattered the minister should feel that way, and I only wish I could take full credit for being the only one to negatively criticize this program.

Fortunately, I suppose, other people around the Province are realizing just how bad this program can potentially be. I would like to be able to take credit for being the first critic. I would run to take credit for it but, unfortunately, I cannot take full claim for doing that.

I have been saying, and I will continue to say, that there is something wrong with an economy in a free enterprise system when the government must pay the private sector in order to create jobs. Now, there has to be something wrong when that happens.

SOME HON, MEMBERS:

MR. SPFAKER: Order, please!

MR. DECKER:
One would assume, and I would tell
this to the hon. Minister of
Development (Mr. Barrett)
especially - I hope he is
listening - that in private

enterprise, Mr. Speaker -

MR. BARRETT: (Inaudible).

MR. DECKER:
I would like the Minister of
Development to listen, because
this is a valid point.

In capitalism, the private sector should be paying the government. This government has the economy in such a mess they have to pay private enterprise, a total reversal of the private enterprise system.

MR. BARRETT: I noticed it was okay when Trudeau (inaudible).

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. DECKER:
I notice, Mr. Speaker, I have hit
a nerve. I would like leave to go
on, but obviously I am not going
to get it.

MR. LONG: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon, the member for St. John's East.

MR. LONG: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we, in this party, honestly have no problem with the efforts by government to assistwith development of the small business community. I know, from my own experience in talking with business people in my district, that a program such as this one is very important to maintaining small operations, especially to help them through critical times, when they are not able to put the

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monies out to hire people:

With that said, I would still say the announcements the minister is bringing in on a regular basis are becoming, frankly, quite tedious. After stating my own support for program, I asked for more information so that we would be better able to do an analysis of whether the program is meeting any clear objectives or not. I would say to the minister, as I did to previous minister in his Ministerial Statement, there is not a coherent program with clearly defined goals and objectives. What we have here is an employment program based on a first-come first-served basis, in which the minister pays service to a training element and to hiring students, but there is no clear set of objectives for this program.

If the minister cannot provide us with the kind of information we have been asking for, I would ask him to refrain from coming in with the tally sheets. They are quite useless to us, but I am sure they might serve some political purpose the minister and the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Oral Questions

MR. EFFORD: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the member for Port de Grave

MR. EFFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, over the past several weeks in this Province we have all

heard the concerns about health care system and what affect it is having on patients and the people of this Province. Last evening the Leader of Opposition, myself and the MHA for Stephenville (Mr. K. Aylward) -

MR. WARREN:

And the hon. the member for Menihek.

MR. EFFORD:

- and the Leader of the NDP (Mr. Fenwick) invited were to auditorium of the Health Sciences Centre to hear the concerns of the staff about the deteriorating health care svstem in the Province. I must say, Speaker, we heard some frightening things. I would like to ask the Minister of Health (Dr. Collins) why neither he nor any of his representatives, who also invitations, saw fit to attend that meeting?

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker.

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

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, the management at the Health Sciences Complex frequently in touch with department on any issues involve the institution and staff Similarly so on, director, the person in charge of that institution, was in touch with our department this morning informing us of the discussions that went on there. understanding is that this was a meeting between the workers and the management of institution. Now I understand that some of the workers invited some others who are not workers to go along, and I see no problem with that. But essentially it was a meeting to discuss matters between staff and management, that was the object of the meeting, and I believe that object was achieved and management was glad to hear from the staff and their points of views.

So I would think it was a good exercise and we have had a report on it already and we will probably get a fuller report as time goes on.

MR. EFFORD: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A supplementary, the hon. the member for Port de Grave.

MR. EFFORD: Mr. Speaker, what the Minister of Health just said is not correct, not one word of it is correct. It is totally wrong, Mr. Speaker. invitation was sent, was hand delivered to the minister and the Premier of this Province.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. EFFORD: I ask the Minister of Health, if he was in touch with management this morning concerning problems that were discussed at the Health Sciences Centre, is he aware that a recent management report stated very clearly that for twenty seven out of thirty days the staff was short at the hospital, and that a patient was for prepped five times operating room and each time the operation was cancelled? horrendous many, many other stories and concerns were aired last night publicly by nurses and X-ray technicians. Is minister aware that those concerns were expressed last night at the meeting?

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker.

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

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, in regard to the remarks of the hon. opening he gave the impression member, that I had an invitation delivered to me. I do not know where his information came from but that is not correct. I did not receive a hand delivered or any other type of information, that is that point.

On the other point, if there is a specific instance that the hon. member wants me to check out, and gives me the name of that person who is supposed to have had an undue delay in treatment - I do not know if it is true or not - I will certainly, if I have some information to go on, check that out and see if I can get the rights of the matter.

In regard to the running of the hospital, as I say, we are in frequent contact with management. They are very alert to keep us informed of everything that is going on there and I am quite sure I will get an authoritative report in more detail than I have now of that meeting as the next few days go by.

MR. EFFORD: Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: A final supplementary, the honthe member for Port de Grave.

MR. EFFORD: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of

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Health surely is not going to put this off as just another political exercise. The people of this hospital deserve more attention.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. EFFORD:

Mr. Speaker, the invitation was extended to the government of this Province to have somebody represent it at this meeting. My Will. question: the minister, because these people are in the profession of providing health care to the people of this Province have expressed publicly hundreds of concerns that are frightening, form a Select Committee of this House investigate these matters? are not isolated incidents, not one or two but hundreds? Will the minister form a Select Committee of this House to investigate the situation that prevails in the healthcare system of our Province?

SOME HON, MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon, the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, J have no intention of putting in place a Col putting in place a Select Committee to go up to see if the management of the Health Sciences Complex are doing their job or not.

The Health Sciences Complex is run by a Board of Governors, citizens of this Province who give their time of their own free will and without remuneration, and it is run by extremely competent, highly trained, profession people. have no intention of undermining confidence that might expressed i.n their operation. They are doing an excellent job up

there and a Select Committee of the sort that the hon, member is suggesting would be an insult to the people who run institution up there. I have no such intention. And, as I say, we are kept informed on a very clear and opportune basis as to any concerns that management have, and they relate to us any concerns that the staff relate to them. There is ongoing discussion of these matters and we are assisting wherever we can, which is no small measure. They are doting extremely good job.

SOME HON, MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. K. AYLWARD: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. K. AYLWARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have a question for the Minister of Health. I would suggest to him . that it is an insult to the people this Province the way the Health Sciences Centre has to be operated with the funding that is being given by this Province. Could he confirm to this House, or tell us, is he aware of situations occuring at the Health Sciences Complex in relation to nurses who are completely overworked because the institution is understaffed, mostly on the evening shifts but also during the day? Is he also aware that these nurses and so on are making representations and are saying to the administration that it is becoming unsafe, for both the patients and the workers, to work in that institution? Is aware of these concerns and have they been brought to his attention?

L2770 June 8, 1988 Voll. XI. No. 51 R2770 MR. SPEAKER:

The hon, the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, I have heard some irresponsible comments in this House over the years, but that, in my view, is one of the most irresponsible comments I have even heard in this House, administration have never told us that it is unsafe to operate institution, and for the hon. member to suggest that, to bring that before the people of this Province in the fashion he has done, without backing it up with any evidence, whatsoever, is totally irresponsible and he should be ashamed of himself.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

hon. the A supplementary, the member for Stephenville.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

Mr. Speaker, all he had to do was attend the meeting last night and he would have seen the evidence, no problem at all. I want to ask him, again, will he investigate matters that have been brought to our attention, on this side of the House, about concerns from nurses, nursing assistants and other staff people? They are understaffed in most positions over there and finding it very difficult to carry out their duties. Will he undertake to investigate this matter as these are serious concerns that have been brought to the attention of the people in the institution and also to the Opposition? We are doing our duty by bringing it to your attention.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon, the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, the hon, member must be a little bit deaf. I have already said that we are in daily contact with the Health Sciences Centre and we get the absolute facts. We do not get garbled facts, we do not get the facts a little bit coloured, shall we say, we do not get them third-hand, or whatever, we get the straight facts in the department on an almost daily basis from the people who know the institution. There is no need to investigate. know what is going on, and they know that we know what is going on.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

A supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER:

A final supplementary.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

I would like to go to the Minister of Labour, (Mr. Blanchard), Mr. Speaker, since obviously Minister of Health does not think there is a problem. Would the Minister of Labour undertake to investigate concerns that have been brought to our attention by the nurses, nursing assistants and other professions over there?

That is the same question.

MR. EFFORD:

No!

MR. K. AYLWARD:

T am asking the Minister Labour, Mr. Speaker, would he investigate this matter? very serious concerns brought to our attention at last night's meeting, one to which we, Premier of the Province or his

representative were invited. Would he undertake to do that?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon, the Minister of Labour.

MR. BLANCHARD:

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to answer a question by asking question, but I would like to know what it is the hon, member asking me to investigate? Is it a labour standards matter? Is it a layoff? What is it? There is no question in it for me.

MR. LONG:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon, the member for St. John's East.

MR. LONG:

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Career Development Advanced Studies Matthews). It has to do with the recent announcement of the number of courses that will be dropped at the Cabot Institute, not far from Confederation Building. In view of the fact that in a report produced for the department last January there were seventeen courses identified for transfer to another institution, none of which have been transferred, I ask the Minister of Career Development and Advanced Studies has he received in the last number of months any representation from government members, some of whom are Cabinet ministers who represent districts in the City of St. John's, to stop the cancellation of these programs at the Cabot Institute?

MR. MATTHEWS:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon, the Minister of Career Development and Advanced Studies.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Mr. Speaker, the primary mandate of the Cabot Institute is the delivery of diploma level applied arts and technology programs. We have gone through restructuring of our post-secondary education system in the Province. three provincial institutes with mandates, we have five community colleges with mandates, and the University with mandate. And what ₩e happening, in fact, Mr. Speaker, what we expected from -restructuring of post-secondary education system, The answer to the second part of the hon, gentleman's question is yes, the members for St. John's consistently discuss happenings at the Cabot, the Marine Institute and the University on a regular basis.

MR. LONG:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. member for St. John's East.

MR. LONG:

I thank the hon, minister for his I assume that to mean the members for the city also opposed the cancellation of courses. My supplementary, Speaker, to the minister is: he aware of that with the cuts in courses at the Cabot Institute the minister has violated stated principles with the reorganization of the post-secondary system, such that there are now courses that are not offered anywhere on the Avalon and as a result young people do not access to publicly funded business education courses, word processing specialist courses, and

others, in violation of the minister's own commitment to these guidelines?

MR. MATTHEWS: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon, the Minister of Career Development and Advanced Studies.

MR. MATTHEWS:

the hon. what Speaker, Mr. i.s not gentleman is saying accurate. There are completely courses offered in the various regions of the Province. We are trying to make courses available to the residents and students of the Province regardless of where And what the hon. they live. sayting i.s j.s gentleman Any particular course accurate. in this Province is offered at a number of campuses around There is only one Province. course I know of that we are gearing up to operate in just the Stephenville area, that of heavy equipment operator, and we are doing that because that is a specialized centre with the proper resources to do so. But any of the other courses that the hon. gentleman has referred to offered at a number of locations around the Province.

MR. LONG: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A final supplementary.

MR. LONG:

Mr. Speaker, I ask the minister a final supplementary as a member who is very committed to the district of St. John's East and the area taken in by St. John's. I ask the minister if in view of the official opening on Friday of the Avalon Community College, will

he give a commit to transfer some of the courses that have been cut from the Cabot Institute to the Avalon Community College, and give that clear signal government is not showing favouritism to private schools and private educators, friends of the Tory Government who are waiting to pick up courses that have been dropped from public institutions?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon, the Minister of Career Development and Advanced Studies.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman, again, is wrong on one count, in that the official opening of the Avalon Community College took place a couple of weeks ago in Carbonear. I guess the hon. gentleman was not aware of that.

Mr. Speaker, what is happening is are being offered courses regions, the community various around campuses college What we see at the Province. Cabot Institute, in essence, Mr. Speaker, is a total restructuring, reorganization, so that they meet their new mandate. The decisions that have been made are based on the demand or lack of demand for programs; programs where the job outlook, the market outlook, for graduates is unfavourable; graduates percentage of finding is unfavourable; employment duplications of programs within the system, Mr. Speaker, where they are offered all over the Province and we are turning out graduates from programs who cannot find employment. What we are doing with our new reorganized trying to prepare system is graduates for future job markets where they are employable.

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Space requirements, Mr. Speaker: The Cabot Institute is gearing up for two and three year diploma level applied arts and technology programs. That is where we are with it, Mr. Speaker, and I think the hon, gentleman, if he did a check of what is happening around Province in post-secondary education, would find that most of the courses are offered, some of them at five campuses, others at twelve, and most of the courses, Mr. Speaker, offered are fifteen or sixteen out of seventeen or eighteen campuses. T do not think that is too bad, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WELLS:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. WELLS:

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon, the Minister of Health. I attended that meeting last night. I was invited a s the Leader of the Liberal Party to attend and bring other representatives. The Leader the NDP was invited, and, I informed but I do not know with that the certainty, hon: Premier was invited to attend and bring the Minister of Health or other representatives. It was not meeting between staff and management.

MR. SPEAKER Order, please!

The hon, member is making a speech and is not directing a question.

MR. WELLS:

I do want to lay the foundation, Mr. Speaker.

It was a meeting to inform members of this House, on both sides, of the dire circumstances in which people involved in the delivery of health care have to work. That is what they told us the purpose was. They went through a litany 🕂

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

The hon, member is not asking a question.

MR. WELLS:

T do have the right, Mr. Speaker you have told me before - to lay a foundation. Do I have the right to lay a foundation?

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

In any first question, any hon. member has the right to lay a foundation, but there difference between laying foundation and making a speech, and the hon, member is making a speech at the present time. I ask him to ask his question.

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

DR. COLLINS:

A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A point of order, the hon, the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, I believe members of this House are getting a little tired of the of Leader Opposition questioning Your Honour - Your Honour has great patience if he does not get the slightest thing that he wants going his way.

Now, he may not be going so far as to violate the privileges of this House, but it is getting very it. I think that to close everyone is hoping that the Leader of the Opposition will confine himself to parliamentary practice, Your Honour says when something he immediately accept it and does not argue about it and does not try to get Your Honour to change his mind and do something else.

I hope that Your Honour will, at every possible opportunity, make sure that the hon. Leader of the Opposition practices parliamentary practice and not violate the privilege of this House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WELLS: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. WELLS:

Mr. Speaker, I am speaking to that point of order. I assure the Minister of Health and Your Honour that I expect and ask for nothing more than every other member of this House has, only the same. But I ask for at least that much, Mr. Speaker. I ask to be accorded by all members of this House at least that much.

There is no point of order, Mr. Speaker. I would like to continue with my question.

MR. LONG: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: To that point of order, the hone member for St. John's East.

MR. LONG:

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the hon. Minister of Health, and to again, in speaking to the point of order, the Leader of the official Opposition has confirmed point of order that the When I am minister is making. called to order for making a lengthy preamble, I immediately respect the demand made by the Chair and go to my question, and .vlaas must same rules especially during the critical time that we have, which is only a half hour in question period. And T think the Chair is quite in order to tell people with long preambles to get to their question. We should not be given the opportunity to challenge being called to order by the Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

To that point of order, the comments of the hon. Minister of Health and the member for St. John's East are quite correct.

The hon, the Leader of the Opposition was making a far too lengthy preamble and I ask him now to ask his questions.

The hon, the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. WELLS:

Mr. Speaker, we have got a serious problem in health. I ask the Minister of Health, when will government acknowledge the 200 people working in the Health Sciences Centre, delivering care on a day to day basis, are not making up false stories to embarrass the government, and are expressing to the public genuine, serious concern? When will the government take it seriously and do something about it?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon, the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, I have been saying we take any communications we get from the Health Sciences Complex seriously, without question and all the time. We do have a very wide open channel with the Health Sciences Complex. The director at the institution has a direct line to my office, which she uses frequently, speaking to the Deputy Minister, sometimes speaking to me, and if need be gets directed to perhaps some other member of the department when a particular bit of information is required and is not readily at hand. There is absolutely no problem in the institution communicating any concerns they have, and we close attention to them whenever it happens.

MR. WELLS:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon, the Leader of the Opposition.

When will the government acknowledge that there are 900 other people, besides management, involved in delivering health care services who asked the minister and others, who asked the Premier and representatives to attend that meeting specifically to hear their concerns? When will he agree to meet with them and hear their concerns?

SOME HON, MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon, the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, I have received no invitation to any such meeting. I will go down, after the House closes today, and I will look under the carpets in my office in case something came in, slipped on the floor, and perhaps someone came in and kicked it under the I will doubt very much carpet. I will find anything, whether because when messages come for me they are directed to my attention and no such message was directed to my attention.

MR. WELLS:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A final supplementary.

MR. WELLS:

When will the Minister of Health and the Premier of this Province acknowledge that the churches are so vitally concerned about it that the priests are preaching sermons about it from the pulpit? That is how concerned people are, and the members opposite sit and laugh at it. It is a serious concern. When will they properly deal with it?

SOME HON, MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon, the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, whenever opportunity arises we listen very closely to any words from the pulpit. I do not know how many members on our side go to church, but I can make an enquiry if that is necessary. I am sure that any members of the government who go to church, or any time they do go

to church, pay close attention to the pulpit.

MR. GILBERT:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon, the member for Burgeo - Ray d'Espoir,

MR. GILBERT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question is for the Minister of Public Works and Services (Dr. Twomey), but unfortunately he is not in his place so I will now ask the Deputy Premier, who seems to sweep all his problems under the carpet these days. The Minister of Public Works, in response to a written question from me regarding premises, renovations to leased had been \$42,016 advised that renovate the Eastern tο Canada Building for the Department of Mines. Now a check officials in his department failed to show tender documents for this Will the minister tell \$42,016. why the work was House undertaken without going through the public tendering process?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon, the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, the hon, member seems to have some information that I certainly do not have at hand, and if he will give me the information I will take it under notice and try to get him an answer to any question that may need an answer.

MR. FUREY

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon, the member for St. Barbe,

MR. FUREY:

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Power).

I wonder could the minister tell us, in view of the Premier's consistent repetition that there were major studies done on Canada - U.S. Free Trade Agreement as it relates to Newfoundland and not whether or Labrador, Mr. products, adricultural Speaker, from Newfoundland have unrestricted access to the U.S. this Free markets under Agreement?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon, the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development.

MR. POWER:

Mr. Speaker, this government has done a study of the Free Trade between the United Agreement Government and the States the people of and Me Canada. that this convinced are Free Trade Agreement will be very beneficial to the vast majority of in NewFoundland industries The fishing industry, Labrador. agriculture and other industries will benefit from the Free Trade shipping are Мe cucumbers out to the United States and that is today unrestricted, the way it should be.

MR. FUREY:

Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon, the member for St. Barbe.

MR. FUREY:

Mr. Speaker, the wholesale price of Newfoundland cucumbers on the Boston market is thirty cents, as compared to seventy-nine cents on this market. Is the minister

aware that United States legislation has itemized a number of the economic sectors, such as agriculture? Is he aware that any subsidized product agricultural in nature that leaves Canada destined U,S. where markets that agricultural product is already supplied in the U.S. market, such English cucumbers, can disciplined under a bill that is now before the U.S. Senate? he know that cucumbers which are subsidized by Newfoundland can be disciplined when they crosses the American border?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon, the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development.

MR. POWER:

Mr. Speaker, again, I guess, the Liberal Party of Newfoundland and the Liberal Party of Canada are not really sure what their position is on free trade. They seem to dilly-dally around from being supportive one day to being non-supportive, being divided and devisive in their approach to free trade.

SOME HON, MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. POWER:

This government and this party and the Government of Canada are very strongly in Favour of Free trade. The small amount of agricultural products that leave Newfoundland and go to the United States, certainly will not be a major for concern the Newfoundland agricultural community. We intend to access any markets we can with anv kind of products that we possibly can. What we are trying to do is open up opportunities in the market area for our producers in Newfoundland, and that is what

we expect the Free Trade Agreement to do.

MR. FUREY:

A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A final supplementary, the hon. the member for St. Barbe.

MR. FUREY:

Mr. Speaker, I can tell the hon. minister that this party certainly is not for free cucumbers for the American market.

I would like to ask the minister, Mr. Speaker, what well-thought-out plan has he in the event that the Americans discipline those subsidized cucumbers which are in the Boston marketplace for thirty versus the Newfoundland marketplace for seventy-nine cents? Does he have well-thought-out plan to deal with that particular discipline?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon, the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development.

MR. POWER:

Mr. Speaker, wait until someone figures out and is able to prove amount of substdy in agricultural community world. The federal Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) recently at a meeting in Brussels where Canada was accused of having higher subsidies, and subsidies and mone subsidies. Nobody is able to determine quite accurately what subsidies given i n any sector υf agricultural economy. America is the European Economic Community is worse. We in Canada subsidize to a certain degree, but certainly no worse and no less than most other places. In our

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case, Mr. Speaker, we are not the least bit concerned about the Free Agreement affecting export of cucumbers or any other product.

MR. W. CARTER: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Fisheries Minister of On June 3 the minister Rideout). announced, Mr. Speaker, and it was The Evening reported in two more middle Telegram, that distance vessels at a cost of \$10 million would be built in Marystown Shipyard.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker, we are very happy for the Marystown Shipyard. Speaker, the question I put to the minister is would he report to the House the status of the middle distance fleet? Are their catches justify to large sufficiently their existence? Or in short, Mr. Speaker, will the minister bring a House on the the report into middle distance fleet?

MR. RIDEOUT: Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. RIDEOUT:

Mr. Speaker, members of the House who are members of the Resource Estimates Committee, no doubt will remember that I agreed to provide such a detailed accounting to the Committee, but, of course, the

never got around to Committee But I will hearing the answer. that, Mr. undertake to do But off the top of mv Speaker. head I can tell the hon, gentlemen and the House that yes, the middle distance boats are proving to be economically viable units. Yes, I can tell him that without a subsidy, having been built at a \$5 million a shot when cost of they could be obtained overseas at million, even with that \$2.2 disadvantage, I can tell him, and without the advantage of a bounty which vessels less than sixty-five feet have in this Province, even with that disadvantage I can tell him that yes, the vessels paying their own way.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR, RIDEOUT

Now, Mr. Speaker, I can tell the hon, gentleman as well that the crews of those vessels are earning \mathbf{I} d: very good incomes. i s understanding that the captains and the crews are extremely happy with their working conditions and that this their incomes, and technology is adapting very, very well to the Newfoundland fishery, and that as a result of it, Mr. Speaker, resource-short plants in many, many communities in this Province are provided with several weeks of work a year for plant workers who would be otherwise unemployed. So we are very, very pleased with the progress that has been made in the development in that middle distance fleet so far.

And, finally, I will tell the hon. gentleman, Mr. Speaker, that if we aggressive in become do not expansion of adopting the harvesting effort in Newfoundland and Labrador, then somebody this Province will rue the day

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when somebody in another province does it for us.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. W. CARTER:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. the member for Twillingate.

MR. W. CARTER

Mr. Speaker, I wonder would the minister, then, undertake to table a proper report on the activities of these vessels? I am informed that there are thirty-one vessels of the 65 foot class in the Province capable of fishing in the middle distance waters in areas where these vessels are fishing.

I wonder has the minister done a study, Mr. Speaker, into the impact on that sector of the inshore fishery by virtue of the presence now of these larger middle distance vessels?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon, the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Mr. Speaker, I just finished telling the hon. gentleman that I am quite prepared, was prepared and still am prepared to provide the House and the public with an accounting and an update of the middle distance effort at any time. I just do not have it in front of me at the moment, but I will undertake, over a reasonable period of time, to provide that. I had been prepared to provide in Committee some weeks ago, but there was not an opportunity to do so.

Mr. Speaker, to the second part of the hon. gentleman's question, of course I am aware that there are a number of sixty-five foot vessels in this Province that can for very significant parts of the year fish in areas where those vessels fish. In fact, they can fish at certain times of the year out to the edges of the 200 mile zone and perhaps even beyond, Mr. Speaker.

We have encouraged that development. We have in fact, Mr. Speaker, as a government helped some of them to gear up to take advantage of certain fisheries in areas long distances offshore.

That is a fact, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman knows it is a fact, and we have done it in the past. We are not taking quotas from that category of vessels to give to a middle distance fleet, Mr. Speaker. The only quotas that become available to that fleet is as there is incremental increases in the total allowable catch, then a share goes to that developmental aspect out of it.

The hon. gentleman also knows, Mr. Speaker, that the Kirby Report, which most people in the Province and the House and in Atlantic Canada are aware of, suggested and recommended that that fleet of vessels, over time, given an increase in the quota, should have at least a minimum of 50,000 tons of fish available to it.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The time for oral questions has elapsed.

Notices of Motion

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker.

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MR. SPEAKER!

The hon, the Minister of Northern Development.

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow bring forth the following resolution:

WHEREAS the British Parliament is considering regulations which will require the labelling in Britain of fur products that may come from animals caught in leg hold traps; and

WHEREAS the federal government on Wednesday, May 31, 1988, passed a unanimous resolution condemning such actions: and

WHEREAS over 100,000 Canadians, and approximately 50,000 of these are Native Canadians, and value of the fur industry and Labrador Newfoundland complements their income;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Assembly go on record in supporting the unanimous voice of the House of Commons; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our Assembly advise the oF our Britain of Government of objections.

SOME HON, MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

<u>Answers to Questions</u> . for which Notice has been Given

MR. R. AYLWARD: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon, the Minister of Forest Resources.

MR. R. AYLWARD:

Mr. Speaker, I have the answers to questions on the Order several One question is from the Paper. member for Menihek (Mr. Fenwick), which I believe was brought up during the Estimates debate, I would like to table that answer.

I also have answers to Question 78 on the Order Paper. I have two within staff political department, an executive assistant and a minister's secretary. Question 97 no the Order Paper: The vehicle in the department when I got there, in Forestry, was a We invited 1985 Chev Impala. tenders from eleven firms listed here alphabetically, starting with Beothuk Ford and going down as far Ford/Mercury. There Random 28 were three tenders received, Mr. Speaker: City Motors had no money Motors Nova Terra · bid; For Motors \$14,100; Hickman \$12,900, and that is the vehicle purchased by the order number as stated, Mr. Speaker.

some expense Also, there are sheets here, Mr. Speaker, for Question No. 10, I believe, on the Order Paper, concerning my travel during a certain time last Fall. There was one trip to Bishop's Falls for the annual live fox show of the Newfoundland Fox Breeders' Association, Mr. Speaker, one Friday and Saturday, the eleventh month, on the twenty eighth.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas): Order, please!

Private Members' Day

MR. SPEAKER:

No. 51

It is now 4 o'clock and it is Private Members' Day. I now call on the hon, the member for St. John's North.

The hon, the member for St. John's North.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. J. CARTER:

My resolution is a very short one, Mr. Speaker. It merely reads that the government should be commended for entering into the Sprung project.

In other words, the government is good and the Sprung project is good. I imagine the Opposition, because of their many statements in the past few months, will take the opposite tack, and will either say Sprung is bad or government is bad. They may spare Sprung but they may not spare the government. Well, that is their privilege. I intend, in the few minutes alotted to me, to try and make the case for the affirmative and I think I will succeed.

In the first place, I think should adopt a sense proportion. It is a fact that the Linerboard Mill of Stephenville. when the Conservative government of Frank Moores took over in 1972, was going down the tube and in order to save it, and to finish it and produce linerboard, something \$200 million had like spent. Then, in order to run it as a Linerboard Mill, something like \$50 million a year had to be put in as a subsidy. Then, since it did not work out, another \$100 million had to be spent to it into a newsprint transform mill.

I understand it does take in more money now than it spends, but I would suggest to members on both sides of the House that no matter how well the project is run, it can never even pay the interest on the interest of that \$500 plus million dollars which was spent on it.

I am not suggesting this money should not have been spent. The West Coast of this Province is prosperous because of the efforts of this government but at great, great cost.

To a somewhat lesser extent, in the City of Corner Brook the paper mill was rescued by an expenditure, not as large, but certainly exceeding \$100 million.

Now, in contrast to that, a very relatively small amount of money has been put at risk. It has not been an outright grant; it is not money down the tube. It is partially a guaranteed loan for which there is a facility which is certainly worth the amount of money put at risk and if you were to add the value of the research which has gone into creating such a project, one has to pick figures out of the air, I suppose, but there are certainly many tens of millions of dollars of value will be there when the project is completed.

By the way, we might as well put our cards on the table. This project is not yet complete. It is anything but complete. It is in the process of being constructed and being brought on stream. Some produce is being sold but it is nothing like full production.

This is a good day to start this debate because this is 8 June and our weather is anything but like 8 June. It is typical Newfoundland Spring weather. It is insincere, it is cold, it is not at all

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seasonable, and any farmer who is trying to put seed in the ground find himself extremely frustrated. I know I do.

The Sprung project attempts to control the variables. It is a controlled completely environment. They control amount of oxygen the plant gets of COots the amount metered. In fact, they provide something like double the amount of CO₂you find in a normal They control atmosphere. heat, they control the intensity of the light, the timing of the light, they control the humidity, levels, the Ph the nutrition level, the water level and, of course, they protect from the other variable, like wind, hale, sudden storms.

MR. BAKER: (Inaudible) bottled CO2?

MR. W. CARTER: provided by The CO₂ is burning of propane but the amount of CO_2 in the atmosphere ts monitored and my understanding is it is about double what we have in ordinary atmosphere.

It is not enough to affect people who are going in there. There is more CO2 in the hon. gentleman's lungs than there is in the OF the Sprung atmosphere greenhouse. I think it is quite safe.

MR. SIMMONS: We do not dispute (inaudible.)

MR. W. CARTER: Alright, this is okay. I am making my argument and I certainly appreciate comments. If anyone wants to get up and mislead the House, I will allow them to.

MR. SIMMONS: We agree with you on these basic arguments, but tell us about the marketing.

MR. W. CARTER: Let me come to that, gentleman from Fortune - Hermitage (Mr. Simmons), and while we are talking about controlling the variables, I think hon, gentlemen will agree it is very important to control the variables.

The Leader of the Opposition is doing his best to control the variables over there and he has some variables sitting down for the first time. He seems to be able to control the members' legs at least, if not any other part of their anatomy.

gentlemen know Obviously, hon. this product is pesticide and herbicide free. I am not against herbicides and pesticides, they can be overdone, and these particular products are absolutely free of pesticides herbicides. That is not something you can say for most ordinary vegetables which are field grown. does not require Savoury pesticides. It is too strong for insects to attack. But most field vegetables do have herbicide and pesticide residues within them or on them or near them or about them, and these have never seen or will not see any chemical like that. So this has to be a positive factor.

With all the anti-spray talk you get, I do not think a great deal of it is justified, but there do seem to be Fears in certain certainly quarters and should be absolutely products acceptable to the entire market. So that is the beginning of the marketing.

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The hon, gentlemen opposite suggest the marketing is a problem. The figures quoted are wrong. The figures on the Boston market are wrong. I am not going to get into a numbers game with hon, gentlemen. I suggest they check their sources. The numbers they have been giving are wrong.

Shortly after we ioined Confederation a great many articles started appearing in the Mainland press about Newfoundland. There were articles Time magazine. There articles in The Globe and Mail, National Geographic, and some other magazines as well. Some of these articles were right, but a lot of them were wrong. It was an interesting education for because we suddenly realized that possibly Time magazine could be wrong, The Globe and Mail could be wrong.

Well, The Sunday Express can be Just as an example: wrong too. They had something in about our pensions last week. Their figures are wrong, absolutely wrong, and hidden these are not figures. These are figures anyone can get. I suppose you have to pay appropriate fee. So I do not necessarily believe all that I I suyy read. suggest that hon. gentlemen, they start banding figures around, their sources.

The other thing about this facility worth thinking about is that, once it gets going, it will be continuous production. If vou have a tomato this morning, you can have another tomato tomorrow morning of the same quality. Maybe it will not be the same price. Prices do Fluctuate. Burt I would say this: If you can have continuous and reliable

reasonably sufficient, if not an abundant, supply of product, then the market prices must stabilize. It must. This is the way markets work. If you have a continuous, reliable, attractive supply of any product, then the market will stabilize. This is a basic law of economics.

Damaged product and also, by the way, the waste, the detritus of the used up plants, is available for local farmers, apparently. That is a plus.

The criticism has been leveled at this government that because of the investment and the exposure given to Sprung bу government, not enough is being done for farmers. I would like to suggest that these two arguments unrelated. They are unrelated. Certainly there is not enough being done for farmers, but I think this government would have been very foolish to have passed over such an opportunity to get a high tech facility like this.

While we are on the business of what is being done for farmers, I am happy to note there is a proposal in the works to make the licensing of farm trucks available for about ten dollars a year. done on is Prince Edward Island and I think it is done in Brunswick. Ι am not about Nova Scotia. It is time it was done for NewFoundland, and I am told that it is going to be done for Newfoundland, there is a plus.

There are a number of programs for farmers. There are not enough. I think farmers have a hard enough time with our weather without some of the other things which could be done for us. You do not have to argue with me or you do not have

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to debate with me to get me to agree with you that there is not enough being done for farmers. That need not form part of the debate. I will grant you that point right away.

But I do not suggest the Sprung facility is going to be harmful because one of the things we do need is a controlled environment to experiment with various types of climate, various types of soil and various conditions. I would hope, perhaps when the Sprung complex is fully developed, that some small corner of it may be able to be devoted entirely to experimental procedures.

One thing about land, Mark Twain observed, I think about 100 years ago, he said, 'They ain't making any more of it.' it would make a very interesting statistic to see just how many acres of prime farmland the Sprung Ontario Complex is equal to. In terms of production, I would suggest it is probably a couple of hundred acres of prime Ontario farmland in a prime season. So, you know, it is to think about. something value is far in excess of its immediate value as a producer of vegetables.

For instance, at the present time are something like 200 Full-time jobs. Now, these are 200 not 200 ten week jobs or twenty-week jobs. These are 200 full-time jobs and they are jobs that are interesting, rewarding, and pleasant. comfortable Apparently people are glad to work their and I do not think they have the kind of turn over one usually finds.

AN HON, MEMBER: How many?

MR. J. CARTER: Something like 200.

Now, some of these jobs, you will argue, are construction jobs. That is true. But remember this: is not Facility The When all the entire completed. facility is going, there will be something in the order of 200 permanent jobs. At the present time there is 200 jobs, something like 100 permanent and 100 construction, something These figures that. approximate. But when facility is finished, you will be looking at 200 plus jobs, permanent, comfortable, pleasant, well-paying, interesting, which do rewarding jobs exhibit the kind of turnover the usual 200 jobs facilities exhibit

MR. SIMMONS: Would the hon, member permit a question?

MR. J. CARTER: Yes, sure,

MR. SPEAKER (Parsons): The hon, the member for Fortune -Hermitage.

MR. SIMMONS: I thank the member for yielding for a moment. I am sure the member believes what he is saying, but on one specific, he is very misinformed. Does he realize that these pleasant jobs which are now in play in there are held by people who are not even provided with sensible outdoor Does he realize the conditions those people under which working in there right now?

MR. J. CARTER: No, I do not realize that because I happen to have visited the

facility as recently as yesterday and there are facilities. So the member's information is wrong.

MR. STMMONS:

Quite recently, in that case.

MR. J. CARTER:

Well, the member's information is wrong. It is just wrong. I was there yesterday. I had a good look at the place yesterday because I did not want to come unprepared for this debate. So I had a good thorough look at the facility yesterday and the facility I would say is -

AN HON. MEMBER:

I cannot get in.

MR. J. CARTER:

I am sure the hon. gentleman look, there are photographs on the walls of the leader of the Opposition (Mr. Wells), of the leader of something or other down in the corner, he is there.

MR. CALLAN:

Is that the washroom walls?

MR. J. CARTER:

Well, they should be on the washroom walls. It would be more appropriate. Anyway, thev front and centre and they are very good photographs. They are quite large photographs and you can see the interest and how completely members opposite hon. absorbed in what they are seeing. They are very, very impressed. The look of wonderment and the impression is written all over their faces.

This is not like Shaheen's operation. I visited Shaheen's operation and you could this was a scam from the word go. But this Sprung operation shows very, very careful management, very, very

what we call tender loving care. There is nothing out of place. There are no crash heaps there like there were at Come by Chance.

Just to recite some of the facilities that we have seen come and go in Newfoundland since Confederation, I cannot help but think of the rubber plant, the hockey stick plant, the chocolate plant, the orange juice proposal by Doyle, and the Bell Island contract that was supposedly on the Premier's desk.

I will compliment the Leader of the Opposition. He was one of the few who were so disgusted by the Shaheenery that was going on he did at least partially cross the floor. It was not a full cross, It was sort of a half cross, If he had shown true courage, I think he would have come all the way across and strengthened the party that needed strengthening at the time and done some good. But as it was, it was a mere token cross. a token protest and it did not achieve what the hon, gentleman probably wanted to achieve, which was the bringing down of the Smallwood government.

I think it was a very praiseworthy, very worthwhile attempt, but he did not go far enough. He lacked stamina, shall we say. I remember the incident quite well, and I thought very highly of him at the time and I am sorry that he did not fulfill what was, in my view, a great promise.

One of the big values of this, and I will get into it when I have a chance to speak again when I wind up my remarks, is that this facility can use in full production about twenty to twenty-two megawatts of power.

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We cannot bring power down to the Island from Upper Churchill, Lower lowest Churchill, even or Churchill, the Muskrat Falls, the lowest Churchill. I think economics of the situation the that the power line or the Island i s intertie to like \$2 billion. something amount of electricity you have to bring to make this commercially feasible or to make it pay would be a minimum of about 800 to 1,000 megawatts.

To bring 1,000 megawatts all of a sudden to this Island, which only uses about 1,600 and again, these are approximations so I do not want to get into it, that is about 1,600 megawatts, so if you were to bring in an extra 1,000, what would you do with them? You could not use them.

We must find and should find and should welcome industry efficiently, complexes that sensibly and wisely use large blocks of power. I think if this thing works out, what I would call Twenty-first Century facility, I think you will see or you may see or I would hope you many more such would see facilities. Now, not necessarily exactly like it, because I think they would have to be varied slightly, but this type of facility, I think, is the way of the future.

This is the way the world is going to have feed itself by using a high tech, controlled environment, and this is the way οſ future. You may not like it. may want to stick in the past, and there are, perhaps, some disadvantages, but I think, on the whole, this is well worthwhile. I certainly congratulate government for sticking their necks out and going ahead with it.

I would be very interested to listen to the comments of members opposite.

MR. EFFORD: Sit down then.

MR. J. CARTER: I am about to sit down. Do not get be in a hurry. As I have accepted interruptions, I hope that hon, gentlemen opposite will also accept legitimate, helpful interruptions.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. J. CARTER: Good. I will be very interested in what hon, gentlemen have to say.

SOME HON, MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. FUREY: Mr. Speaker.

MR, SPEAKER: The hon, the member for St. Barbe.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. FUREY: Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to note that the whole hydroponic complex which is now considered a very large Newfie joke, right across this Province 😁 anyone who attended dinner today witnessed also it has now become a Royal ioke.

Mr. Speaker, the hon, member must have been up all night thinking that particular about because it is very much like a hydroponic cucumber. It is worth about thirty cents, and, in all likelihood, will end up in the

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dump, like that particular speech.

The member did not deal, Mr. Speaker, with any single part of this particular issue and legitimate questions raised hon, members in both parties on this side of the House. It is a significant amount of money being asked from the public treasury.

I congratulate the hon, member, Mr. Speaker, on getting beyond 'No comment.' I sincerely congratulate him for getting beyond those two words, because none of the Cabinet seems to be able to get past 'no comment' on that particular side of the House.

Perhaps I will. send recommendation to the Premier to invite the hon, member into the Cabinet, perhaps as Minister of Agriculture, and he will sincerely deal with some of the legitimate questions posed by hon, members on this side of the House.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution itself is pretty straightforward. It asks us to commend the government on this high tech. state-of-the-art investment. Well, Mr. Speaker, we commend the government.

that the government commended, perhaps they will tell us about the cost and deal with the real issues. We compliment government on this new, innovative concept, but genuinely, sincerely question the cost, the amount of taxpayers' dollars taken in through general revenues and spent on a hydroponic complex of this magnitude in Mount Pearl.

One would always think that you

experiment in a small way first to see if something can work and then gradually grow. You do not touch the bottom of a pond, Mr. Speaker, just by saying, 'I am going to dive in a bouch the bottom.' You have to know what the distance is to the bottom and what you are getting into.

Just as an aside, Mr. Speaker: heard the hon, member, a farmer in his own right and a good farmer, say all was well in agriculture in this Province. It could not be any better. He painted a rosy picture.

I am really surprised that the hon, member would stand there and say that things are really good -

MR. J. CARTER:

A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. J. CARTER:

I have to ask the hon, member: Was he here when I was speaking? I did not suggest for one minute 🐇

MR. EFFORD:

It is a question, Mr. Speaker.

MR. J. CARTER:

No, Mr. Speaker, it is a point of order, because something has been said that I did not say. Something has been laid at my door that was not even on my street. I think it is an hon. gentleman's right, privilege and requirement to get up and set the record straight.

AN HON. MEMBER:

No, it is not.

MR. J. CARTER:

Well, Speakers in the past have

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certainly allowed it, and T suggest that I did not say and did not suggest for one minute that everything was as well as it be in agriculture. Referring to my notes right here in front of me, there is not enough done for farmers.

MR, FUREY: Order, Mr. Speaker. He is taking my time.

MR, J. CARTER: I said that. It is part of the record. The tapes will show it. Now, I suggest the hon, gentleman correct his statement.

MR. SPEAKER (Parsons): It was a point of clarification and I consider it a point of When the Clair deems order. necessary, I will say if it is a point of order. It is not for some members to shout out it is no point of order. The Chair takes the responsibility of saying if it is or if it is not a point of order. I consider that a point of again, as a order but. clarification.

The hon, the member for St. Barbe.

MR. FUREY: Mr. Speaker, I commend you on such decisive, wise action. What I heard the hon, member say then was that I said he said all was well in the agricultural sector. He rose in his place to correct me, and I thank him for doing that. He said all is not well in the agricultural sector. I quite agree with him, Mr. Speaker, all is not well in the agricultural sector and part of the blame lies? right at his doorstep, right at government's doorstep.

Do you know, Mr. Speaker, that this is the only Province in the entire country, from coast to coast, without an agricultural agreement for its farmers? The the entire only Province in country without an agricultural agreement. Yes, all is not well for farmers. Mr. Speaker, let me just paraphase here a letter the President of the Newfoundland Federation of Agriculture wrote to the Minister of Agriculture in Ottawa, copied the provincial minister and other members, and made public: He said, two years ago we were told your department insisted that our agricultural agreement should be signed under the IRDA. Just days ago, I was told by both our provincial minister, Mr. Power, and Mr. Bill Goulding of the office of the Hon. John Crosbie, that we have an outline for an agreement where funding levels have been agreed upon, and that the source of funds have still not been identified. May we be so bold as to suggest that the source of funding is the tax dollars of the people of Canada? Any departure from this basic truth is just obstacles created by government and a question of semantics.

Mr. Speaker, he went on: "We have seen the agreement outlined with the proposed funding regime and our reaction is included in this letter. An agreement without a capital assistance program to address basis development needs will do little to further agricultural development in this Province, and the \$5 million that you will commit is ridiculous, to say the least. Yes, Mr. Speaker, all is not well for our traditional Farmers in Province, but think how much better it would be had some of that \$15 million in cash, loans, guarantees, and equity diverted to the traditional farmer

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in this Province. Mr. Speaker, just think about that.

Mr. Speaker, I said that we do not quarrel with the concept of the hydroponic facility. We quarrel with the magnitude, size costs, we quarrel that it has gone way out of control, and we say, Mr. Speaker, that as a result of that it can only be seen as a madcap scheme. What do I say as the member for St. Barbe to senior citizens who look me straight in the face and say, "Why did the government take away that small subsidy that runs the ferry between Bonne Bay and Point? Why do I have to drive nearly two hours to get to a physician, a doctor, a pharmacy? Why was that substdy taken away? What do I say to them when they ask me why they are spending \$15 million growing cucumbers?

Mr. Speaker, last year the inshore fishery was in a crisis. What do I say to inshore fisherman, and what does the Minister of Finance say to him who made \$5000 toughing it out at 5 o'clock in the in his boat, when you morning, have a cucumber flasco and a cucumber caper in your backyard?

MR. WINDSOR: (Inaudible).

MR. FUREY:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister Finance is embarrassed about that white elephant that glows in the dark, and that is why he shouting.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. FUREY:

Mr. Speaker, he is embarrassed by his own member's resolution, and he wishes he could haul it off the

Order Paper, and the member for St. John's North wis biting his nails, hoping they will not grow hydroponic savory the next time round in that big tent in Mount Pearl.

Mr. Speaker, what is the Liberal position? Where are we coming from on this hydroponic facility? Here is what we say: We ask the government for a complete thorough study of the Sprung greenhouse project. We are asking it before any legislative approval for given government involvement and before any more public funds are committed. that too much to ask? saying, put the brakes on. Let us study where the \$15 million has gone to date and let us study whether it needs more money.

Speaker, I would love to see the Minister of Finance come up and go in the woods with me this year, as I did last year, and talk to fifty loggers who cannot get subsidies on their gasoline and who have to pay high taxes in this Province for capital equipment. I would love for him to come up and give a sermon on cucumbers in the woods of Hawks Bay. Let him come up and do it, Mr. Speaker. Money is money. How it is spent, Mr. Minister, is what ₩e questioning. Not apples. not oranges, money is money. Are you spending it correctly?

AN HON. MEMBER: How much subsidies -

MR. FUREY:

It is quite one thing to dress up as a cucumber and go to a masquerade ball, but it is quite another to spend \$15 million of taxpayer's monies. Mr. Speaker, we are saying that projections by this government on both financing

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and production have proven to be grossly inaccurate.

They say one thing, then we get into an investigation, we talk to economists, we deal in the true it is figures, and we find opposite. For absolutely = the example, Mr. Speaker, the original estimate of the total government investment in financial project was \$11.4 million. Now we risen i t has out \$15,075,000 and it may even go higher. Mr. Speaker, we are told that even if the \$825,000 Sprung environment space enclosure loan guaranteed by this government is repaid without any loss, the total financial involvement government further, escalate yet: The Minister \$14.2 million. Finance and other ministers stood in their places -

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

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. FUREY!

A point of order, Mr. Speaker, or a point of clarification?

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order.

MR. J. CARTER: A point of order, at this time, Mr. Speaker.

The hon. gentleman is misleading the House. Now, he is not doing it deliberately, I am sure he is not, because I do not think he understands the difference.

Now I said quite clearly, and I think every reasonable person will -- accept, that the Facility out there when completed — and even

incomplete as it is now - will be worth far more than the government's exposure on it; far more, many times, several times the total of the government's exposure. So to suggest that we are pouring money down the sink is misleading this House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. TULK: To the point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: To the point of order, the hon. the member for Fogo.

MR. TULK: Mr. Speaker, that is the second so-called point of order the hon. gentleman has risen on in this House this evening. I would draw Honour's attention Beauchesne, Sections 233, 234, and so on. A point of order is not hon. for the opportunity gentleman to stand up and try to deny the truth of what a person is saying or to deny, in fact, any allegation that is not personal, that has to do with information the hon. member -

MR. J. CARTER: What sections?

MR. TULK: 233, 234.

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- that the hon. gentleman is getting on with. Section 233 will show Your Honour that a point of order has to do with departure from anything that is carried in the Standing Orders, any rule of procedure. A rule of procedure. Not an opportunity for the hon. gentleman to get up and foist his beliefs or opinions on another member of this House, or to get up and ask him a question. That is

not correct. It is not a point of order, and anybody who knows anything about the rules of this House knows that it is not a point of order and, therefore, the hongentleman should be brought to attention for raising spurious points of order rather than rising on what are points of order.

SOME HON, MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. FUREY:

Mr. Speaker, are you going to rule on it?

MR. SPEAKER:

Yes, I am going to rule on it.

Since this hon, member has sat in this Chair, I have heard numerous points of order. I do not think it should be defined right down the centre. You have to let people have a bit of leeway, on both sides, one on the other. was reading along and it says here, 'Interpretation to be put upon the rules of procedure.' far as the Chair is concerned, the Chair will accept these points of order. I will be mindful of the situation, but I will accept the points of order.

There is no point of order, there was just a difference of opinion between two hon. gentlemen.

The hon, the member for St. Barbe.

MR. FUREY:

I am amazed, Mr. Speaker. A project that this government was so proud of three months ago, beating their chests in every possible way; the Premier running around with cucumbers growing out of his hand, for a government that was so proud of it, Mr. Speaker, they are pretty sensitive today. No comment! No comment! Heckle,

heckle, heckle! They are pretty sensitive, Mr. Speaker, especially the hon. the member for Mount Pearl, who has that white, flaming tent in his backyard.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what is the truth of the matter? Well, if we want to get to the bottom of it and deal with the truth, why would the government be afraid of a completely open, fully accessible enquiry where all the cards are • put on the table, where Mr. Sprung called before a select government committee, where all studies, marketing plans, analysis, where all φf that, internal documents notwithstanding, are laid upon the table? Surely we would arrive at the truth then, if a select committee did a full and comprehensive investigation into

Mr. Speaker, we called for a judicial enquiry, it became so out of control a number of months ago. Now, hon, members brushed that off, brushed it aside and said, 'No way!' Well, if they are not going to do that, why not a select committee of the House, much along the lines of the Public Accounts Committee, 1:0 indepth and in detail where the money is going. We are simply saying the matter ought to be thoroughly assessed and feasibility study produced before House of Assembly can be asked to approve guarantees which have already gone into action, and any more this company make seek.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what did the Premier say? Hon. members will be interested in this. The Premier wrote a book, that great author from Green Bay, called **The Past In The Present**. Here is what he said, and I quote — and he is

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right - "Industry after industry was attracted to Newfoundland to absorb subsidies and public funds, and ultimately to fail. It was as if by some magic the normal laws of economics could be reversed and totally inappropriate industries would be able to flourish here."

MR. DINN: Quote Joey,

MR. FUREY: That is the end of the quote. The Minister of Mines says, 'Quote Joey'. Is the Minister of Mines embarrassed by his Premier's book?

MR. DINN: Not a bit.

MR. FUREY: I am not embarrassed by it. That statement is absolutely correct. Now, parallel that statement with the Sprung space enclosure Mount Pearl. Industry after industry was attracted to absorb subsidies, \$15 million by our in calculations, Mr. Speaker, cash, loans, grants, equity, you add it all up. It was as if by some magic you could wave a wand and not only could cucumbers be grown, but they could be sold. Nobody questions, Mr. Speaker, not even the Minister of Finance, that hydroponic MHA from Mount Pearl, that you can grow cucumbers and lettuce and tomatoes and all those kinds of things, but at what what cost to At: cost? taxpayers out there does it take to grow these things, to transport these things, to market these things, and to break even on these That is the real issue, things? Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, let me show you, by our calculations, what we have arrived at. I should do this in terms of just one basic cucumber.

If we take the daily cost of salaries for this project, you will see that, as near as we can calculate, it costs \$8400 every working day for salaries; for electricity you will Find \$4400, to keep it operating electrically; if you add the interest to the \$15 million at 10.5 per cent, it is \$4300 to carry that; the cost of lights, \$2,000; seeds, plants and nutriants, \$1750; miscellaneous production and packaging expenses, notwithstanding those packaged which arrived at dumps, \$1300; and administrative costs, \$2,000. So the total daily operating cost, as near as we can calculate, is \$24,150.

Now, Mr. Speaker, to use the Premier's own figures — they claim they can get a yearly yield of 7 million pounds - you add \$19,000 to that, cover over and above heating per cucumber per pound, you will find is \$1.27. Now, if you take the heat cost, from their internal study that was made public by Ross Traverse, factor that in at \$3,380,000 per year, that is \$9,750 per day. So the heating cost per cucumber is fifty-one cents a day. Add the basic cost per cucumber of \$1.27 as near as we can calculate, based on the government's own figures and add to it fifty-one cents per cucumber for heating costs, and now your cucumber costs you \$1.78.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that all gives rise to this question: If it costs \$1.78, as near as we can calculate, or even if you go by the government's own figures, that the break-even point is \$1.09 per cucumber, how can we break even or make a profit when this becoming a government treasury sinkhole, when the domestic price of cucumbers in the Newfoundland market is seventy-nine cents a

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pound, the domestic price of a cucumber wholesale Nova in the Scotia market is forty-seven cents a pound, and, the worst news yet, the domestic price of that same cucumber in the American market, found in Boston on their shelves wholesale price, was third:y cents Canadian?

Mr. Speaker, how does the member for Bellevue and all members in this House, and all. taxpavers everywhere, like subsidizing Newfoundland product, grown NewFoundland and transported 七〇 American market? Thev are subsidizing American consumers. That is what that says. They are subsidizing American consumers.

Now, Mr. Speaker, early in the game we talked about and asked the Premier, and the Premier made public comments and on radio television saying: "We have the We have the market studies. We have the feasibility studies. We have everything prove that this is a sensible, sound, economic investment." when the time came to put cards on the table, he said, "it is under patent. We cannot tell you, boy. Everything is under patent. Everything is patented."

Imagine hiding behind such a silly rule. He did not even understand the patent rules, Mr. Speaker, and he made an absolute mockery and laughingstock of himself by hiding behind that principle. Everybody knows that anything patent pending can be opened for full view anyway, anybody who has dealt in patents.

What did the hon. Minister Agriculture say, Mr. Speaker. said in The Evening Telegram of 3, February 1988 _ listen carefully to what the current

Minister of Agriculture said "The government did not have time to get into a feasibility study which would be all-encompassing, which would take into account every aspect of the business itself, like how much production and where it would be sold." "We have the the Premier says: studies. We are not going to show them yet, they are under patent." The Minister of Agriculture says: "We did not do the studies. cannot show you what we do not have."

AN HON. MEMBER:

We did not have time to do them.

MR. FUREY:

We did not have time to do them. so they were not done. We did not do a feasibility study which would all-encompassing, taking into account every aspect of business itself. like how much we can produce, and where we can sell it. His words, Mr. Speaker, no other member in this House. is a direct contradiction between current Minister Agriculture's words and the Premier's words. Somebody is not coming clean.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that no proper feasibility study was ever done on this project. Expenditure government Funds cannot possibly be approved bу legislature in all good conscience without having some basis judging whether or not proposal has a reasonable chance to be financially successfully.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon, member's time has elapsed.

MR. FUREY:

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, if you can quiet the talking cucumber from Bellevue who is on his way

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out after the next election, let me say this:

AN HON. MEMBER:
He will be back long before you will.

MR. DINN:

- the onus is on every member in this House to ensure that public money is being spent properly. The only way to do that, Mr. Speaker, is to have a select committee of this House study this entire project from beginning to end to see what kind of madness this government has us involved in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BARRETT: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon, the Minister of
Development and Tourism.

MR. BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there are not very many times that you would like for television cameras or the radio or the media to be present in the House of Assembly, but I think this is one of those days when it would be worthy of the intelligence of the people of our Province to just hear the ramblings and the ravings and the supposed learned knowledge and logic of the members in the Opposition on this particular subject.

This subject is a rather special one for Newfoundland. It is a very important subject, Mr. Speaker, one, I think, the principle of which hangs the entire balance —

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

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

A point of order, the hon, the member for Fogo.

MR. TULK:

It is a point of procedure, I would say to Your Honour. I understand the hon. gentleman, as part of the procedure of this debate, wants to bring in the television cameras. Let me say to him, as far as we are concerned bring them in. We would love that.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

There is no point of order.

The hon, the Minister of Development and Tourism.

MR. BARRETT:

Mr. Speaker, the whole principle of this idea of science and technology, research and development initiatives not being able to be carried out in this Province is the kind of intelligence that one would not expect to come from people with any degree of common sense or concern about the future of the country. The whole history of our Province has been because of a lack — a lack — of attention to that very important issue.

I would like to commend the comment of my colleague, that technology is not geographic specific. One of the problems we have had is relying totally, 100 per cent, on the technological advancement of others, and then, after the fact, trying to employ that technology at added cost, added inconvenience, into our

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existing resource based infrastructure. There is absolutely no rationale for that kind of thinking.

Newfoundland has within its jurisdiction extremely an knowledgeable academic community, extremely knowledgeable business, engineering, scientific community. They now the tools with which 10 In addition to the brain power, there has been around us now the development of a number of centers of excellence which will allow an awful lot of technology to be worked upon, to be developed to make meaningful for industry in Province, not the least of which is the Sprung project, one of the most advanced technologies in the world today, to grow vegetables in environment which does allow and does not promote need not any kind disinfectants, any kind of sprays, absolutely toxic free, a totally controlled environment which produces the most perfect, the absolutely most perfect vegetable or product that can be consumed by the human being; totally controlled, an entirely neu technology, and for somebody to say or to believe, politically or otherwise, that this should not or could not happen in our Province. I think is totally irresponsible. For a new product development to have to go through the microscopic analysis that is being suggested by certain members opposite is totally unrealistic and unacceptable.

How can a person, or a group of people, or a business, or an inventor subject himself to that kind of public scrutiny? To make all of this information available to whoever wants to use it,

ignoring the fact that there is certain things of confidentiality in any project, and to want to expose all of that throught judicial enquiries, special enquiries, is just the smoke and mirror politics which are being played on a very, very important subject.

principle of what ИG debating here is not Sprung. The principle of what we are debating is the value technology to this Province. That is what we are debating, And that is the problem Speaker. with the debate that is going on here, a total ignorance of that the development of technology in this Province must allowed to proceed. unencumbered v cl small-mindedness of some of those people opposite.

hope it is not shared by everybody, and I hope you will find that when some of these speakers get up they recognize that this is something that we cannot allow to be done elsewhere. You do not have to be within fifty miles of Toronto to be involved in high technology. Some of the mos t advanced technology in this country today exists here in this Province, but for some reason, obviously political, certainly without rationale, a focus has directed on one specific project. And who is going to be the loser in this? It is going to be the entire scientific community of this Province, the entire academic system in this Province that is located in our Memorial University, here and in Corner Brook, at our community colleges, at our technical colleges, at our Fisheries Institute, who have to that this kind assume of

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political environment. this environment, might one day be in power in this Province. That is what we have to contend with. That is the message, Mr. Speaker, which has to get out far and wide in this Province. That is exactly what has got to happen. To allow w:i.t:h that krimd of anybody mentality to aspire t.o the leadership of this Province, and I am not speaking of the individual, I am talking about the Party here, to allow that to happen will put this Province back another 400 years. That is what it will do.

We have developed, as a result of government support, call i, t. subsidy, call it grant, call whatever you want, direct cash support to all kinds of new high ાં. n technology initiatives Some of them have been Province. successful, but NON have to science and that realize Learning ાનું ક a technology It does not always experience. produce 100 per cent viability as a result of the specific project in which you are investing, but it does have the ability to grow and to develop other technologies as as result of the initiative that allowed to progress. you have That is what happens, Mr. Speaker.

emerqe in this seen Мe have this community of ours, in Province, a capability that is second to none in satellite here in imagery analysis. Newfoundland. Why? Because the government has seen fit to pour several millions of dollars into and that technology that demand which is in capability today all over the world.

or four system, Selling one systems will not in itself in one calendar year, in one fiscal period, repay the cost of that

But the scientists minitiative. who have been attracted to this scientists - who project, of Newfoundlanders out university systems and out of our technical schools, who have come back to NewFoundland because the opportunities these kinds of things present to them, that has allowed them not just to deal with this subject but to also explore the horizon other fields; over radar systems, systems that can track things beyond the horizon, following the curvature of the earth. Never before done anywhere This Province has in the world! people working today on this very leading edge of technology, people from all over the world are coming here to try to become a It is an exciting part of it. thing. It is the future of this Province.

of dollars millions The has into put government make no excuses project I will for, because I know there are of literally hundreds Newfoundlanders who are working on that and, because they were given the opportunity to work on that, are doing other things in this Province of a scientific nature.

Woe be to the government that in the future ever turns its back on technology, ever criticizes new ridicules - not just and critical, not just be positively critical about a subject, but to ridicule it and the people who try That is the to make it work. tragedy of it all, Mr. Speaker. We see this emerging from a group of people who want to aspire to be the government of this Province. Can we ever see it? Not if the people of Newfoundland could hear the kind of logic that is being employed in this debate. totally, almost Absolutely,

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imbecilical! To subject these kinds of projects to a microscopic business analysis, which is trying to be portrayed to be the way that you would do it in any scientific adventure, is totally irresponsible. It is never done anywhere in the world, and all of a sudden a few Liberals on the other side of the House, in St. John's, Newfoundland, say, have to do it here, guys, because we do not like that project.' Talk to your confreres in Ottawa have led the way in of acknowledgement scientific achievements in this Province and in this country, aware that they have to be there. But for some reason there is a mind-set, there are blinkers, there are blinders, there are a lot of things that are not evident in this Opposition in this House here today.

Mr. Speaker, we have developed, with government help, systems which are nowhere near to reaching a viable state, but yet are highly technical, in demand, being sold throughout the world. We opened a a few months ago, facility manufacturing hydroballs, and I said to the people at the opening, 'You know, you are lucky you developed a product which is round and yellow. If you had developed a product which was elongated and green, you would have the whole force of the Liberal Opposition against this project.'

MR. PATTERSON:

That is where the yellow went!

MR. BARRETT:

It is a matter of colour and shape that has these people intrigued; it has nothing to do with the scientific capability that has developed the product and is going to lead it to other places.

MR. PATTERSON:

They do not like the length of the cucumber.

MR. BARRETT:

They do not like that.

And we did an analysis of that project, and yesterday they sold the first orders in the United States of America. The most highly technically advanced community in this world today, and they sold the first of these into the American market place.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if I had to make an analysis that that company had to achieve sales in its first twelve months of operation to justify not only what the private sector made in the investment but what government also invested. they would never have done that. They would never have built the first prototype, let alone gone into commerical production in a facility here in Newfoundland, developing and producing now from a technology that germanated here scientific community in in the this Province.

Speaker, what do our young people have to look forward to with that kind of mentality in the Province? What are we telling our high school students now who are trying to think about pursuing careers in research, in biology, in any of the general science programs - in engineering, medicine? How can you put a dollar bill on the scientific investment we are doing with the University's Medical School? we ask them, Mr. Speaker, to show balance sheet, that amount of money we are giving that University for that research has to return a yield at the end of the year to substantiate investment? Absolute rubbish!

L2798 June 8, 1988

Absolutely rubbish!

I cannot say often enough, Mr. Speaker, that I only hope the words which have been mouthed by some of the Opposition are not the policy of the party. Woe be tied us, if they are. Absolutely!

Speaker, I would like to adjourn the debate.

MR. SPEAKER: The debate has been adjourned hon. the Minister Development and Tourism.

MR. RUSSELL: Mr. Speaker, we have agreed to adjourn the House at five o'clock today.

Health had to The Minister of leave. He asked me if I would make a motion that the House adjourn until tomorrow at two o'clock.

MR. STMMONS: The House is now adjourned.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

The House is now adjourned. It will reopen at 2:00 p.m. tomorrow.

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Answers to Questions tabled

June 8, 1988

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DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

Toolled by Hon min of Frest Resources & Lands & grave, 1988

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS 1988-04-18 - MR. FENWICK

- 1. An Employment Equity Coordinator has been assigned to promote the hiring of handicapped persons in the Department. Mr. Robert Chafe, Director of Administration, will be working closely with the Employment Equity Officer soon to be appointed in the Public Service Commission, to obtain assistance in developing the Department's plan.
- 2.& 3. No specific funds have been allocated in the Department per se, but the Public Service Commission has been provided with funding in the Current Estimates to initiate a programme to place handicapped persons throughout the Public Service.
- 4. The Department does not have any other programmes specifically designed to help the handicapped but over the years has employed persons, who may be described as handicapped, through the normal hiring process.

Front Leaves & Lands

Answers to Questions from the House:

- 78. (a) Two (2) persons excluding the Minister.
 - (b) These two (2) persons were transferred by an Order-In-Council.
 - (c) Executive Assistant to the Minister:

Salary Scale - \$33,777 - \$41,056

Secretary to the Minister:

Salary Scale - \$22,422 - \$31,390

- There is no formal job description available for Executive Assistants. Copy of job description for Secretary to Minister attached.
- (e) No
- 97, (a) The vehicle, a 1985 Chevrolet Impala, was purchased by the Department.

Invitations to tender were sent to eleven firms:

- 1. Beothuk Ford
- 2. City Motors
- 3. Decker Motors
- 4. Elm Mercury
- 5. Ted French Ltd.
- 6. Hickman Motors Ltd.
- 7. Regatta Ford
- 8. Riverview Chev/Olds Ltd.
- 9. Terra Nova Motors Ltd.
- 10. Tom Woodford Ltd.
- 11. Random Ford/Mercury
- (b) Three tenders were received by Government Purchasing Agency:

 - City Motors No Money bid
 Terra Nova Motors bid \$14,100.00
 - 3. Hickman Motors bid \$12,930.25

Purchase Order #10885-0 was issued to Hickman Motors on April 25, 1985, for the amount of their bid plus tax.

PROVINCE OF NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

Position Description

POSITION: Private Secretary to Minister

INCUMBENT: Vida R. Miller

DEPARTMENT: Forest Resources and Lands

DIVISION: Minister's Office

LOCATION: 6th Floor, Atlantic Place, St. John's

DATE: September 27th, 1985

GENERAL ACCOUNTABILITY

This position is responsible for the administering and performing of all secretarial duties of the Minister's Office of a departmental nature, in an effective and efficient manner, in order to provide a smooth continuity of work flow.

STRUCTURE

This position is one of 4 support staff, 3 of whom report directly to the Minister.

Other support staff are:

Executive Assistant

Personal Secretary to Minister (personal and constituency duties)

Clerk-Typist (reporting directly to Personal Secretary)

There are no subordinates reporting to this particular position.

NATURE AND SCOPE

The incumbent performs secretarial duties (from simple to complex); facilitates private, confidential and general duties and details, through liaison, coordination and communication with departmental staff, other government departments, private industry and the general public, on behalf of or on direction from the Minister.

Acts independently in approaching staff officials, when necessary, for example, when a member of the general public calls to express concerns regarding Crown land application, or concerns regarding some department project, these concerns are noted, directed to appropriate staff person for investigation and report for Minister.

Drafts letters for Minister's signature.

Attends all incoming mail to Minister's Office, logs and directs mail to Minister or appropriate staff officials. When Minister is absent for a considerable length of time, correspondence of a controversial or special nature is acknowledged and held for his return, routine correspondence is routed for draft replies by appropriate staff.

All intra-departmental correspondence for Minister's information or attention is routed through this office. Correspondence requiring Minister's signature is proofread, and when necessary returned to sender for necessary changes.

As a Commissioner for Oaths, the incumbent witnesses Minister's signature to permits, Deeds, Leases, Grants, etc., which are processed in fairly large numbers, due to the nature of the Department.

Responsible for all aspects of travel arrangements; setting up meetings; compiling agendas, itineraries, etc., sometimes in coordination with department staff, other government departments and Cabinet Committees.

Responsible for all confidential papers, e.g., Cabinet Papers, Resource Policy Papers, Social Policy Papers, Treasury Board Papers; filling Agendas for Cabinet Meetings, Resource Policy Meetings, Rural Development Authority Meetings.

Directs staff, on occasion, on Minister's orders.

The incumbent has signing authority to order and purchase supplies for Minister's Office, including price selection, selection source, feasibility, and arranging for installation. As well, keeps a petty cash float.

A good percentage of time is spent in receiving and making phone calls, e.g., making travel arrangements, listening to caller problems, passing along information.

Maintains a filing system.

Attends Ministers' Meetings when necessary.

Makes recommendations to Minister on a variety of matters which impact on the Minister's Office. One simple example, recommended extra secretarial help for senior staff office during vacation period when secretary was extremely busy.

DIMENSIONS

Specific day to day duties are difficult to measure in terms of figures or amounts. The dimensions of this position are the sum total of responsibilities, accountabilities and efforts expended to achieve statement of General Accountability.

SPECIFIC ACCOUNTABILITIES

Ensures that the functions of the Minister's Office are performed efficiently and smoothly on a daily basis.

Performs duties often under pressure of time restraints.

Ensures matters are resolved with the maximum efficiency in the least possible time.

The Minister deals with many matters of a confidential nature on a frequent basis. The Minister has authorized the incumbent to deal with these confidential matters.

APPROVED BY:		
INCUMBENT: Plida 7/	eller DATE:	85-10-04
MINISTER: Len Sum	mil DATE:	4/10/85
DEPUTY MINISTER:	DATE:	85-10-04

SECRETARY TO MINISTER

DEFINITION OF WORK

This is secretarial work of an administrative nature involving responsibility for facilitating general ministerial duties and details for a minister.

Employees of this class serve as secretaries to ministers, performing responsible and complex secretarial work in carrying out important delegated detail duties involving general ministerial responsibilities. Duties require the confidential processing of correspondence and other work details, and sensitivity to the nature of the minister's position. Incumbents must use independent judgement in resolving varied problems which do not involve major deviation from established policy or procedure. Responsibility for the conduct of varied public contacts is a major component of the job. The evaluation of work results is made through discussions with the superior.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK

As secretary to a minister, takes and transcribes dictation and prepares correspondence, memoranda, and similar papers.

Prepares correspondence for superior's signature.

Conducts correspondence and answers inquiries from constituents and other members of the public, adjusting complaints or supplying information explaining government policies and departmental procedures; receives, interviews, and directs office visitors; interprets regulations according to defined standards, and applies rules to a variety of work situations.

Acts as a secretarial intermediary for the superior, maintaining frequent contacts for the minister with public and private officials, professional

persons, and members of the public.

Makes appointments and arranges minister's schedule; determines suitable times for meetings; completes travel arrangements.

Performs related work as required.

DESIRABLE EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING

Extensive secretarial experience of a progressively responsible nature; graduation from high school including or supplemented by courses in business practices including stenography and typewriting; or any equivalent combination of experience and training.

04-83 (Revised)

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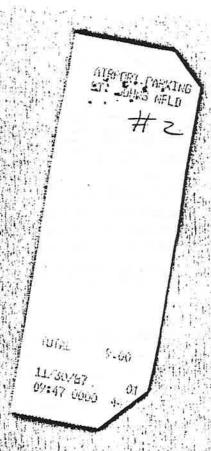
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Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

PRIVATE VEHICLE USAGE REPORT

(to be attached to travelling claim)

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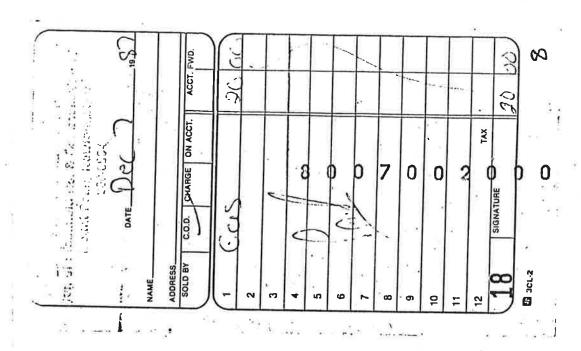
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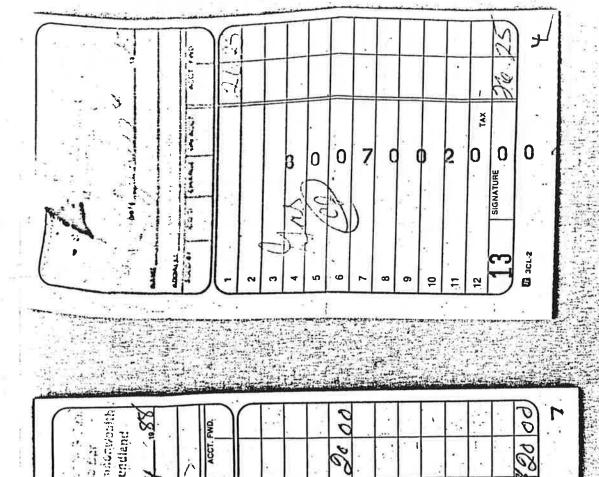
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