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Speaker: Honourable P.J. McNicholas

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The House met at 3:00 p.m.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):
Order, please!

The hon. the Leader of the
Opposition.

MR. WELLS:
Before we get down to routine
business, I just rise briefly to
express a special word of welcome
to a new member sitting in the
House today. Needless to say it
gives me great pleasure to welcome
to this side of the House the new
member for Waterford - Kenmount
(Mr. Gullage). That gentleman has
established a fine record for
himself already in the field of
public service, and I have no
doubt that he will contribute
greatly to future discussions in
this House and to matters that
concern this Province as a whole.

I would ask all hon. members to
join in extending a very warm
welcome to the new member for
Waterford - Kenmount.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:
Mr. Speaker, we join with the
Leader of the Opposition (Mr.
Wells) in welcoming the new member
for Waterford - Kenmount. We
would just note that we think the
hon. member is going to have a
difficult time being the member
for Waterford - Kenmount and
trying to represent both the city
of St. John's and the city of
Mount Pearl all at the same time.

AN HON. MEMBER:
He is already straddling the fence.

MR. FENWICK:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. FENWICK:
Mr. Speaker, we would also like to
join with the Leader of the
Liberal Party and the Leader of
the Progressive Conservative Party
in welcoming the new member for
Waterford - Kenmount, and to tell
him not to mind the comments of
the Premier, as he always says
those nasty things to new members
in the House; it is his way of
fondly introducing you to the
place.

I will say that when I first got
in on a by-election he told me I
would be the shortest sitting
member in the history of the
legislature, and, no doubt,
somewhere along the line in debate
that will come up as well. And it
may be that you will be the
shortest sitting member, as we are
hoping to put a new democrat in
your seat the next time around.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

I would also like to be associated
with the welcome to the hon.
member for Waterford - Kenmount.
I have known him for many, many
years in a different capacity, we
just happen to be members of the
same social club, and it has
always been a pleasure to speak
and discuss matters with him.

Before we move on, I would also
like to welcome to the galleries

today thirty level II students from E. J. Pratt Central High School, in Brownsdale, and particularly, an exchange student from Brazil who is with them, Flavio Guiliano, with their teacher Mr. Reg Button.

Statements by Ministers

PREMIER PECKFORD:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:
It is my pleasure to inform this hon. House that the first tomatoes from the Newfoundland Enviroponics facility will be available in the local market this Wednesday, March 30.

This initial production of tomatoes occupies less than one-half of one production zone, but it will serve to demonstrate that the size and quality of produce from this facility is second to none. This same production zone is currently producing 8,000 to 10,000 cucumbers per week for the Newfoundland and Labrador market.

Consumers in our Province have responded enthusiastically to this homegrown, herbicide and pesticide-free, vine-ripened produce. We have no doubt that the response to the tomatoes will be no different and that markets outside the province will respond in kind. When you have a quality product available within the country you clearly have an advantage over foreign competition.

As all eight production units are brought on stream, cucumbers and

tomatoes will be grown in separate units, with environmental and nutrient conditions tailored to their specific needs. There will likely be an interruption in the supply of tomatoes to the market when the changeover to separate units is made in a couple of months' time. I am sure that after tasting the product that will become available this week, consumers will eagerly await full production and the year-round supply of fresh produce that will result.

Mr. Speaker, attached to this statement, which I thought might be of interest to hon. members on both sides of the House, is an article from The Financial Post of Friday past which talks about a tomato greenhouse in Ontario, in Central Canada. They have a 7.5 acre greenhouse there which is going to produce 3.2 million pounds of tomatoes a year. Of course, we have one that is around 8 acres, which is going to produce around 10 million pounds of cucumbers and tomatoes a year. And, I note, down at the bottom part of the article - this, now, is 7.5 acres, almost as large as ours, and it is only going to produce 3.2 million pounds - that 'Costs so far include a \$12 million steamline, a \$6.5 million sewerage system and \$4 million in land development,' which shows that they are going to produce less than half of what we are producing for a lot more money than we are projecting that this facility will cost. I will table this for hon. members, and I am sure they will read it with a great deal of interest.

MR. WELLS:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. WELLS:

Mr. Speaker, from what I experienced the other night when I toured the greenhouse facility, or shortly after it, I can commend to anybody the taste of those cucumbers and tomatoes. They are of excellent quality. My fondest wish is that the financial results of the operation could be quite as tasteful for the people of Newfoundland as those tomatoes are likely to be.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. DINN:

When it is, of course, you will resign.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. WELLS:

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sprung, and Miss Sprung for that matter, indicated to us some of the problems they are having with the tomatoes. They have overcome some of it, but they have some problems with the plants, they are not growing quite properly. But I guess you can expect to have difficulties with any new venture that you start up, so hopefully they will overcome that. What I would prefer to see tabled in the House, Mr. Speaker, is the cash flow statements that would give us the information so that we could properly judge the project.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. FENWICK:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Menihek.

MR. FENWICK:

Two comments, Mr. Speaker, on the statement by the Premier. The first is that the waste heat being used to warm the greenhouse is a very good idea, and, quite frankly, it escapes us why the Sprung interests did not decide to put the greenhouse complex down near Holyrood where we have a considerable amount of waste heat and where it probably would have been somewhat more economical and may have been closer to meeting its economical objectives.

Having said that, I would like to say that I am pleased to see some tomatoes being marketed from the project. However, the tomato production is the most questionable production, in my opinion. The plants that we saw were clearly in distress, although the tomatoes themselves were reasonable, and would indicate that their yield per square foot will be quite a bit lower. Mr. Speaker, although the Sprung interests told us that it was because of the wrong nutrient mix coming through the trays, it is also quite likely that the increased heat in a closed structure like that may make it very difficult for the tomatoes to grow properly. We can recall from the information that the Premier tabled last week in the House that there was a considerable decline in tomato production in the Sprung operations in the month of June. He alleged that it was hydrocarbon emissions, yet it was only nine months later that the hydrocarbon emissions forced the closure of the operation. I would argue much more rationally that it was the excess heat in the Summer months of May, June and July that probably damaged the tomato

production.

Mr. Speaker, on that basis we had better get our crop off in the next month or two, because when it comes to June, we will probably see the same tapering off of the tomato crop.

MR. SPEAKER:

At this stage, I would like to welcome to the gallery, Grade XII students from Point Leamington Central High School and their teachers, Murray Loveless, Bob Norman, and Robert Elliot.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

Oral Questions

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Twillingate.

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker, my question would normally go to the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Rideout), but, in his absence, I would direct it to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Windsor), and it concerns the differential that exists between the rebate on gasoline and diesel fuel oil given the fishermen and farmers of this country by the federal government. In fact, Mr. Speaker, there is a 3.5 cent per litre differential between the rebate given farmers in Canada and that given Newfoundland fishermen. That differential has existed now since the programme was first initiated back on December 1, 1984.

Mr. Speaker, in March 11, 1987, I

raised the same question with the then Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. At that time the minister assured me that the word from Mr. Crosbie, the regional minister, indicated that the rebate would apply equally to fishermen and to farmers. Now, Mr. Speaker, we all know that that is not so. In fact, in the budget of April 1 it was indicated that farmers, as of April 1, would receive 8.5 cents per litre rebate as opposed to 5 cents per litre rebate for fishermen.

My question to the minister, Mr. Speaker, is has he made representation to his federal counterpart or the appropriate federal minister with a view to having that inequity corrected?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Finance.

MR. WINDSOR:

Mr. Speaker, first of all, obviously the hon. gentleman must know that the issue he is speaking about is a federal issue, and within federal jurisdiction. Nevertheless, of course, it does have significant impact on fishermen in this Province, so I am not trying to set it aside.

I know that my colleague has made certain representations to the federal government on the issue. I do not have the detailed information to make a response at the moment, so I will take notice of that point. But I do assure him that is an issue we are concerned about and will be looking into.

MR. W. CARTER:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. the

member for Twillingate.

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker, I would again then ask a question. The answer I received from the minister today, Mr. Speaker, is almost the exact same answer I got back from his colleague about a year ago. I am asking the minister now, Mr. Speaker, would he today have this matter investigated and would he then make representation to the appropriate minister in Ottawa, with a view to having that discrimination against Newfoundland fishermen ended?

Mr. Speaker, while I am on my feet I would like to table, Sir, a copy of the telegram that was sent today from this side of the House to the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Siddon) asking, first of all, that the government explain why the difference, and then to take the necessary steps to correct it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WINDSOR:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Finance.

MR. WINDSOR:

Mr. Speaker, once again I assure the hon. gentleman we will do whatever we can to correct any real difficulties there, and I will get for him the information as to what action has been taken. I am sure action indeed has been taken by this side of the House long before now.

MR. BAKER:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Gander.

MR. BAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Once again, to the hon. the Minister of Finance. Some members of the St. John's Board of Trade recently expressed an opinion they have been expressing for some time, as have we on this side of the House, that the 12 per cent retail sales tax is in fact hurting trade in the Province. It seems as if their opinion and our opinion is that we are running into the law of diminishing returns on the 12 per cent retail sales tax.

I would ask the minister if he as a new minister has initiated any examination into the retail sales tax situation in this Province with a view to trying to determine if in fact a reduction in the 12 per cent R.S.T. would result in more trade and perhaps result in no loss to the provincial economy?

MR. WINDSOR:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Finance.

MR. WINDSOR:

Yes, Mr. Speaker, we certainly have. We have examined every tax that we have in this Province and in other provinces to compare the overall tax burden in Newfoundland compared with other parts of Canada. The hon. gentleman will have to wait until tomorrow when I will enlighten him to a large degree in that area.

As it relates to the 12 per cent sales tax, our studies do indeed show that obviously any time you reduce any tax and leave more disposable income in the pockets of people, then there will indeed by more money spent, there will be

more trade. But there is obviously a net deficit to the Treasury of the Province from reducing taxes. We will not regain anything like the amount of money that we would lose by reducing taxes. So, obviously, you would have to raise it by another method.

MR. BAKER:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
A supplementary, the hon. the member for Gander.

MR. BAKER:
The minister will know that the House of Common's Committee in Ottawa has recommended that there be federal taxes put on many items, including food in this country, and they are rather adamant in this particular posture. If what the minister has said is correct and if he believes it, then I assume that the minister has protested very vigorously against this extra tax being put on food. Would the minister please tell the House what representations he has made to make sure that the people up there do not start putting tax on food? We do not need it in this Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. WINDSOR:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. WINDSOR:
Mr. Speaker, obviously I cannot disagree with the hon. gentleman that a tax on food would certainly be contrary to the policy of this government in that those items

which are taxable are non-essential items. It is almost a luxury tax in this Province, in that we do not have tax on food or heating fuel or things of that nature, or accommodation.

So obviously a tax on food would be viewed very negatively, and was viewed very negatively, and we indeed made very strong representations to the Government of Canada. And I think he will find that no decision has been made to put taxes on food. In fact, just the opposite I think will be true.

MR. LONG:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. LONG:
Mr. Speaker, I have a question today for the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Tobin), and it concerns the ongoing announcements being made by his Department, and MHAs on the government side for their areas, of community development projects.

I would like to refer to correspondence that I had with the Minister less than a month ago concerning one of these projects that was located in my own district, in which I asked a question about the selection of participants being reserved for men only. I received assurance from the Minister that that was not a policy of the department, it was a specific case in point where no female applicants had come forward. I would like to ask the Minister today is that still the policy of the department, that all community development projects operate on an open basis and are

nondiscriminatory?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Social Services.

MR. TOBIN:

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. LONG:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. LONG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I wanted the confirmation of that policy because I was somewhat taken aback a couple of days ago, towards the end of last week, to receive a notice from NIS of an announcement by the MHA for Harbour Grace (Mr. Young).

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

Would the hon. member please pose his question?

MR. LONG:

My question, Mr. Speaker concerns the recent announcement of a community development project in Harbour Grace in which seventeen persons will be employed, all of whom will be male heads of family. Could the Minister explain the announcement that has been made in which seventeen persons will be employed, all of whom are men, on a community development project in Harbour Grace?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Social Services.

MR. TOBIN:

Mr. Speaker, I am not sure to which project the hon. member refers because there are various projects. Probably that one could have been made on the same day that we announced that there would be one in Stephenville to employ I believe fifteen female heads of families.

MR. LONG:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A final supplementary.

MR. LONG:

Could the Minister give some indication of what is meant, then, if there is a distinction being made in his Department between male heads of families and female heads of families? Is that just to be applied to a given project, that there will be an exclusive arrangement in which only male heads of family are taken on? Is that what is happening here in Harbour Grace?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Social Services.

MR. TOBIN:

Mr. Speaker, as I have said, I am not familiar with the project that the hon. member refers to. It is conceivable that they were the only people who were receiving social assistance or on the case load in that particular area at that particular time would be the situation. Again, I am not sure what the details of the project would be, but our Department and our government, Mr. Speaker, is being very fair and do not discriminate against any sex.

MR. GULLAGE:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Waterford-Kenmount.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. GULLAGE:

Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Justice (Ms Verge). The minister is no doubt aware that the Atlantic Pilotage Authority, which was given the mandate to operate pilot boats throughout Atlantic Canada, has decided to put up on tender the pilot boat operation in St. John's Harbour. Given the importance of that operation, and its tie in with the Fire Department, is the minister satisfied that when this tender process is complete and the four highly trained men are displaced, that the same good fire protection provided by the tug in co-operation with the Fire Department will be provided by the company that will subsequently take over the authority?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Justice.

MS VERGE:

Mr. Speaker, this is something that is being looked into by my department, part of which is the St. John's Fire Department. We will do everything possible to persuade the federal government and the Atlantic Pilotage Authority to provide the fire protection that is needed for St. John's Harbour.

MR. GULLAGE:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. the member for Waterford - Kenmount.

MR. GULLAGE:

Is there any way the minister can intervene at this stage and cause the tendering process to be discontinued, and ensure that these men, highly trained in their jobs, I might add, are continued in their jobs, which is not going to be the case if the tendering process is continued?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Justice.

MS VERGE:

Mr. Speaker, the Atlantic Pilotage Authority, an agency of the federal government, is in control of the situation. All that any of us in this Assembly can do is make representation to that authority.

MR. GULLAGE:

A final supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER:

A final supplementary, the hon. the member for Waterford - Kenmount.

MR. GULLAGE:

I would like to ask the minister, Mr. Speaker, whether or not the Department of Justice had input into this decision to go to tender with the pilotage operation prior to the tendering process starting. Given the fact that the Fire Department co-ordinates its activity with the tug, and in fact the safety of vessels in the harbour and protection for buildings along the harbour front very much depend on the co-ordination of the tug boat and the Fire Department, was the Department of Justice consulted in the process prior to the tendering being put in place?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Justice.

MS VERGE:

Mr. Speaker, if there was any consultation it did not involve me or the senior people of the department.

I would like to remind all hon. members that it has been the position of this administration that fire protection for the port of St. John's is a federal responsibility consistent with federal constitutional responsibility for ports and harbours in Canada. Over the years we have tried to impress upon the federal government this fact and urge them to exercise that responsibility for making provision for fire fighting capability in the harbour.

What was done by the Atlantic Pilotage Authority on their new pilot boat last year is a step in the right direction, but it is, by no means, all that this provincial administration has maintained and continues to maintain is needed for totally adequate fire protection in St. John's Harbour.

MR. LUSH:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the member for Bonavista North.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. LUSH:
I thank hon. members, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, the recent establishment of food banks within this Province is surely a caring, sensitive and sympathetic response to the economic malaise which is presently gripping this Province. Bearing in mind the relatively

sparse population of this Province, and in view of the tremendous need for assistance which the personnel in the food banks have clearly identified, I wonder if the minister can tell this House whether this is an indication that the Province's network of social programmes and fiscal policies are inadequate and indeed failing to meet the basic needs of the people of this Province?

MR. WINDSOR:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. WINDSOR:
Would the hon. member just give me a repeat of that? I did not realize the question was for me.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the member for Bonavista North.

MR. LUSH:
Mr. Speaker, food banks are not funny. And my question to the minister, Mr. Speaker, is this: Whether or not the establishment of food banks in this Province, the need for food banks is an indication of the failure of the Province's network of social programmes and fiscal policies which are not meeting the basic needs of the people of this Province?

MR. WINDSOR:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. WINDSOR:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I apologize to the hon.

gentleman. It is not that I was not listening, I just did not realize he was addressing it to me.

The question is a very interesting one. I think, first of all, he makes certain assumptions there, that is, first of all, that our fiscal policies are not working and, secondly, that our social policies are not up to the standards in the rest of Canada. I am prepared to say, Mr. Speaker, that our social programmes can be put up against any social programmes anywhere in Canada; in fact, they will surpass most of them.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WINDSOR:

As far as the fiscal policies go, Mr. Speaker, I am equally confident that they are working quite well, and hopefully we will see that tomorrow. That is not to say that we do not have problems still in this Province, that we are not in a difficult financial position, that there are not other things that need to be done. But I would submit to the hon. gentleman that both our fiscal policies and our social programmes are working quite well.

MR. LUSH:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. the member for Bonavista North.

MR. LUSH:

I wonder, Mr. Speaker, could the minister indicate whether provincial government research and study of the financial and economic problems being encountered by the poor of this Province, and especially the

working poor, show any correlation with the graveness and seriousness of the deprivation being experienced by the working poor of this Province as identified by, and publicly announced by the Province's food bank personnel?

PREMIER PECKFORD:

It is not like you to read your questions. You are better than that, Tommy.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Finance.

MR. WINDSOR:

There is obviously a new writer on the other side.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

There is a report card on the go.

MR. WINDSOR:

That is a D-.

Mr. Speaker, I think, the answer to this question is very similar to the previous one: The assumptions that the hon. gentleman is making are not accurate. That is not to say that we do not have difficulties in this Province, but I think it is irresponsible at minimum for the hon. gentleman to make the kinds of statements he just made, that there is such poverty and deprivation in this Province. I would suggest to you it is not there. That is not to say that people in this Province at the lower end of the income scales are not having difficulties. I would suggest to you that our social programmes are quite adequate to meet the basic needs and that indeed my colleague, the Minister of Social Services, is working very hard and will be introducing new programmes over the coming years to deal with these problems even more so.

MR. LUSH:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
A final supplementary.

MR. LUSH:
I remind the hon. minister that food banks is a new phenomenon in this Province and it is a travesty that our economy, and inadequate social programmes, and fiscal policies, Mr. Speaker, require the establishment of same. My question to the minister is this: I ask the minister, therefore, in view of the seriousness and the graveness of this situation, would the minister indicate to the House today what measures, what immediate steps government are planning over the next few months to ensure that the working poor people of this Province are able to be fed adequately and properly, are able to keep body and soul together?

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

MR. WINDSOR:
Mr. Speaker, it is obvious what is happening. The hon. gentlemen opposite are absolutely scared to death of what I am going to have in my budget speech tomorrow.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. WINDSOR:
The only way I can answer his question, Mr. Speaker, is to say he is going to have to try to control himself for twenty-four hours, and if he comes back tomorrow he will hear all.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. GILBERT:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir.

MR. GILBERT:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question was going to be for the Minister of Labour (Mr. Blanchard), but in view of the fact that he is not here I will ask the Premier. Fishermen in Newfoundland are very concerned about the length of time it is taking for the Labour Relations Board to reach a settlement on the current fishermen's union dispute. Will the Premier ensure that further action will be taken to speed up the settlement of this very serious dispute by seeing that an early vote is taken to settle the problems in the fishery.

MR. PATTERSON:
That is a Bonnell question.

MR. BAIRD:
Stop reading your question.

MR. GILBERT:
It seems to me to be a good question.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:
Mr. Speaker, it is too bad the hon. member had to read it. It is a very germane subject that is on the minds of a lot of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians today. As a matter of fact, the hon. gentleman is a few days late. I had a meeting on Friday morning, after Question Period here in the House, in my office on the very matter that the hon. member just raised, with the

Minister of Fisheries and with the Minister of Labour because of my concerns on the same matter.

As the hon. member is aware, we have taken significant initiatives to try to speed up the process and put in place a permanent, if you will, Labour Relations Board to deal with this, and hired extra people and so on. There are hundreds of thousands of dollars being spent to try to expedite the process.

Now, it is a sort of a semi-judicial kind of thing, and therefore government has to be extremely careful so that we are not seen to be taking one side of the issue over another, because then that can be appealed to the courts, which, in effect, could even lengthen it further.

So there are several problems that are now coming to the fore on the matter, and the kind of delay that the hon. member has just mentioned. The first one deals with the question of a vote for the fisherpersons themselves. I think on Friday, if I am not mistaken, one of the people working for the board did table a document which indicated that the board would be holding a vote in April. I am not sure of the date. There is a feeling by a lot of the fishermen that the vote should be held very, very soon because the lobster season, on the East Coast especially, will be starting in the middle part of April and then it will be difficult for a lot of the fishermen to be available to vote. There is work being done with the Electoral Office to co-ordinate the names and so on. So I think some movement was made on Friday and I think more was to be made, today or tomorrow, to try

to get the vote before the middle of April.

There are other problems also dealing with fish plants, relating to certification and decertification processes that are ongoing which we are trying to deal with too. The Minister of Labour and the Minister of Fisheries are dealing with them now on a sort of a rush basis, and wherever we can move the system quicker we will, as long as we are not, at the same time, taking sides on the issue, so that obviously we do not get into a court challenge.

But on the vote itself, we are moving real fast to get it done before the middle of April, which is sort of the cut-off time before a lot of people in the fishing industry will be gone from being able to vote. That is the fisherpersons themselves, and then you have the other problems with the fish plants and fish plant workers on certification and decertification under the act, which we are now working on.

MR. DECKER:
Mr. Speaker,

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

MR. DECKER:
My question is for the Minister of Education (Mr. Hearn), the junior part of that particular portfolio.

The minister is aware that there are handicapped children in this Province who are only attending school on a part-time basis. The minister also knows that his government's policy is causing this unfit treatment of the handicapped. I ask the minister

when will he change government policy so that handicapped children will have the opportunity to attend school on a full-time basis?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Education.

MR. HEARN:

Mr. Speaker, the concern mentioned by the hon. member, is a relatively legitimate one. What one has to remember is that, a very few years ago, the severely handicapped children in our province did not attend any schools. Many of them were at home, eventually put into institutions, and just a very few short years ago into the system. Not only have they come into the educational system now, they have also in many areas been fully integrated into the present system. The allocation of teachers for the handicapped depends upon the degree of handicap, certainly; some have just minor handicaps and fit into the regular class with the regular teachers and so on.

Severely mentally handicapped children require a much lower ratio. And we have provided, within our means and the time frame during which all this has developed, what has turned to be the best ratio in Canada in relation to looking out after the handicapped. In fact, Newfoundland stands second to nobody when it comes to looking after the handicapped people in the school system of the Province.

Just recently we have noticed that in rural areas in particular, where you have smaller populations and consequently smaller number of handicappeds, where you might have one or two at a school level,, where the ratio might be one

teacher for four students, and so on, and in large centers that was quite practical, we have now given the boards more flexibility whereby we allocate teachers upon the total number of students not within the school or within a small area but within the board, and that gives the board a lot more flexibility to manipulate the teachers and provide what has turned out to be more than adequate coverage in most areas.

MR. DECKER:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker,

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. DECKER:

Mr. Speaker, we know the problem. The question was when will it be solved. Obviously, the minister does not intend to solve it.

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker: School boards in St. John's receive \$6,000 per student per year per multi-handicapped student in their system. This grant is not available to rural schools. I ask the minister: When will the minister make this extra \$6,000 per handicapped student available to rural school boards? And I do not want the minister to skate around. I have asked him a simple question: When will he make it available?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Education.

MR. HEARN:

Mr. Speaker, number one, the hon. gentleman said that they were aware of the problem. The problem is one that was always with us when they were in power. It is one that has gradually been changed and improved, and in fact

improved rather quickly since this administration came into power.

In relation to the funding that is provided to the handicapped in St. John's, the hon. member might do well to do a bit of research and see how the history of this developed. When the students, or young people, moved from the homes to institutions, such as Exon House, it cost government a tremendous amount of money to care for them. Then, when an experiment took place to move them from the institution into two developmental centres set up in St. John's, funded by the Department, once again it was a costly effort and we realized that the Department of Education should not be involved in running the schools, school boards do a much better job.

Consequently, an arrangement was made with the school boards in St. John's, both of them, to take over the development centres on what started out to be an experimental basis. And they agreed to do, provided that the amount of funding that was available, or being spent by the Department, would go to them, and that was fair ball. These were the only severely handicapped students who were in the school setting at that time, and that is why it is not a special grant for any special amount, but turned out to be an average of that amount of money per student in the institution or in the development centre.

This has been in place now for a few years. Since that time many students who were in Exon House, or similar students, have now found themselves in the schools in different parts of the Province, thus presenting us with a problem whereby the method of handling

these people, when you translate it into dollars, unless you look at the overall picture, it looks as if there is a discrepancy. We have admitted that and it will be addressed.

MR. DECKER:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
A final supplementary.

MR. DECKER:
Again, the Minister gives history. We know the problem. How can you blame the Liberals of seventeen years ago for this discrimination? Come on!

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. TOBIN:
If we had the money we should get from Churchill Falls we would do alright, but what did your Leader do there?

MR. DECKER:
I say to the Minister of Education, what about the welfare recipients his colleague, who has got so much mouth when he is not being addressed, the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Tobin) is trying to get off his rolls and on unemployment insurance, who are being used to teach handicapped children under the guise of teacher aides?

MR. TOBIN:
Not true! Not true!

MR. DECKER:
Will the minister assure the parents of handicapped children that the welfare recipients are qualified to deliver education to their handicapped children, as qualified as trained teachers?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Education.

MR. HEARN:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the hon. member that we are not using the welfare people. The boards are taking people, who through no fault of their own find themselves in receipt of social assistance, to go into the schools to work with our young people, and they are doing an extremely credible job, and many of them, because of the help they got and because of the setting, have gone on to find good, long-term, solid employment. We are not using them.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

There is just time for one quick question and answer.

MR. EFFORD:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Port de Grave.

MR. EFFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, my question was intended for the hon. the Premier, but he is not in the House, so I will ask the question to the Deputy Premier.

On November 24 I had written the Premier asking him about the expense of his two parliamentary assistants, and on December 16 I received a letter back with a statement - with a bill, I should say, for \$445 saying that I would have to submit that amount in order to get the answer.

When the House of Assembly opened I put the same question on the

Order Paper in a written form, and, to date, we have not received any reply back. Assuming the Minister of Finance has done his job, I would ask -

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

The hon. member is making a speech.

MR. EFFORD:

I would ask the Deputy Premier, the Government House Leader, if he would give us an explanation as to why to date we have not received an answer to that question and when we can expect to receive it.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the President of the Council.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, the Premier was outside and did not catch the drift of the question. I do not know if there is time left to repeat it or not.

The simple answer anyway is that the questions that are placed on the Order Paper take time to respond to, and hon. ministers over here will respond to them in due course.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

The time for Oral Questions has elapsed.

Presenting Reports by
Standing and Special Committees

MR. SPEAKER:

I have one report. Pursuant to Section 29(1) of The Parliamentary Commissioner (Ombudsman) Act, I am pleased to

say I have received the Twelfth Annual Report of The Parliamentary Commissioner for the calendar year 1986. I lay it on the Table of the House.

Answers to Questions
for which Notice has been Given

MR. YOUNG:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Minister of Consumer Affairs and Communications.

MR. YOUNG:
I would like to table an answer to Question 101 asked by the hon. member for St. Barbe (Mr. Furey). He wanted to know, Sir, if the vehicle for the department that I am driving was tendered. Yes, it was tendered and purchased through the Government Purchasing Agency. Eleven firms were asked to submit bids, including Beothuck Ford. Hickman Motors was granted the tender for \$12,881.

MS VERGE:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MS VERGE:
Mr. Speaker, I have answers to questions posed by the member for Mount Scio - Bell Island (Mr. Barry) last week, March 22, relating to a judicial inquiry into a death. The first question had to do with the response of the Department of Justice to the recommendations of Judge Reid who conducted the inquiry. The department has responded first by sending copies of the judge's report to the family of the victim and also to the appropriate

police, fire and Coast Guard agencies asking each agency to take appropriate action with regard to deficiencies.

Two of these agencies, namely the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary and the St. John's Fire Department, are parts of the Department of Justice and I will comment on what those two forces have done.

The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary has, number one, set up a Policy Review Committee to deal with emergency situation procedures. The Committee is presently upgrading the police force policy on response to emergency situations to ensure that there is proper co-ordination and a proper chain of command in such situations. Number two, the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary have issued instructions to its members to ensure that reports on sudden deaths are done on a timely basis and that families of victims are informed of the date of, any inquiry.

The St. John's Fire Department has done the following: Number one, it has reviewed policies and procedures regarding response to emergency situations. In line with this, it is in the process of acquiring new equipment to supplement existing rescue equipment. Number two, the St. John's Fire Department has acquired floating suits.

The Coast Guard, of course, is a federal agency and will have to assess the judge's recommendations and respond accordingly.

The second question posed by the member had to do with the lack of representation by the Canadian Coast Guard at the judicial

inquiry. Mr. Speaker, I would remind the member that the inquiry, as the name implies, is a judicial inquiry conducted by the judge, in this case, Judge Reid. The inquiry is ordered by the Director of Public Prosecutions and there is a Crown Attorney assisting the judge.

In this particular case, the judge decided to dispense with calling as a witness a member of the Coast Guard. There is a specific statement made by the judge that appears in the transcript of the judicial inquiry indicating that the judge concluded that it was not worth delaying conclusion of the enquiry to have a representative of the Coast Guard testify. Evidently, according to the transcript, a retired member of the Coast Guard had been subpoenaed to give evidence but was not available, and according to the transcript the judge concluded that he would not delay the proceedings to summon any other member of the Coast Guard.

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

MR. SPEAKER:
A point of order, the hon. the member for Gander.

MR. BAKER:
Mr. Speaker, Friday I asked the Premier a question and he very directly said, 'I will, on Monday, give the hon. member a direct answer to his question.' I wonder if the Premier has forgotten that, or if he has the answer ready to give?

PREMIER PECKFORD:
I will have it for you before the day is out.

MR. BAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
That was not a point of order.

Orders of the Day

MR. SIMMS:
Order 2. Committee of Supply.

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

Committee of the Whole

MR. CHAIRMAN:
Order, please!

MR. LONG:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. LONG:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the opportunity to make an intervention in the debate on Supply, and in particular I am pleased to pick up from the debate of the last day, in which the final speaker, who adjourned the debate, was the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Tobin). I would like to direct my comments directly to some of the remarks that the Minister of Social Services made, some of which were, in part, directed to others who had spoken during the debate in reference to the question of cutbacks.

I would like to refer to Hansard, which has just been put in front of us. In Friday's debate, the

minister at the close of his remarks just before the adjournment, says, 'No, Mr. Chairman, in my department there have not been any cutbacks.' I sat listening to the minister deal with the issue of cutbacks which had been raised during the presentation of a petition I had presented earlier in the day, and which was also raised by members speaking in this debate on Supply. I made a note to refer to it in today's debate, and I expected the minister would come back and pick up and there would be some continuity in the debate from Friday, but the minister is not here to rise to his feet.

But what we did see over the weekend, between Friday and today, was the minister again making the case on behalf of the department in yesterday's newspaper, that although the figures might suggest otherwise, there were no cutbacks in the department.

Now, Mr. Chairman, it was just a few days ago that I presented a petition to this House on behalf of 1,400 individuals in the city of St. John's and area, many of whom were social assistance recipients who were forced to come forward just two weeks before Christmas, organize themselves, and have a soup kitchen out in front of Confederation Building to ask the Minister of the Department of Social Services, the Premier and the government to stop taking money away from people who are in receipt of social assistance.

Since then, we have had a change in the minister responsible for the department. The minister at the time began the chorus from government that there were no cutbacks. Mr. Chairman, at the time that people were organizing a

petition campaign in the city and organizing their soup kitchen, I had people come into my office in this building to ask me for support in appealing beyond their social worker, and beyond the supervisor for the district, to have money given back to them which was taken away. I had individuals come to me, constituents of mine, people from my district who were receiving social assistance, with two different cheque stubs. In response to the minister saying 'there have been no cutbacks', people showed me cheque stubs for one pay period and then for another, two weeks later, in which they were receiving, in some cases, fifty dollars, sixty dollars, eighty dollars less, in other cases more.

In many cases, I understood from talking to people who came to me, and also meeting some of the people who were signing this petition, that they were given absolutely no notice either by the social worker, by the regional supervisors or by anybody in the department, and certainly no advance notice in the way of publicity or public relations from the department that there were going to be cutbacks implemented to people in receipt of social assistance.

Now, Mr. Chairman, we have heard from the former minister and from the newest Minister of Social Services that there have been no cutbacks, when we had people at Christmastime bringing their children and organizing a soup kitchen to try and draw public attention to the issue. This obvious disagreement between people who have received less money in their paycheques, and have the cheque stubs to prove it,

and ministers who say there have been no cutbacks, I want to address.

In the last few days the minister has been making the continuing argument that his department is spending more this year on social services than any other government has spent over past years. We go back in time and what we hear is a litany from the Minister of Social Services, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Health and all other ministers who have difficulty justifying the restraint environment and cutbacks that are being implemented in their departments, but in particular the Minister of Social Services, coming in and saying, 'People in this Province have never had it so good. We are spending more money today than any government of this Province has ever spent in the Department of Social Services.' That is absolutely a ridiculous proposition to make to people who are forced to organize a soup kitchen because they are having money taken away from them, and to try and rally themselves as humble, modest recipients of social services to come and petition the government to give them back money which government is taking away from them.

People are not interested in hearing that they have never had it so good. People in health care are struggling to deal with the effects of restraint in the hospital system, people who are teaching in our schools, or parents whose children are facing difficulties in the school system, hear from the Minister of Education that they have never had it so good, government has never spent so much money, this same chorus over and over. People who

are bringing forward petitions to the government to be thoughtful and to be considerate and to be compassionate toward the people of this Province when they come forward with real needs, all they are told is, 'You have never had it so good.'

I think that all the people of this Province, in particular with respect to social services and the issue of restraint within the department, are asking for is some respect. People are asking that people who are in need in this Province be treated with some dignity. That is a basic measure that this government seems to have been unable to put in place. What we have seen is an admission by the minister and others that there has been so much administrative and management chaos in that department for so long that it has essentially amounted to an admission that people are not being treated with respect.

Now, Mr. Chairman, just a few minutes ago we were presented with the annual report of the Ombudsman for the calendar year, 1986. As I was waiting for this debate to open, I leafed through the few pages in which there are a number of items under Social Services, and what we can see just by glancing through some of the cases that were brought to the office of the Ombudsman is a number of situations in which people were not able to get any accountability, either from the immediate level of their social worker or anybody else in the department.

I am sure most hon. members of this House are well aware of the situations in which people come to their MHA as a court of last resort looking for assistance in

trying to make their way through the bureaucracy in the Social Service's Department to receive what their duly deserving of. Clients of the department, who for no good reason and with no advance notice, all of a sudden find themselves having their money taken away from them, have to go to their MHA or, in this case, as we see in several pages of items dealing with the Social Services Department, to the Ombudsman, to try and get some accountability in the department.

Now, I guess, Mr. Chairman, that explains to a certain extent why the minister and the government have just recently put forward a proposal call for an outside management consultant to come in and do an operational review of the Department of Social Services. As a member of the official Opposition, the member for Port de Grave was referring to the other day, this advertisement has now been put forward into Canada's so-called national newspaper, **The Globe and Mail**, and so we are looking at someone from Toronto or Edmonton, perhaps, who knows where, coming into the department essentially to tell the Government of Newfoundland how to implement its cutback programme, how to implement a programme of restraint, how to carry forward its intention of taking money away from people. I think what we are going to see in the coming months is continued discord and continued tension, pressure being placed on people who are in receipt of social assistance, people who are clients of this department.

We will see what the Minister of Finance has to say in his budget tomorrow, but obviously there has been a hue and cry, a call for clamping down on monies being

spent in the Department of Social Services, and this can only mean taking money away from people.

Before I conclude, Mr. Chairman, I also want to refer to cutbacks other than those placed in front of individual recipients. The other fiascos that took place in the department in the Fall months, both of which I became involved in in making representation on behalf of people who came to me, were the Transportation program for senior citizens and handicapped people out in the Conception Bay South area, where the Premier had to step in, and the MHA's from the area, the member for Conception Bay South and the member from Harbour Main, had to come in and admit that a mistake had been made in cutting out this transportation subsidy and the money would be found somewhere else in government, and just two weeks prior to that we had an issue with disabled people under the URDP programme which, in fact, is a federal programme; monies that this Province receives from the federal government to assist people in the disabled community to receive post-secondary education, was taken away from them without notice. Mr. Chairman, on that occasion the disabled people organized themselves and demanded a meeting with the Premier of the Province, because they could get nowhere with the minister of the department, and the Premier came out and said, 'Mr. Minister, give the money back to those people.'

Now, we will see in tomorrow's budget what has been produced through negotiations between members of the handicapped community and the Department of Social Services on this particular programme.

MR. CHAIRMAN:
Order, please!

The hon. member's time is up.

MR. LONG:
If I can just have thirty seconds to conclude, Mr. Chairman.

AN HON. MEMBER:
By leave?

AN HON. MEMBER:
No. No leave.

MR. LONG:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In conclusion, I would say that it is

AN HON. MEMBER:
Your time is up. There is no leave.

MR. LONG:
By leave, Mr. Chairman? Just a minute to conclude?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Oh, oh!

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

MR. LONG:
Thank you. What I have attempted to demonstrate, Mr. Chairman, is that the issue of cutbacks is a very real one, and that it is simply not good enough for the minister to come into the House and continue to state over and over that cutbacks have not been happening. I will continue to do my best to make representation on behalf of individuals and organizations who are involved in various relationships with the Department of Social Services, and continue to ensure that this government not try to balance its books on the backs of the poor of

this Province and people with special needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:
The hon. the Minister of Social Services.

MR. TOBIN:
Mr. Chairman, I listened attentively to the hon. gentlemen from St. John's East. He constantly referred to cutbacks in the Department of Social Services.

Mr. Chairman, since 1979, the budget of the Department of Social Services has increased by 146 per cent. Since 1979, Mr. Chairman, a 146 per cent increase, and the hon. gentleman refers to cutbacks. There have been no cutbacks in the Department of Social Services, Mr. Chairman. Everyone who needs our services are receiving what they are entitled to receive. There are occasions where we have to go beyond that, in special circumstances, but if somebody is receiving something that there is no entitlement to and the operation is put in place and the mechanism is put in place, Mr. Chairman, to deal with that, that is not a cutback. Everybody who receives our services receive the maximum amount that they are entitled to.

Our social assistance budget, just social assistance alone, Mr. Chairman, is somewhere in the area of \$100 million a year. The hon. member did not go on to talk about what we are doing in community development programmes, where we are spending \$30 million to \$40 million a year to put people back into the work force.

What about our child welfare programme, Mr. Chairman, our youth

corrections and mental retardation programmes? And the list can go on. There is no mention of that from the hon. gentleman, he just touches on two or three areas. And then he says, 'I was skipping through the Ombudsman's report that was just passed to me and all I could find was these reports on the Department of Social Services, and how bad they were, how it affected cutbacks, and how cutbacks were in place.

The first one was a person who had indicated interest in opening a day-care centre and wanted that dealt with; the second one was a young man who complained of unnecessary delay in receiving a crib; the third one dealt with a single person who was living with his parents who applied for social assistance and was turned down; the fourth one, Mr. Chairman, was a lady who complained because she was refused assistance until her impending separation from her husband was finalized. The next one had to do with a single mother complaint. She had some sort of skin disease and she wanted the Department to buy her a washing machine. The next one had to do with someone who complained that a child was removed from her care by the Department - apprehension of a child by the Department. The next one, Mr. Chairman, had to do with a woman who was employed in a home care project and there was some mix-up as to when she received her compensation for that project. The next one involved a couple who wanted social assistance, because the husband was working on a project and had not receive any money. And that is it, Mr. Chairman. That is it.

Here is this report that has all to do with cutbacks in the

Department of Social Services. Mr. Chairman, that statement made the hon. gentleman is about as accurate as any statement I have ever heard him make in this House.

Now, Mr. Chairman, he went on to talk about the Department showing compassion and dignity for people. The social workers in this Province, Mr. Chairman, who came under attack the other day from the hon. gentleman, they, that professional group of dedicated individuals -

MR. LONG:
(Inaudible).

MR. TOBIN:
The attack on the social workers of this Province the other day, who nobody could deal with, that came from the member for St. John's East, and he was cheered on by his Leader, an attack on a professional group in this Province. Probably they are one of the groups in this Province, Mr. Chairman, who are not pumping money into the N.D.P. Party. Maybe that is the problem, that they are probably supporting people in other political parties as opposed to the socialists of this Province. Maybe that is where he is coming from.

But, Mr. Chairman, because of the attack that was made the other day, I ought to say that the social workers in this Province do not need any lecture from the member for St. John's East as to how to be compassionate and how to extend dignity to people.

I am proud of the staff that works in the Department of Social Services, Mr. Chairman, I am extremely proud of them. They are a very dedicated and committed group of individuals working for a

cause, to deal with people who need our services.

As it relates to his statement on the people from Harbour Main, there was a problem there, Mr. Chairman, no doubt about it. It was before my day, but as I understand it, it was discovered that the Department of Social Services were paying for a service, and where it was coming from they were not entitled to it; a social worker discovered that under the heading it was coming within our department, there was no entitlement.

MR. HISCOCK:

Mr. Chairman, on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Order, please!

A point of order, the hon. the member for Eagle River.

MR. HISCOCK:

Mr. Chairman, we are doing Interim Supply and we have twenty-three Cabinet ministers to answer questions on this Interim Supply Bill. Since we only have six Cabinet ministers in the House, could the Party Whip on the government side direct some Cabinet minister to come in and listen to our questions?

DR. COLLINS:

To that point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

To that point of order, the hon. the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

I presume the hon. member was not getting up on a quorum call. If he was, he was clearly out of order. I do not think there is anything in our rules about

attendance minute by minute or hour by hour in the House. There is a general rule that we are supposed to attend business in the House, but many ministers and many members do have occasion to go out to perform other duties while the House is in session on any one particular day.

So, for the hon. the member to suggest there is something amiss here, I think he must have misread the rules, or perhaps the new order across the way are not instructing their members, or they are instructing them incorrectly or whatever. In any case, the hon. member has no point of order whatever.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

There is no point of order.

The hon. the Minister of Social Services.

MR. TOBIN:

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

As it relates to the senior citizens out there, Mr. Chairman, the programme was not dropped. The mechanism was put in place by this government to accommodate that service and it was just taken from our department and placed somewhere else, in the Department of Health, as I understand it. That is basically what happened.

As it relates to the URDP programme, the hon. gentleman made reference to them demanding a meeting with the Premier. That is not the case, Mr. Chairman. They did not demand a meeting with the Premier, they requested a meeting with the Premier.

AN HON. MEMBER:

There is a big difference.

MR. TOBIN:

Yes, there is a lot of difference between demanding and requesting. You know, the hon. gentleman wants to go on about demanding a meeting with the Premier. I was working in the Premier's Office at the time, and when the request came in, Mr. Chairman, it was dealt with rather swiftly; the Premier met with these people and they had a good meeting. I happened to know these people, too, because the chairman of that group was a constituent of mine and a good friend of mine.

AN HON. MEMBER:

He is a fine man.

MR. TOBIN:

Sure he is a fine man. Everyone up there are fine people.

Mr. Chairman, I think I have basically covered the issues raised by the hon. gentlemen. As I have said, there were no cutbacks in the Department of Social Services. I repeat again, the Budget of the Department of Social Services has increased by 146 per cent since 1979. I hope the hon. gentleman is listening, a 146 per cent increase in the Department of Social Services. And when you have an increase, that is not a cutback; a decrease is a cutback.

So that is where the hon. gentleman is coming from. He has to accept the fact that we are progressing, that this department, Mr. Chairman, is very conscious of the services we are providing. And we will continue to provide a good service to the people, Mr. Chairman, we will continue to do it, despite the hon. member for St. John's East.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. GILBERT:

Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir.

MR. GILBERT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We, on this side of the House, have endeavoured to get some answers to questions we have asked various ministers. My concern has been the Minister of Transportation. Last Monday, when I first spoke in this debate, I pointed out that they were asking for Interim Supply in the amount of \$125 million, which is 75 per cent of the total budget for last year. What I asked for at that time was a breakdown of the expenditures under the headings that we are going to be debating in the Budget after tomorrow, and I have not received it.

On Friday Morning we heard the minister give some answers, which brought it up to about \$70-odd million, but there are \$51 million that have not been accounted for. Now, we know that there are \$67,821,000 for the road construction budget. Now, this is a concern of ours in view of the fact that when the Minister of Finance stood up to introduce the Interim Supply Bill, his explanation was that they needed this money to carry on the orderly running of the government and the day-to-day expenses until such time as the budget was passed.

I heard him in the media this morning saying that if the Opposition hung up the passing of this bill, salaries would not be paid, welfare and social services

would not be paid, and that sort of thing. We have no intention of hanging it up, all we would like to have are the answers to our questions. Now, they are saying that we have not asked the questions. We have asked the questions and Hansard will prove that.

So what we are saying right now is, in the Department of Transportation - even though the minister is not here, maybe the Minister of Finance would be able to answer our questions - we know that \$67 million of this is for road construction. There is another fifty-odd thousand that we are wondering about, and we would like to have an explanation as to how it is going to be spent.

Mr. Chairman, in view of the fact that they know they are going to spend \$15 million on improvements and road construction, and they know road and bridge rehabilitation will cost almost \$13 million, bridges and causeways \$1.8 million, and the Trans-Canada Highway \$26 million, if you want this passed so that you can go to early tender, we would like to know why you cannot tell us where this is going to be spent at this time. This would fly in the face of everything that was in the Auditor General's report, where they said the department did not have a guideline or a policy or a procedure for highway funding in Newfoundland, and it was done on a political rather than a priority basis.

So, we know this is there, and we now know that when the minister stands up in this House and gives the list of road paving programmes, it is going to be a political list rather than a priority list. So, if he knows,

we think that before Interim Supply is passed he should name the roads he is going to call contracts on now.

However, we know where \$73 million is going to be spent, and the roads are in there no doubt, so we do not think there will be a reason to have a political list this year, it is known in advance. But there are \$51 million or so left around, and we would like to know where that is going to be spent.

Now, the other questions I have are on the Department of Public Works and Services. You will notice that 80 per cent of last year's budget of approximately \$44 million is being asked for in Interim Supply. Now, we heard the Finance Minister on Friday give as a reason the fact that you had to buy insurance; some of the insurance had to be prepaid on the normal operations of your department, Mr. Minister. We feel that 80 per cent of the budget for last year is a little extreme to ask for in Interim Supply, so we would like to know the headings under which this is going to be spent; how much on current account, how much on capital account, and if there are any extraordinary expenses in this \$34,910,000 that you are asking for this year.

If we get the answers to those questions, we have no problem with passing Interim Supply. We do not want to hang it up. Were there extraordinary expenses? Was the money needed for relocating the office of the Minister of Finance's, or the office of the hon. House Leader, or the office of the Minister responsible for Labrador? Is this why this money is needed up front this year,

rather than being spent over the year?

I will not take my ten minutes, I have asked the questions that I have been asking since last Monday. If we get the answers, fine, we have no problem with approving it.

MR. SIMMS:
Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:
Before recognizing the President of the Council I would like to welcome to this hon. House Mr. Sandy Cameron, former Leader of the Nova Scotia Liberal Party.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

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

MR. SIMMS:
Mr. Chairman, I am delighted to see Mr. Cameron in the galleries. He is an old personal friend of mine. I do not know if he is down here now to try to give some guidance to the Leader of the Opposition or members opposite. I will be kind to him and I will not make any aside remarks, but nevertheless, I had occasion when I was Speaker, as a matter of fact, to meet Mr. Cameron on many parliamentary jaunts.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Jaunts? Jaunts?

MR. SIMMS:
Well, on the many parliamentary jaunts that Mr. Cameron was on, I happened to be there as Speaker. Nevertheless, I am delighted to see him and I will have a chat with him later on.

Mr. Chairman, I want to try to respond to the questions put relative to the Department of Transportation. The Minister of Public Works (Dr. Twomey), I presume, may want to comment on some of the questions the hon. member asked related to that particular department. I had some discussions with the minister, who unfortunately was not able to be here today and asked him some further questions relative to those types that you have already put here this afternoon.

With respect to the capital account projects, or the capital funding for roads the member talked about, and I guess specifically it is the road's allocation he is referring to because I believe all the other's numbers were given to him. He quoted some of them himself.

AN HON. MEMBER:
(Inaudible.)

MR. SIMMS:
Well, I believe he had breakdowns for the \$67 million. It included Labrador depot buildings, forestry nursing buildings under ERDA, the fisheries initiatives under ERDA, airstrips which are all 100 per cent federal but which the Province must put funding up front for, forest resource roads under the Forestry Development Resource Agreement, Transport Canada highways projects, the bridges and causeways, the road and bridge rehabilitation and the improvements and construction of roads.

The implication from the hon. member and members opposite is that the decision on these roads must be made, otherwise they would not be looking for the funding in Interim Supply. I believe that is

the gist of the member's question.

I, myself, heard the minister respond on Friday by saying, no, the priorities have not been determined, as of yet, and that is a fact, so no list is available to table. I believe he also indicated he would make it available when those decisions were made.

However, preparations for early tendering would still need to be done and that is what these funds are placed in the Interim Supply Bill for, because the overall budget may not be finalized perhaps until June or July. Who knows? So, the department wants to get on with early tendering and, in order to do so, it puts an allocation in the Interim Supply Bill so that that kind of work can be done.

In addition to that, I will not comment on his remarks about the decisions that are made on road's projects - they are political - because that debate will go on forever and a day. I know in the past members opposite have made that same charge and members on this side have got up and showed some differing view points and opinions related to that charge. That will go on forever and a day. I am not going to enter into that kind of debate. I will leave that up to the more capable debaters in the Legislature.

The hon. member asked for some of the other numbers as well, what makes up the other \$51 million. I do not know exactly what the hon. minister gave you on Friday but I will try to run through some.

MR. GILBERT:

Give us the current account.

MR. SIMMS:

Just for the edification of members, let us see if you have heard of these before. I do not know.

Under the heading related to government-owned aircraft - those are the aircraft that government operates - there is \$2.3 million in there in Interim Supply which covers ongoing operating costs and there is also provision there for encumbrances to be established for fuel and other supply items. That is \$2.3 million. Perhaps you did not have that one.

Under Ferry Vessels, there is nearly \$500,000 there for major modifications to our vessels, plus the debt expenses for the Fogo and the Burgeo - Ramea ferry operations. There is another \$500,000 in there in Interim Supply which we must have to cover that prior to the end of June. So it needs to be done early. There is also nearly another \$100,000 for maintenance of ferry terminals and for ongoing operations. Also under Ferry Operations, there is another \$3.794 million for normal operations in the -

MR. GILBERT:

Would you allow a question?

MR. SIMMS:

Certainly.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir.

MR. GILBERT:

Mr. Chairman, we know under the various headings, for example, if he said ferry operations out of this total amount is \$10 million, we know where it is going to be spent, instead of laboriously taking \$100,000 here or \$100,000

there. If you took the headings and just said that, then okay, and then if we had a specific question to ask concerning the headings, we would ask it. That will speed the situation up for him.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the President of the Council,

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Chairman, I do not have that breakdown in that particular order. I figured you would want a more detailed breakdown. That is why I am trying to provide the hon. member with more information than he is really looking for, in that case. That is the reason I was doing it this way because I thought it would be beneficial to the hon. members.

So that was \$3.794, nearly \$3.8 million, for Ferry Operations, ongoing, normal operations, for salaries and the like. The hon. member may or may not have had that.

Airstrip Maintenance, four hundred and some odd thousand dollars; Air Subsidies, which provides for the anticipated monthly payments to be made for the various subsidy programmes underway, nearly \$600,000, in excess of \$500,000; License and Registration Processing, nearly \$800,000, almost another \$1 million, I guess, allows for ongoing operations, provisions also being made to order license plates early in the New Year; Guide Rails, \$71,000; Land Acquisition, there is \$1 million in there for ongoing land acquisition.

What else have the hon. members perhaps not received? Highway Design Work required early in the year, ongoing operations, and

provision is made also to purchase supplies early in the fiscal year. That is \$345,000, nearly another \$500,000. Soils and Paving, for ongoing operations of that particular division, with allowances to purchase equipment early in the New Year, \$341,000. Administrative Support, \$1.6 million for ongoing operations, and allowances for salary costs early in the fiscal year.

Let us see now! What else do we have here? Maintenance of Equipment - I do not know if the hon. member got that number - \$12 million.

MR. GILBERT:

It was \$8 million on Friday.

MR. SIMMS:

No, Maintenance of Equipment, \$12.125 million. That is for the processing of encumbrances early in the fiscal year, plus salary costs for seven pay periods for that time from April 1 to the middle of June or wherever. So that is \$12 million right there. I do not know how much all this adds up to now, but maybe you might be able to give me a running total there shortly, and I will find some more.

Snow and Ice Control - this is all in addition to the \$67 million now.

AN HON. MEMBER:

No.

MR. SIMMS:

Oh, yes.

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible).

MR. SIMMS:

No, my understanding is that that is in addition to the \$65 million. The \$67 million was all

capital, for Roads, Roads and Bridge Rehabilitation, Highways, Bridges and Causeways, Airstrips, Forest Resource Lands, Fisheries Initiatives, Forestry Nursery Buildings, and the Labrador depot. That is \$67 million.

In addition to that are some of these numbers that I have been giving.

AN HON. MEMBER:
(Inaudible).

MR. SIMMS:
The breakdown of the \$67 million.

AN HON. MEMBER:
Where are the roads?

MR. SIMMS:
I have already explained, the decisions on the roads have not yet been made as to where the road projects will take place, but the department needs money obviously to prepare for early tendering in anticipation of those projects getting underway early in the fiscal year, because if you have to wait for the budget itself to be completed, it might not be finalized until June, for example. Therefore, you have lost the opportunity for early tendering. So it is a block amount of funding essentially. That is what it is.

The projects, when they are finalized and determined, as I have already said once and I believe the Minister of Transportation said on Friday, will be made available to hon. members when those decisions are made. Those decisions are not yet made.

MR. WELLS:
Would the hon. minister permit a question?

MR. SIMMS:
Sure.

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

MR. WELLS:
How can the government determine the amount to be spent if it does not know where the roads are, what ones are being done, and does not have an estimate of what the cost will be? That is what such figures are usually based on.

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

MR. SIMMS:
I am glad the hon. Leader of the Opposition asked that question, because obviously the department does have an estimate of the amount of work they hope to do in the new fiscal year and the projects that will be undertaken, and, in order to allow for the proper planning and organization to take place for early tendering, they need to put the funding requirement or the estimated funding requirement in the Interim Supply Bill. Otherwise, they would have to put it in the budget which would not, perhaps, be finalized, as I have said, until June, which is not abnormal, therefore, you would miss the opportunity for early tendering which construction companies out there have asked for on a constant basis.

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

MR. WELLS:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

How can the government determine

the amount without first deciding which roads and totalling the estimates for each road?

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the President of the Council.

MR. SIMMS:

Well, Mr. Chairman, I guess the answer to that question is probably rather obvious. I mean, the government determines the amount based on what it feels it is going to be able to spend on road work. It is exactly that kind of a situation.

MR. WELLS:

How can we (inaudible)?

MR. SIMMS:

It will eventually, of course. The priorities will be determined out of that block amount of funding eventually for various projects, determined by the department and then by Cabinet, of course. That is the normal process.

Now, the other items the hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir referred to - I guess my ten minutes are probably up by now - I believe were relative to the Department of Public Works and maybe on another occasion or if the hon. member wanted to repeat the questions for the Minister of Public Works or something along those lines, I am sure he would be happy to address his questions.

DR. TWOMEY:

Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the Minister of Public Works.

DR. TWOMEY:

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I have been asked a number of questions. Last week, I believe, the hon. member for Twillingate asked me to explain a number of the programmes in the interim budget for the coming year.

The first question you asked about was the acquisition of art. As you know, the acquisition of art is to promote the skills, talents, and portray the expertise of Newfoundland artists in all fields. To do that, we thought it might be very prudent and imaginative if we had three tiers of approach so that they could feel comfortable in so approaching the sale of their art and their talents.

To accomplish that we have asked the artists to get in touch with a jury. The jury is composed of an artist, someone skilled in crafts, the curator of the Memorial University museum, and I believe the Executive Director of the Arts Council. They, in turn, inspect the art and determine how it should be purchased or displayed. Their recommendation is sent to a group known as the procurement group or committee. They consist of three people. One is an artist, another is a member of the Department of Public Works and Services, and the third is a member of the Department of Culture. So after going through these tiers, we purchase the art. The amount of money that has been dedicated in the past few years amounts to the sum of roughly \$100,000.

You also asked the amount of money that was spent in the sculpture on the lawn at the back of the West Block. That, I believe is called **The Breaching Whale**. I hope I have my terminology correct. That was designed by a man who is

skilled in sculpture and fabrication. It is made, I believe, of a steel form and is covered by wood. The amount of money that was spent on that was \$27,500.

One of the other questions that you asked was about soundproofing in the West Block. Soundproofing, I believe, all over the world is an inexact science. I believe that the skills cannot be passed on in textbook form. It is, in a form, art and above all you have to take your chance with destiny and hope that at the conclusion of your building that you will have perfect acoustics.

I was a little perplexed when I inquired about this in detail. But then it occurred to me that some of the notable places in the world that are noted for their sound and have a high profile in national and international literature have had their troubles likewise. One that I will mention that was prepared with extreme caution and built to many specifications was the Thomson Centre in Toronto. I believe there were costs and costs, one heaped upon the other, to achieve that special degree of reproduction of sound and language in all of its forms.

The other one that I had read about, as all you have done, is one of the remarkable wonders of Australia; it is known as the Opera House. It is cited, as you know, in the bay and has a peculiar art form that is most attractive. This is one of the wonders of that particular nation in Sydney, Australia. Over the years it has costed millions and millions of Australian dollars, and I believe its infancy they had some trouble with the acoustics.

It is now claimed internationally as one of the ideal places in which to listen to art in all of its forms.

Both of you also asked how we would explain our budget. To me it was rather complex, but I will try and simplify it to the best of my ability. If you compare it with the figures of last year, you will find that it is not as large. We have been parsimonious and we have tried to meet the expectations.

I think you, hon. Sir, did ask if a quarterly amount would correspond to the twelve month period. I think within a few percentage points I would say, yes. I would say certainly not more than five in our current account. The total amount for our current account is \$9.22 million.

MR. GILBERT:

Is it \$9.2 million out of Interim Supply for Current Account?

DR. TWOMEY:

In breaking that down we have broken it down into Alterations, \$4.187 million; I am not ending up with the hundreds; Development, \$3.520 million; Leased Accommodations, \$100,000; Improvement to Land and Property, \$1 million roughly; Realty Services, \$35,000; Advanced Planning, \$20,000; and C.A. Pippy Park, \$352,000. I think that all of you men are knowledgeable enough to know that we have a very high payroll. We have roughly 600 people on our permanent staff. We have to meet that and we have to meet all of the ongoing expenses within the three month period.

You might ask what these expenses are? I have named these. On Capital Account we have asked for

a much larger amount. I believe it is \$25,689,000. You will find that that is not a very high figure when the Budget comes down tomorrow. We have not grabbed a lot and we have tried to be careful in our request for money. As you know Current Account is much different in the Department of Public Works and Services because we are responsible for many things that are ongoing for the whole twelve month period.

When we lease property, we have to have the amount of money available to cover that lease for a twelve month period. Also, when we take into consideration the other bills and responsibilities we have, for example, telephone services, we have to have enough to cover that for a twelve month period. Heat and light in all its forms, according to the Financial Administration Act, we have to have money in our Department to cover these expenditures during the coming year.

Any more questions, gentlemen?

MR. WELLS:

Did I understand the hon. Minister to say \$25 million was for capital?

DR. TWOMEY:

That is correct.

MR. WELLS:

Would the hon. Minister tell us what that \$25 million is for? Surely he cannot expect the House to say yes, you can have the \$25 million with no indication of what it is for.

DR. TWOMEY:

With great pleasure, Sir.

I will deal it here and there because it would be impossible to cover all the points and I will

pick them ad lib and not select them in any or form whatsoever. If there are other questions you would want to ask afterwards, I would be only too pleased to comply with your request.

Capital Accounts - Alterations to existing facilities, for instance, we have ask under interim supply \$431,000 allocated to life safety improvements and accessibility and unallocated \$50,000.

Alteration to existing facilities: I will give you the major ones. I can give you some of the smaller ones. East and West Wing, towers section, \$20,000 interim supply, and major renovations to this building itself, \$1.4 million. Total cost of renovations for this building is \$20 point something million and that has been ongoing for a number of years; to date I believe we have spent \$8 million; so that is roughly \$12 million more to be spent in upgrading and renovation of this building.

The West Block - alterations for full height partitions, that is one question that I did not answer Sir, I will come back, \$100,000.

Sir Richard Squires Building, Corner Brook, a sprinkler system, \$90,000, plus \$200 actually. Voice communication upgrading in the Sir Richard Squires Building \$32,000.

Occupational Health and Safety for various buildings, \$25,000. Now there are various amounts here for different buildings, one of them 25 another 25, a 50, contingency funds for capital project transfer \$100,000.

A business information centre, I presume that is in Labrador,

\$10,000.

Modification to the veterinary laboratory, \$47,600.

Grand Falls, Main Depot, install an oil separator, \$3,000.

Life safety and occupational health and safety, another \$30,000.

Come by Chance Hospital demolition, \$45,000.

Upgrading of the Arts and Culture Centre, Corner Brook, \$42,000. I believe for the same one, life safety and accessibility, \$20,000. The Newman Building interior renovations and fitting up, \$50,000.

The Cabot Institute, St. John's, new heating boiler in Topsail Road, Campus, \$175,000.

The Constabulary building, St. John's, the construction of an emergency exit from dark room, \$20,000.

The Fisher Institute of Applied Art and Technology, Corner Brook, life safety, occupational health and safety, \$30,000.

Community College facilities, community college and implementation programmes, essential alterations, \$700,000.

Happy Valley - Goose Bay, alterations to the present office, \$30,000, life safety and occupational health safety, \$40,000.

MR. WELLS:

The figure the minister mentioned for Community Colleges, was it \$700,000?

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the Minister of Public Works.

DR. TWOMEY:

The Motor Vehicle Registration office building in Mount Pearl, \$670,000. Some money for the Department of Social Services - Youth Correction facility - \$200,000 for planning. The development of new facility, Health, long-term care facility, \$1 million.

I presume it is planning for the Department of Justice, construction of a new court, \$200,000.

There is another \$40,000, one is for the Unified Family Court, and the other is Grand Falls courthouse, \$40,000. Constabulary Building, I believe in Corner Brook, furniture and equipment, \$20,000.

Fisheries and Marine Institute, development of new facilities, Institute of Fisheries, to complete the construction, \$50,000, and the development of a new facility, \$3.5 million.

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the member for Twillingate.

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Chairman, I am only going to take a minute. I noticed the minister, Mr. Chairman, in giving the breakdown of the expenditures proposed through Interim Supply, did mention, I believe he said, \$20 million for improvements to Confederation Building and that \$8 million have already been spent.

I wonder, Mr. Chairman, can the

minister tell the house if any of that \$8 million spent to date includes any renovations or improvements to the building that would eventually lead to the moving of this Legislature downstairs to the main floor, and if it not, I am wondering if the minister has given any thought to maybe having a feasibility study undertaken, looking into the possibility maybe of re-activating Colonial Building as the seat of the Legislature.

It seems to me if they are going to be spending many millions of dollars improving, or at least providing a facility on the main floor, would it be possible, for example, with the similar expenditure maybe to rehabilitate the old seat of the Legislature, something which I believe has a far greater historic value than Confederation Building.

The old Colonial Building, of course, is reeks of history and tradition, Mr. Chairman, and seems to me would make an excellent place for this Legislature to re-establish. I would seriously ask the minister, if money has not already been expended on the provision of a new Legislative Assembly Chamber on the main floor of this building, would he then maybe give some thought to having certain engineering or architectural studies undertaken with a view to doing something really meaningful, and that is to, maybe, rehabilitate the old Colonial Building as a seat of the Legislature.

Mr. Chairman, while I have the floor, I was interested in the minister's reply to our question concerning the cost of producing the whale that now adorns the grounds of the new Confederation

Building Extension.

He said, I believe, it cost \$27,500. That is for half a whale, the upper half of a whale. I wonder will the minister now then give us an undertaking that before he commissions the reproduction of the bottom half that he -

AN HON. MEMBER:

The bottom half is submerged.

MR. W. CARTER:

Or is it already in the ground? Is that whale going to grow? Maybe that whale has been planted there, Mr. Chairman. Maybe it is only a matter of time. With certain materials, maybe that whale will grow.

I want to make the point, Mr. Chairman - and I am certainly not against art. I suppose it is all a part of life and necessary - but it seems to me that in a Province where we have so many wants and so many people living under conditions that are not acceptable, that that \$27,500 could have been better spent on other more worthy projects. Maybe I am treating the matter rather lightly, but certainly I would ask -

MR. MORGAN:

(Inaudible) against art work.

MR. W. CARTER:

I am not at all against art, but it seems to me that that \$27,500 could have been better spent. Again I ask if he is going to commission the production of the lower part of that whale that maybe he would give us some idea as to what he plans on spending on that project.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the Minister of Public Works.

DR. TWOMEY:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

When you mentioned that I should give thought and consideration, it occurred to me that maybe in that fight at Balaclava, or somewhere else, the poet wrote: 'Theirs not to reason why.'

As Minister of Public Works and Services, I am grateful that I came into a department in which I did not have to adjudicate the art and the talent of the artist that is to be bought and purchased by this government for the people of Newfoundland.

I cannot tell you if this is an emerging whale or if it is a submerged whale. I have not had the curiosity to look for the tail. However, it is there, as many pieces of art are in this world. I believe Tou Louse-Lautrec has been credited with saying, 'Art is in the eye of the beholder.' I know he popularized the statement, and I cannot tell you whether he originally innovated it or if he was a plagiarist. I am very grateful that I am not put in that position as I could not be a judge of that particular art or art in any form.

You asked one other question last week which occurred to me.

MR. W. CARTER:

The Legislature.

DR. TWOMEY:

The figure I gave you, \$8.3 million, that is for the Northern Block. The House of Assembly itself is roughly about \$6.5 million. That is the House of

Assembly with all the offices for the elected members of the House and for the staff that supports the House. I have not checked, since I have come into this office, the details of, I believe, a report that was commissioned some time ago before that decision was made. I should tell you and all the members of the House of Assembly that I am not absolutely sure of the details of that report. But, to my knowledge and from memory, I would gather that they gave consideration to expanding this building to meet the modern requirements of a House of Assembly in this day, in this age and into the future and I believe that the cost were horrendous. It would be very difficult to duplicate the architecture that is, I think, striking and obvious at this particular time. I will check into it and if I can I will get a report back to you as quickly as is possible. I believe it has been done, Sir, but I will verify the fact.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir.

MR. GILBERT:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I was listening to the minister. He is giving some great explanations here and it is keeping everybody awake here, for sure. There are some serious things that also have to be considered. In his capital account he said there was something over \$25 million. The amount of \$34 million he is asking us to approve, and out of it he says \$25.2 million is capital account.

DR. TWOMEY:

\$25.689 million.

MR. GILBERT:

Alright, \$25.689 million, but out of that, in rough figures he gave us an explanation for \$8.8 million of that so there is again somewhere in the vicinity of \$17 million that we have not had any explanation for so I wonder if he would possibly like to give us a run down of what the other \$17 million is for in his capital account?

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the Minister of Public Works.

DR. TWOMEY:

When I did rise to speak I said I would touch them without selection and I read. I think I can get it but it will take me some time to have all the details to present to you on paper, but I have no objection in detailing many of them, as I have detailed now.

MR. WELLS:

Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. WELLS:

Mr. Chairman, we do not need the details. Is there anything out of the ordinary that the minister is doing? When he provides us with advice that there is about \$25 million on capital and he runs through a fairly lengthy list and it covers \$8.8 million, is there anything major involved in the other \$16 million? We do not need to have a list from the minister of what he is going to do with \$20,000 for this and \$30,000 for that, if he has a miscellaneous list of smaller items that total \$3, \$4 or \$5 million. We can

understand that, but we just need to know what the major expenditure is going to be for and, with that advice from the minister of the major items, I am sure that the members on this side would be happy to give him approval for his Interim Supply on the basis of his establishing that.

While I am on my feet, would the minister, we do not need to consider it today because it is not in the Interim Supply vote, but on the question dealing with the Colonial Building and its possible future use as the House of Assembly, would the government consider an all party committee to consider that? It is worth considering.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the Minister of Finance.

MR. WINDSOR:

Mr. Chairman, just for a moment, on the same issue, the hon. Leader of the Opposition will recall that last week in dealing with these same Estimates I did give him some numbers but I will just quickly go through some of the big ones again because what I did for him, without dealing with the capital at all, but just on current account, I outlined where some \$16 million of that is, which would appear, because his question to me a few days ago was why are we asking for \$34 or \$35 million now versus \$43 or \$44 million in total last year. I tried to pick out some extraordinary items. I did not touch the capital. The hon. gentleman has talked about \$8 or \$10 million in capital, I think, that is in Interim Supply. Just in current areas, I indicated that there was a \$4 million item which deals with contracts for garbage collection, cleaning and snow clearing.

MR. WELLS:

What constitutes the \$25 million when the minister gave us \$8.8 million? There must be some other major item.

MR. WINDSOR:

I just wanted to remind you that there is \$16 million that I outlined here that are unusual numbers, but the current and capital at \$43 million would be everything. The \$43 or \$44 million is current and capital combined so the hon. gentleman has outlined some \$12 or \$15 million in capital. I have outlined \$16 million. So that is \$23 million or \$24 million of the \$34 million. So most of the balance is just straightforward ongoing.

MR. WELLS:

Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. WELLS:

The minister told us earlier this afternoon that there was \$25.6 million on capital account. He listed out some items, and they total approximately \$8.8 million. We just like to know, there must be some major items that total \$16 million that he is asking for Interim Supply for. In fairness the Opposition should know, if they are to say yes, it is okay to spend the public money for that purpose. They should know generally, without getting into the details of \$5,000, \$10,000 or \$30,000 items. There must be some major matters that total \$16 million.

DR. TWOMEY:

Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the Minister of Public Works and Services.

DR. TWOMEY:

If you will give me a few minutes, I will go over these forms and I will report from the major ones. I said I will go through without selection the last time. I will go through now and you want in millions and so on.

MR. WELLS:

Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. WELLS:

I thank the minister and that will be fine, Sir.

MR. SIMMONS:

Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the member for Fortune - Hermitage.

MR. SIMMONS:

Mr. Chairman, I understand that the gentleman for Pleasantville (Mr. Dinn), the Minister of Mines is maybe within earshot. Here we are. I knew he was in the precincts of the House somewhere and I would like thank him for coming back into the Chamber.

I wonder if he would just take a minute to apprise the Committee of any items in the \$2.671 million requested under the umbrella of his portfolio. Whether he would apprise the House of any particular items that he feels the attention of the Committee ought to be drawn to. I realize we will have a fuller opportunity during the budget debate and estimate's procedure, but can he identify any particular items that he ought to

flag at this particular time other than fairly routine expenditures for the Committee? Also, in the process, would he indicate what is the breakdown as between capital and current?

MR. DINN:
Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. DINN:
Mr. Chairman, we do not have any capital listed in Interim Supply, not a penny. The money that is there, the \$2,671,200, is basically administration, for the operation of the Department of Mines for about a quarter of the Budget, not exactly a quarter, but about a quarter of the budget. I can give the complete breakdown if the hon. member wants it. It will probably take about five minutes.

Minister's Office, Salaries and Other - If hon. members want to get into the other I can get into that as well - but Salaries \$43,300; Other Expenditures, \$14,600, for a total of \$57,900. Executive Support, \$46,400; Other Expenditures, \$11,400; any one of those, by the way, that I am giving out now, \$11,400, for example, can be broken down almost on a by dollar basis; \$57,800, that is Executive Support; Administrative Support, Salaries \$65,000; Other Expenditures, \$101,300 for a total of \$166,800. The total by the way, if you add up all the totals, it will come to the \$2,671,200.

Administration in Mineral Development Division of the Department, \$62,000 to salaries; \$28,000, approximately, for other expenditures, and \$90,200 therefore for that; Regional

Mapping, \$223,800 salaries; \$144,200 for other expenditures; for a total of \$368,000; Geochemistry, \$204,700; other expenditures, \$183,600, for a total of \$388,300; Mineral Deposits \$127,900; Salaries \$62,100; other expenditures, \$190,000 total; Environmental Geology, \$106,002; for salaries \$53,300, and other expenditures, and total \$161,005. Publications and Information, \$181,900; that is salaries; other expenditures \$74,000 for a total of \$255,900; Administration in the Mineral Lands division, salaries \$5,000; other expenditures \$18,200; total \$23,200; Mineral Rights, \$42,000; salaries \$3,300, other expenditures for a total of \$45,300. Quarry Materials, that is the section now of the Department, \$45,200; salaries, \$10,100 other expenditures, total of \$55,300; Administration Mines Management, \$28,005; salaries \$3,800, other expenditures, supplies et cetera, \$32,300 total; Engineering Analysis, salaries \$61,000, other expenditures \$45,000, total \$106,000. Mineral Policy and Project Analysis division, \$110,000 salaries, \$562,700 other expenditures, for a total of \$672,700.

If the hon. member added up all the totals then, he would come up with \$2,671,600. If the hon. member wants a breakdown of any one of those items, or all of them, we have got lots of time, he can have that.

MR. SIMMONS:
Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:
The hon. the member for Fortune-Hermitage.

MR. SIMMONS:

I thank the Minister and I infer from his response that there is nothing unusual that he would want to flag and he indicates by a nod that there is not.

I want to put the same sort of question to my friend from Lewisporte, if I may. Will he, in respect of the \$3.2 million which his Department requests under the Bill, would he just indicate to the House, if he wants to walk through all the expenditures, that is fine, but my specific question to him is there anything in the expenditures which he would want to flag and draw the attention of the committee to it, at this particular time. We will have a fuller opportunity, during the budget debate I realize, but is there something that he would want to flag for the committee at this time.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the Minister of the Environment.

MR. RUSSELL:

Mr. Chairman, I thank the hon. member for the opportunity to speak briefly on Interim Supply.

First of all, of course, I would like to say that the Department of Environment and Lands is not one that is inducive to a great deal of capital expenditures. We are more into current account and further, Mr. Chairman, I would like to indicate to the House that I can and am quite willing to give a breakdown of the figures that are here, but it is completely 100 percent current account. If the hon. member wishes I can certainly

MR. SIMMONS:

Is it all current?

MR. RUSSELL:

It is all current. There are no capital expenditures in the interim supply. There may or may not be some in the overall budget when it comes down. But basically, as the hon. member might be aware, the Department, as I have said, is not given very much capital expenditures. There is nothing in Interim Supply of a capital nature, just salaries, and the day to day operation of the various divisions of the Department. If the hon. member wishes I can give general breakdown of the figures for him.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the member for Fortune-Hermitage.

MR. SIMMONS:

Mr. Chairman, that will not be particularly necessary, with the implicit undertaking that the Minister just gave the committee. If it is just a request to fund the day to day expenditures of the Department, there is nothing particularly unusual in the request.

Thank you very much.

MR. RUSSELL:

If the hon. member would like a breakdown at any time, I would be prepared at any time to break down the figures for him.

MR. SIMMONS:

Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the member for Fortune - Hermitage.

MR. SIMMONS:

Mr. Speaker, I realize it is only a matter of hours, with the new budget coming in tomorrow, or only a matter of days, at the most,

before we are going to be into Estimates Committees and we will be getting the breakdown in respect of the whole year. So, with the understanding that this is a request to fund the day-to-day routine of the office, the department structure, I take him at his word.

MR. LUSH:
Mr. Chairman

MR. CHAIRMAN:
The hon. the member for Bonavista North:

MR. LUSH:
Mr. Chairman, I want to address some similar questions to the Minister of Municipal Affairs for the \$30,900,000 that his department is asking for in this interim supply for the quarter year in question. It is about the same dollars that were requested last year in Interim Supply. I think, maybe it is in excess of \$1 million, which is not a lot of money.

So I wonder if the minister would address precisely what amounts of money will be for capital funding, and what amounts would be for current. Particularly, we would like to know the major capital expenditures and whether specifically there will be any large sums of money for municipal projects awarded in this Interim Supply Bill. I am very concerned about that, Mr. Chairman, and I would hope that the minister could identify for members in a more precise manner than what was done in Transportation. But we would like to know specifically what amounts of money will be for capital projects, water and sewer, and the sixty/forty arrangement with respect to roads to municipalities. Maybe none of

that is in capital. The minister can address that.

Also the minister might like to address whether or not, as a new minister, he plans to follow the procedure and precedents of former ministers, of just using block funding, as the Minister of Transportation insists on doing, even though the Auditor General condemns this practice of block funding. So I wonder whether the minister, as a new minister, plans to bring any new initiatives or new ideas to his department with respect to the allocation of capital funding to municipalities in this Province.

So, Mr. Chairman, these are the questions I would like for the minister to address at this point in time.

MR. CHAIRMAN:
The hon. the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. BRETT:
Mr. Chairman, I can advise my friend that there is no funding in the Interim Supply Bill for new capital works. The Capital Projects Board, which was set up before I went into the department, have made their recommendations to the department and the officials are in the process now of completing the list of projects. Then I will deal with it, and from there it will go on for government approval. But there is no decision at this point in time on any new capital projects for next year. The list has not been finalized. The only money that is in here would be for regular current account expenditures and any ongoing projects, nothing new.

Capital expenditures for water and sewer are under the sixty/forty.

I have said on a number of occasions that that figure will remain at \$25 million, as it was last year. I think government made a decision some time ago that we would freeze the amount at \$25 million for a three-year period. This is the second year. What will happen next year, I suppose, depends on the financial ability of the Province, but at this point in time I have to assume that it will be \$25 million for next year, as well.

As for the funding for roads expenditures, I do not have that with me. All I can tell you is that there are no funds in here because we have not made any final decisions on what projects will go ahead and what ones will not. We are working towards the same date as the minister did last year with respect to early tendering.

We all know in this House the confusion we have had over the years when we have been trying to put in water and sewer with snow on the ground, plowing the snow to get the roads dug up, so the former minister did a good job last year in getting early tender calls, announcing the projects early, and we are working on that same plan this year.

Hopefully, we will be able to advise the House some time in April. Perhaps, I should not put a date on it, but it is our intention to do it as early as we possibly can. So, as soon as the projects are finalized, then we will be happy to notify the House exactly what projects are going ahead.

I guess the bottom line is, Mr. Chairman, there is nothing in here for capital projects unless it is something that is ongoing, that

has to be done but there is no new projects in here for capital work.

MR. LUSH:
Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:
The hon. the member for Bonavista North.

MR. LUSH:
I want to make sure that we understand quite clearly what the minister is saying. There are no monies in this particular Interim Supply to be used for any major capital expenditures. So we will be in for not surprises while the House is recessed during Easter.

I want the minister to address this particular question, Mr. Chairman, whether or not the minister does in the plan to change the structure, the method or the system by which his predecessors have allocated the capital funding to various municipalities throughout the Province. Now, he is a new minister and I am sure the minister wants to do things properly, fairly, justly, and in an equitable manner to all municipalities throughout the Province.

I am sure I do not need to remind the minister that many of his predecessors have been accused of that medieval practice of pork barrelling. So to prevent that system, I wonder whether the minister is going to initiate some new system so that he does not stand accused of that practice.

Over the years we have suggested to the minister whether or not he would agreed to bringing in a list of the municipalities identified or earmarked for capital funding and whether he would not submit to

this House that list to be approved by the members of this House, project by project, rather than using the block funding method that was used previously when members had no idea where these monies were going or how much was going to where. It does not seem like the proper parliamentary way of doing things, Mr. Chairman.

So I am wondering whether the minister is going to bring in some new initiative to make sure that the municipalities of this Province are receiving their capital funding in a fair and just and equitable manner. So, I wonder if the minister would address that issue.

MR. BRETT:
Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:
The hon. the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. BRETT:
I guess, Mr. Chairman, one change from last year is the capital projects board. The hon. member on the other side fought to have it set up and that has been done. It is made up of representatives from the Department of Health, Environment, Transportation and the member from our own planning department. They have made recommendations to the Department. They have recommended certain projects and that, of course, has to be taken into consideration by myself.

The hon. member is speaking on the assumption of pork barrelling and all this sort of thing. I guess we could get into a great big argument about that. We went on for days last year in the House talking about it. There were all

kinds of facts and figures presented to indicate that this is not necessarily so.

As I look across the House, the member for St. John's East (Mr. Long) I do not think is looking for any water and sewer in his district. I do not think the member for Menihek (Mr. Fenwick) is looking for any water and sewer. The member for Gander (Mr. Baker) is looking for some but, again, Gander is fully serviced. There are some but the same thing applies on this side. There are some on this side who are looking for water and sewer and there are some who are not.

We can get into a great big argument about pork barrelling and all that sort of thing and I suggest to the hon. members that that is as old as time itself. As long as you have parties and this system of government that we have, government will always be accused of pork barrelling and we will always argue that we are not. I would like to think that the projects are approved on the basis of need and I suppose the mere fact that you have thirty some odd on this side and X number on that side, we will probably end up with more projects over here than there is over here. I do not think there is a lot anybody can do about that sort of thing.

Again, I reiterate that I would like to think that our decisions are based on need. The hon. gentleman is aware that there are a number of ongoing projects in districts from that side of the House. You remember last year that we had to go down and start a new system in Fogo which is going to cost several millions of dollars. We did not hesitate to do that. Again, it was based on

need and we will continue to do that.

I suggest to the hon. member that no matter what we do, no matter how fairly and squarely we do it, or how honestly we try to do it, that sometime between now and when that budget is finished, I am going to be accused, as all my predecessors, of pork barrelling and all that sort of thing. It seems to be something that us politicians have to live with, I guess, but I intend, the government does, I guess, to try to do this as fairly and squarely as possible.

MR. LUSH:
Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:
The hon. the member for Bonavista North.

MR. LUSH:
As a final comment, Mr. Chairman, I want to tell the hon. the Minister of Municipal Affairs that there will be no accusation of pork barrelling from this side if the minister allocates the capital funding properly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. LUSH:
If he does it fairly, justly and equitably, he will not as a matter of course get accused of pork barrelling on this side.

But I warn the minister that last year, when the Department of Municipal Affairs announced that there was \$25 million to be spent on capital funding and when less than 12 per cent of that came to this side, I can tell the hon. gentleman, if he operates with the same percentage, then obviously he

must get ready to be accused of pork barrelling with these kind of percentages, when less than 12 per cent of the monies allocated to the municipalities for capital funding came to this side of the House.

So, Mr. Chairman, if the hon. gentleman is intent on correcting that, if he is intent on improving that percentage, then he can look not to be accused of pork barrelling, but to get our praise, if he will do that fairly.

So, Mr. Chairman, I have not been convinced yet that the hon. minister is intent on doing that, but since there are no monies allocated for capital funding, all we want to do in the Interim Supply is give the minister fair warning. I, as the spokesman for Municipal Affairs on this side of the House, will be looking for fairness and justness and equality in the allocation of capital funding. I hope that the minister will devote his entire energies to ensure that that happens, and Mr. Chairman, not take the defeatist attitude that, 'Whatever I do, I am going to be accused of pork barrelling anyways,' because that is not so, Mr. Chairman, that is not the case. We will be looking for fairness, justness, and equality in the distribution of these funds.

MR. BAKER:
Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. BAKER:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Just a very brief interjection, and I want to speak directly to the Government House Leader who

has given some figures to us today concerning the Department of Transportation. I want to say to the Government House Leader that he knows exactly what it is we are after; he knows exactly what it is we want. He has given us a lot of figures that were interesting, and I thank him for it. We know quite a bit about the Department of Transportation. However, he knows that it boils down to one thing. It boils down to a sum of money - and he referred to it himself as a lump sum - that is going to be applied to road construction in the Province.

What we are saying very simply is this: That the idea of block funding, I personally do not agree with. I believe that if the House of Assembly is to approve funds for government use, then as closely as possible we should know that these funds are going for and what they going to be spent for.

If you agree with the principle of block funding because it is block funding, I would say to the Government House Leader, why does the department not simply come in and say, 'I would like \$1.5 billion and that is it,' and let us not have any details? Why not have the whole thing done under block funding? It just would not be sensible.

What I am saying to the minister is to say that there is a block of funds under the Department of Transportation, \$50 million or whatever it is, that is going to be spent on roads, I believe is not good enough. The Auditor General believes it is not good enough. There should be enough advanced planning, the government should know where the funds are going, and should get approval for the list of projects that these

Funds are going to be spent on.

I say to the Government House Leader, that is really the crux of the matter here right now. At this point it is getting within a half hour or so of the time when the House normally closes on this particular day, and we are getting down to the crunch.

I would simply like to ask the Government House Leader again to forget about the block funding, to provide us with the list of roads that are going to be done and some of the funding in interim supply that is going to be applied towards it, whether it be pre-engineering or whatever, to supply us with that list; to tell us something about how the priority list is established, and not the same thing that we have been told two or three times in the past, because I know that that is not operative. I know it might be the priorities used to establish the original list of roads that are to be done. I know that, but it is not what comes out eventually as the list that is approved by Cabinet. So, tell us the roads that are going to be done, tell us the projects that are going to be undertaken, and tell us on what basis the priority list is devised.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the President of the Council.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to irritate the member for Gander, but I must tell him in all honesty that that list is not available. That information is not available. I have already explained that to hon. members myself a couple of times. I believe the Minister of

Transportation explained it on Friday. The decisions as to the projects have not yet been made, have not yet been finalized. That is all I can tell the hon. member. So I cannot provide him with a list that does not exist.

He may choose not to believe that, but I can tell him that I am telling him the truth. That information is not yet available. I have already said that. There is not much point in my repeating it. The hon. member, I guess, can believe it or not believe it, but it is not yet available.

Now, as it applies to the question or the debate that goes on from time to time about whether or not the decisions are political in nature and that sort of thing, I recall very vividly, for example, some major projects that were undertaken by this government over the last couple of years in the forestry sector. The hon. member nods his head, and so he should, and members behind him should nod their heads, because we undertook some significant capital projects in silviculture, as he is aware. The vast majority of them, I dare say, were in Liberal districts, in the hon. Leader of the Opposition's district, in fact. A considerable amount of money spent on silviculture and the like. We did not make a big deal about it. That would not be called counter-pork barrelling, I suppose. We do not make a big deal about it. The hon. members opposite make big deals about it, when it does not suit them, I guess. That is the way it turns out. But that is the case of the forestry projects.

In the case of the Fisheries Marine Centers, I believe, under the new program the minister

announced not too long ago, I believe the vast majority of those projects are in Liberal districts. They are not in Conservative districts.

AN HON. MEMBER:
Why?

MR. SIMMS:
Well, we do not have them. There are lots of areas over here that are fishing districts.

All I am trying to say to the hon. the member for Gander is that that debate and that argument will go on and he can make it as frequently as he wishes and members over here, I guess, will counter it as frequently as they wish. But the ultimate judges will be the public. We will let the public decide in due course when the time comes, and that might be much sooner than the hon. member expects and anticipates.

So (a), the information on roads is not available. I can tell him honestly, it is not available. That decision has not yet been made. No decisions on the road projects have been made. That is (a), and (b), with respect to the overall issue of how the projects are determined, if they are political in nature, that is a debate that the hon. the member may wish to carry on with. I am not going to enter into that debate. I have no intention of entering into the debate because I believe I have shown by example in other areas and sectors where the Liberal Party members, in fact, have done much better than members on this side in projects such as silviculture and forestry and in fishery with respect to Marine Centres. So I mean that debate and that argument will go on forever and a day.

In fact, even where the government has been accused of pork barrelling in the past by members opposite, I remember the former Minister of Municipal Affairs, and the former Minister of Transportation getting up in this House and the former Minister of Finance on many occasions and countering the arguments that the hon. members made. It did not seem to do much good because I guess members opposite will believe what they want to believe, regardless of what we say. After all there would not be many political points scored if the hon. the member for Gander was to sudden get up and say, 'Well, the hon. minister is doing the right thing and that is correct and I admit now that, you know, really it is only a figment of my imagination.' I would not expect him to get up and say that.

The hon. the member for Gander is doing a marvellous job, by the way, as finance critic for the members opposite. I believe he is doing a marvellous job and commend him on it, but with respect to his specific question, I can only give him the answer that I have already provided.

MR. GULLAGE:
Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mitchell):
The hon. the member for Waterford - Kenmount.

MR. GULLAGE:
Mr. Chairman, I would like to address some concerns to the Minister of Housing. We note that in Interim Supply Newfoundland and Labrador Housing is looking for some \$3 million which means we can only assume that the budget itself will probably show \$10 million to \$12 million.

Housing, of course, has been spun off as a separate department, as we know, and I am rather concerned when you look at what is being happening in the City of St. John's and Mount Pearl, as two examples I know about, and, no doubt, throughout the Island, when we look at the disincentives that have been put in place for housing, as far as municipalities are concerned and the withdrawing of funding in many of the areas, specifically non-profit housing being the most prevalent area of housing in the Province. We wonder how a budget of \$10 million to \$12 million, assuming that it might be that high, can be put in place for a new department, and yet we can see the withdrawal of funding and cost-sharing arrangements in St. John's and Mount Pearl, in particular, and no doubt throughout the Province.

I am wondering if the minister can explain in some detail what the \$3 million is comprised of, whether it is on capital account or current, and whether the overall budget will show us expenditures that are specifically related to the problems that we have with housing and we will not see large sums of money spent on administration and premises and other areas that do not really speak to the needs of housing in the Province.

I am sure that a new department has to be more accountable than an established department. It has got to show that an expenditure, whether it was carved out of the previous budget or not, is justified. Just to repeat myself, I would hope that the disincentives that we see in place now with cost-sharing arrangements and, in particular, non-profit housing because I think that is

the most important area the government should be involved in.

It should not be involved in some of the housing projects that it is involved in now in competition with the private sector. If, in fact, the large amount of dollars that are going to be expended in the budget, as we see it tomorrow, are to be expended in areas where the housing department and Newfoundland and Labrador Housing is simply competing with the free enterprise sector, I think that that is the sort of mandate we can well do without.

Can the minister could speak now specifically to the \$3 million that has been asked now in Interim Supply and tell the House whether or not the break down is on current or capital account?

MR. PEACH:
Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. PEACH:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I welcome the new member for Waterford-Kenmount here and I welcome his questions on housing as it relates to the City of St. John's and I guess, now the Town of Mount Pearl, and soon the City of Mount Pearl.

First of all, the \$3 million—some odd that has been allocated as Interim Supply is for current account and not capital. I think it represents about one-quarter of the current account budget that normally is requested each year. One would assume that a level of funding would be probably not any different in the coming year than it has been in the past year.

However, I guess we would have to wait until tomorrow, Budget day, to find out exactly what has been allocated.

Mr. Chairman, this amount of funding is for basic operation and administrative costs for this period of time while we are waiting for the budgetary process. We have not taken on anything new except to continue on. It has to form part of subsidization of our rentals, mortgage subsidizations that we have. Those things, I am sure, the member understands have to continue on. So, in order for us to continue operating in the interim, that is what this funding was required for.

Mr. Chairman, relating to some of the other comments, I think it is fair to say, yes, the mandate of Newfoundland and Labrador Housing is to provide adequate housing for people in the Province in greatest need and yes, I think we have to be careful that we are not in direct competition to the private and the public sector that is out there. I guess we have a great concern about that at the present time because we have to realize that the occupancy rate in the private sector housing that we have in the City of St. John's and the Mount Pearl area, I think is at probably a rather high rate. The last statistic that I have seen on it was somewhat of a 11.1 per cent vacancy. That, in itself, is a little too high.

The fact that another survey will be done during the month of April, I think, it is fair to guess that the rate at that time might be even higher because we all realize that after April month we have a great exodus of students and that type of people out of the City for

the Summer, and that causes many more buildings to become vacant.

It is a concern of ours, and it is a concern, Mr. Chairman, that the Housing Corporation will be addressing. We want to ensure that we will not be in direct competition, but that we are in the area of social housing, providing housing accommodation in areas which need it, and providing it on a basis that is affordable to the people who want that type of housing.

Just to make another quick comment on social housing as it relates directly to the city, I think it was in 1986 - 1987 that we provided twenty-five social housing units to the city of St. John's. At that time, there was no subsidy required from the city. I am sure the member for Waterford - Kenmount, in both his role as a city councillor and now as an MHA, which, I might add, Mr. Chairman, I think is going to be difficult for him, since I had the experience of doing that myself when I was elected back in 1982, albeit in a little different role, I being the Mayor of a town and an MHA at the same time. I can say to him that I stuck it out for about a year, but I found that the situation was very difficult to deal with. I wish him all the luck in trying to wear two hats. I am sure that as a city councillor he realizes that in 1987 - 1988 we provided twenty-five more social housing units to the city. This time it was done under the new arrangement we had in the Global Agreement that was signed in 1986, in which CMHC provides 75 per cent and we provide 25 per cent.

However, there was a stipulation in the agreement that in the case

of municipalities, they would be required to enter into a cost-shared arrangement under the 25 per cent portion of that agreement. At that time, the city of St. John's agreed through their housing committee to be part of it and to access that funding, which meant that the city of St. John's had to provide 12.5 per cent, the Housing Corporation would provide 12.5 per cent, and CMHC would provide the 75 per cent.

This has been my first opportunity to make some comments on housing, and I am again glad to see that our new member for Waterford - Kenmount has housing concerns. The city of St. John's did agree to this. However, I recognize, as I am sure the MHA for Waterford - Kenmount does, that the city of St. John's now has had second thoughts on their arrangement to get into that programme. Over the last several days we have met with officials of city council and are discussing this issue of the arrangement, because they were the only municipality in the Province that took part in this arrangement, probably because it was one of the few municipalities, except for Mount Pearl, that could afford to take part; we all realize that many town councils would not have available funding to put their share into it. But it is a matter that we are addressing, and hopefully over the next few weeks we will be able to sit down with city council and work on that particular problem as it relates to that particular issue.

I guess, as well, Mr. Chairman, it is fair to say that Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation, now being a separate department has a budget, and we probably did not realize - I, for one, did not

realize it - the amount of expenditure that we have. Granted, it is done on a federal/provincial cost-shared arrangement. I think last year we were looking at a budget in excess of \$140 million to address housing problems and deliver our programmes throughout the Province.

We set up a committee to assess the needs of housing in the Province. That committee went around the Province last year and listened to the requests and concerns that have been expressed by councils and by various interest groups, and hopefully, during the month of April, as a matter of fact, I will have some conclusions drawn from those proposals and will be able to address them here and be able to let the people of the Province know where we are going to direct ourselves during 1988 - 1989.

I trust, Mr. Chairman, that answers most of the hon. member's concerns.

MR. GULLAGE:

Mr. Chairman, just a follow-up to the minister's answer on my request for a breakdown of the \$3 million. I wonder if the minister could be more specific and, in fact, tell the House exactly what is involved in the \$3 million as far as administration of premises is concerned. I think you alluded to the fact that some of the \$3 million is being used for cost-sharing arrangements with ongoing projects, subsidizing rents and so on, but apart from that portion, could you tell us how much is allotted to that particular part of your budget and, then, how much of the \$3 million is allocated to administration and premises for Newfoundland and Labrador Housing

itself?

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the Minister of Housing.

MR. PEACH:

Mr. Chairman, I do not have the exact figures in front of me, but I understand that it is just the normal administrative payroll that is required in the every day operation that would be ongoing if we were operating after April 1. The bigger share, obviously, would be in rent subsidization and mortgage subsidies that we would have, some other ongoing study, some other ongoing work that was allocated with regard to, probably, promotion of our industrial parks around the Province, because some of those things were in place and were committed to municipalities; some land developments were committed. We are presently continuing ongoing work with regard to further land development for which there is a great need in the Cowan Heights - Mount Pearl area. So, some of those are sort of fixed administrative costs that are just ongoing, and that would take the biggest part of that one quarter of our budget requirement that we had to put through in the form of some \$3 million in Interim Supply.

MR. GULLAGE:

Can you obtain those figures and that breakdown and make it available to the House?

MR. PEACH:

There is no problem with making those figures available, I am sure, Mr. Chairman, for 1987-1988. As well, I could say to the hon. gentleman, the new member for Waterford - Kenmount, that during the Estimates Committees, of course, there is continuous debate and, when we get

to the Estimates Committees, I will be only too glad to provide more information. Anything that we have available, Mr. Chairman, I would be more than happy to present to not only the hon. member but to the House and then to the people.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the member for Eagle River.

MR. HISCOCK:

Mr. Chairman, my question is to the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth. In current account his Department is asking for \$12.6 million. Last year it was \$10 million. My question to the Minister is - I wrote the Minister on Friday, letting him know that I would ask for a breakdown of current account - how much is in current account and would he detail it; capital account and would he detail it? If there are extra costs, then obviously we would not expect to get a breakdown because the priorities would not necessarily have been established.

So I will ask for those, particularly capital account, money allocated for grants for swimming pools and grants for stadiums, which we need for the forthcoming year in order to call tenders.

The other thing I want to mention to the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth is that his department, particularly the cultural section, has not seen in the past three years any money allocated for an increase. Another thing I would like to point out is the attitude government has towards the Department of Culture, Recreation and Youth. The cultural aspect of

the fabric of our society is looked upon in many ways as a social -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. HISCOCK:

May I have silence, Mr. Chairman, please?

MR. CHAIRMAN:

Order, please!

The hon. the member for Eagle River.

MR. HISCOCK:

The cultural aspect of our Province, Mr. Chairman, is extremely important and government, and many people in our Province, often tend to treat it as a social aspect, they think that it is on the fringes, and when times are hard economically, then the first thing to be cut back is the cultural aspect. Basically, my question to the minister is why does not government look at the economic effect, for example, that the Stephenville festival is having on this Province, as is the St. John's festival at the Arts and Culture Centre and others.

Theatre in this Province has received national recognition. And, for example, there was an article in *The Globe and Mail* on Kevin Major, who is having books published in four or five different languages. Why is it that government in particular is not helping the Arts community enough, and looks at it as a social fabric rather than looking at its economic domino effect of creating jobs, employing people? As I have said, good examples are, of course, the Stephenville festival, the St. John's festival,

the Gander festival and others. I say to the minister, hopefully in the budget coming down tomorrow we will see some sort of increase.

We of the loyal Opposition think government should do away with the 12 per cent sales tax on art. Do you know our artists here in Newfoundland, Mr. Chairman, are major artists? There are people here in this Province who phone art galleries in Ontario to purchase our Newfoundland artists' work. Why? Because out of Province you do not have to pay the 12 per cent sales tax.

Many Cabinet Ministers and the Premier, himself, have the walls of offices adorned with paintings by major artists of this Province, and a lot of them were bought outside this Province. What that is doing, Mr. Chairman, is giving the galleries on the mainland an edge on our local galleries. That is one example where this policy is really, really, really failing.

The 12 per cent sales tax should be done away with, as it was on crafts. But let us look at the cultural aspect, at the plays. The various production companies here in this Province when they need to buy equipment to put off their plays, whether it be costumes, whether it be props, whether it be makeup, or other expenses, they have to pay that 12 per cent sales tax.

Again, speaking of the economic domino effect, what is the sense of the Department of Tourism trying to get national conventions to come into this city - the idea is to bring more money here. One of the ways, of course, is through our cultural aspects, our local art and artists, so I hope that in the forthcoming budget this

minister is championing the idea of getting rid of the 12 per cent sales tax on art and cultural related activities.

I have asked the minister, and I wrote the minister on Friday, to give me a breakdown of capital account and current account, particularly as it relates to grants for stadiums and swimming pools.

This government also, Mr. Chairman, has brought in a programme to deal with the high rate of illiteracy in this Province, on which it is spending \$170,000.

Looking at last year's budget, the minister's department allocated \$200,000 towards the Newfoundland and Labrador Library Boards. That, again, Mr. Chairman, has not been increased in several years. Mr. Chairman, in Port Hope Simpson they want to get a library on the go, as they do in Nain and several other areas around the Province, but they cannot. Why, Mr. Chairman? Because there is no money.

So how can government address the illiteracy problem in this Province, Mr. Chairman, when they cannot provide libraries? So, I would ask, out of the \$12 million, will any money be allocated to the Newfoundland and Labrador Library Boards?

Since Red Bay is in my district, and the museum is there, will there be any money in current or capital account for the further development of Red Bay? Another thing which is a total disgrace is the number of hours the museums, the art galleries, the Arts and Culture Centers' galleries and other galleries that are operated

by this government, are open. We cannot even afford to operate them. In Labrador City, the number of people operating these Arts and Culture Centres is the bare minimum. Therefore, I would ask the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth if, out of this \$12.6 million, there is extra money being allocated to increase the number of employees needed to keep these art galleries and museums and other public buildings open in our Province? Why is it our museums and art galleries, in particular, and provincial parks, have to close Labor Day? Why are they not open longer?

Provincial parks: Rumour has it that the provincial government is going to be selling off some of our provincial parks. Is the department still considering selling off some of our provincial parks? Rumour also has it that this government is considering closing the restaurant at the Arts and Culture Centre in St. John's, Act III. Is this really being considered?

Current and Capital Account, as I said to the minister, is extremely important. Something like almost \$600,000 is allocated here for the Arts and Culture Centre in St. John's. What is this money to be used for? Also, Mr. Chairman, there is a movement underway in the arts community here in St. John's to revive the old York Theatre.

MR. J. CARTER:
(Inaudible) bar none.

MR. HISCOCK:
Mr. Chairman, if I could have the attention of the minister? I know the minister is very talented, but I can tell you that when the member for Placentia (Mr.

Patterson) is talking, it is very difficult not to give him a full 100 per cent.

The Arts Community in St. John's is thinking about trying to get money from the city and the Province to revive the York Theatre. Is there any money allocated in capital account for this purpose? Another question I have to ask the minister - I agree there are a lot of questions, but I do not want the minister to get up and answer them, I would like a written response, which can be tabled at any time.

The director of our largest art gallery has made application to the federal government for \$3 million for a new art gallery, and hopes, if they get a substantial portion of the money, it will embarrass the provincial government into giving some funding for this art gallery. Why is it that the Minister of Culture (Mr. Butt) and his department, and this provincial government, have such a lack of communications with the director of the largest art gallery in this Province that she feels she has to make a public statement to embarrass the provincial government into getting on the side of developing a major art gallery?

MR. CHAIRMAN:
Order, please!

The hon. member's time is up.

MR. HISCOCK:
So, Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, could the minister give us a breakdown of Capital and Current Account, particularly Capital account.

MR. BUTT:

MR. CHAIRMAN:

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

MR. BUTT:

I thank the hon. member, Mr. Chairman, the threatened member for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock), for asking all those questions. I made a mental note of the more important ones, and I will certainly try to respond.

First of all, I want to say to the member, and he too should listen now while I give him answers, you have to get your act together on the other side. During a question today to the Minister of Public Works, the Opposition spokesman on fisheries matters did not think it was very good that the Province should be allocating 1 per cent of money spent on public buildings for work by Newfoundland artists? That programme was brought in by this government, and we are very proud of it. You can go into any public building now in Newfoundland -

MR. W. CARTER:

On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

On a point of order, the hon. the member for Twillingate.

MR. BUTT:

Yes, a point of order. I knew he was going to do that.

MR. W. CARTER:

I, at no time, criticized the member. The question of spending 1 per cent, I think he said. I did question the need to spend \$27,000 on that monstrosity that now adorns the West Block grounds of Confederation Building, I did not question their spending 1 per cent of the budget on art.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

There is no point of order.

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

MR. BUTT:

Thank you very much.

Mr. Chairman, hon. members opposite should know that that is done by an independent body. And, as the Minister of Public works pointed out, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. And I will pass no further comment on the whale, or where the tail of the whale is, or the red trench, or any of that, I will leave that to people who are far more experienced in art than I.

Let me address some of the direct questions that were presented by the member for Eagle River. There is allocated in Interim Supply, funding in the amount of roughly, if you do not mind us talking in round figures, \$12.5 million -

MR. HISCOCK:

How much?

MR. BUTT:

\$12.6 million.

MR. HISCOCK:

For the arts?

MR. BUTT:

Yes.

MR. HISCOCK:

How much is capital, and how much is current?

MR. BUTT:

I am going to address that now. In Recreation, in cultural affairs, where you say we are doing nothing, I will just run through it. I realize that a lot of this money, by the way, is just

for the ongoing housekeeping of the department. I say housekeeping, in that it is for salaries and things like that in the division of recreation, in cultural affairs, in historic resources, and in the youth division. There is a lot of money allocated in Interim Supply to pay that portion of sustaining grants and ongoing grants, travel grants to youth, and so on, but to be more specific and to deal with some of the major items that you raised, I would just like to say that in the area of recreation there is an allotment of approximately \$500,000 that goes out in grants and subsidies and it funds, for example, the three major federations in the Province: The Newfoundland and Labrador High School Athletic Federation, The Newfoundland and Labrador Parks and Recreation Association, and The Newfoundland and Labrador Sports Federation. So, it is that kind of thing that the money is spent on.

I cannot get into every single subhead because time will not permit, and I know that hon. gentleman opposite, as well as myself, want to make some progress. Also, in the area of community recreation grants there is an allocation of approximately \$300,000, and this goes into things like full-time leadership grants and power subsidies, and so on. There is also in the community recreational sports and fitness area grants and subsidies for an additional \$300,000 which goes toward the ongoing support for Canada Games, Newfoundland and Labrador Summer Games, and Labrador Winter Games, all of which we have ongoing now.

I am giving the committee a lot of information, Mr. Chairman, as you

can appreciate. The Interim Supply in the amount of about \$2.5 million will go toward the building of new facilities like the one in Nain, for example; there will be a large measure of support come out of Interim Supply for that main facility, as well as for upgrading of existing facilities. I am talking about major recreational facilities like swimming pools, and stadiums, and so on.

MR. HISCOCK:
How much?

MR. BUTT:
That is \$2.5 million. So these things we have to operate in the first three months of the fiscal year, and that is the kind of support we have to give these programmes.

I will just skip through now, very quickly. There is a fair amount of money allocated here in the Wildlife Division, and that is for ongoing studies of caribou, moose, and so on, things of that nature. The hon. member mentioned a figure of \$200,000 for libraries. Well, he must have dreamt that, because for grants and subsidies to the more than 100 public libraries in the Province, just in the Interim Supply Bill alone I have asked for about \$1.5 million to fund the more than 100 public libraries in the Province. So, if you can get your mind around that, \$1.5 million for three months, you may even take a guesstimate of what is in the budget tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN:
Order, please!

I just want to remind the minister that it is two minutes to six. I wonder if it is agreed to stop the clock.

MR. TULK:
Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. TULK:
The hon. House Leader is not in the vicinity of the House, but certainly, if there is no problem, I understand that there is an agreement that we may run until six thirty or quarter to seven. We have seen a great change take place on the other side in the way that questions are being answered, and if that continues - we have two or three more people who have some questions to ask - we see no reason why we cannot be finished by six thirty or quarter to seven.

MR. SIMMS:
Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. SIMMS:
Mr. Chairman, certainly in a spirit of co-operation - hon members still have some questions to ask - there is an indication that by six thirty or thereabout we might be able to conclude the discussion. We are quite prepared to agree to stop the clock and let the debate continue on until six thirty or thereabout.

MR. FENWICK:
Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. FENWICK:
Mr. Chairman, we are also willing to allow the clock to be stopped at six and finish at six thirty. However, I would like to get my ten minutes worth in, as well, and

I would just let the official Opposition know that.

MR. CHAIRMAN:
The hon. the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth.

MR. BUTT:
Mr. Chairman, actually I am getting to a very interesting part of the estimates in the Department of Culture, Recreation and Youth, because it is only now that I am going into the Cultural Affairs Division of the department. There is quite a lot of information I would like to give to the Committee, but I want to assure hon. members that I am not going to be able to do it in one minute. Despite what the hon. member said, there is a large measure of support and a positive focus on the Cultural Affairs Division of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Youth.

MR. HISCOCK:
Because the Minister (inaudible).

MR. BUTT:
You always get it backwards. I do not know why, but you have been doing it since you have been in the House. It would be good if you are the critic now, to at least get the title of the department right. I just wanted to make that little correction. I know I am a youthful minister, by the way, they told me the other night.

One of the things we fund, by the way, and are now taking it all alone, is Youth of the Year, which is substantial, in that we recognize twelve outstanding young people in the Province and an independent body picks from those twelve outstanding young people a Youth of the Year. It happened on Saturday night at a banquet

attended by a goodly number of members from both sides. The hon. the member for St. Barbe (Mr. Furey) nods his head in approval, in that it was Miss Brake, from the district of St. Barbe and the community of Trout River, who eventually won the Youth of the Year, an outstanding young woman from the West Coast who is involved in many, many very worthwhile programmes. I am sorry I am getting a little bit sidetracked here.

Operation of Museums: Because the member did ask these questions, I am trying to supply some answers. There is about \$300,000 in Interim Supply for the operation of museums. We have ongoing and sustaining grants to artists and the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council, and so on, and a couple of hundred thousand dollars for the Archives. Of course, we have an unusual amount of money going this year into the Youth Division of the department. If the hon. member wishes to ask further specific questions, I would be happy to give him the information as we pass Interim Supply.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. FENWICK:

Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the member for Menihek.

MR. FENWICK:

Mr. Chairman, this is the first chance I have had to speak since the Throne Speech, and actually some of the content will be that which I wished to put into the Throne Speech but did not get a chance to. Since the rules for speaking on Interim Supply are liberal, in the small 'l' sense, I

wish to enter my comments at this moment.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to respond to a number of comments made by the Leader of the official Opposition. I know this is the kind of thing that is usually saved for the Throne Speech, but it is the only opportunity I have had to do it, so I wish to do into it at this point. I heard a lot from the Leader of the Opposition on decorum on the day of the Throne Speech, and, quite frankly, I heard a lot on decorum from him back in June of last year, as well, when he initially became the leader of the party. At that time, I think I, along with a lot of other members of the House and members of the general public, were impressed with his sincerity and felt, quite frankly, that it might increase the tone of the House. I think, as the government members know and as we know, the tone of the House, to a large extent, comes from the official Opposition, since they are the ones who can set the tone of the questions and so on.

When you get to decorum, Mr. Chairman, I think you come to something different than sitting there and not heckling, which, quite frankly, seems to be what passes for decorum among the members of the official Opposition. There has been a lot less heckling, and that, I think, is an attempt by the Liberal Opposition to look as though they are a government in waiting, and that may be their idea. But I believe, quite frankly, that decorum springs from a respect for all members of the House, a respect for the institution, and a respect for the people in general, which says that you do not take cheap shots and that you do not

denigrate people based on their colour or their religion or their sex or, quite frankly, even where they are born.

Mr. Chairman, last year when we were walking out of the House one time, when we had had a particularly rough session, members of the government side were referring to the place in which I had been born, as not being a Newfoundland, being from elsewhere, and so on. Since I have heard it on probably about fifty or sixty different occasions in the House here, it does not bother me anymore. As I walked out of the House, through those doors, the Leader of the official Opposition was there and said that he thought it was despicable and that it should not be done, and that he felt that that was not an appropriate comment to make in a debating forum like this, and I was quite pleased to hear him say that.

However, if I recall the Liberal Convention that was held several weeks ago, I looked at the newspaper coverage of it and saw in there that the Leader of the official Opposition had called me a stuffed shirt, which I do not mind - that is not a bad one - who grew up in rich Ontario, which I felt was pretty much in the same vein, quite frankly, in terms of abuse which I had received before, and I thought was quite disappointing giving that the Leader of the official Opposition indicated that that was not the kind of comments that he was going to indulge in.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Are you ashamed of that?

MR. FENWICK:

No, quite frankly I am not. As a

matter of fact, I am quite proud that I was born in Ontario. I was born in St. Thomas, Ontario, during the war, when my father was stationed there, and about two months afterwards I moved from that Province and only lived a total of about one year in Ontario all told. But, nonetheless, that is neither here nor there because, quite frankly, where you were born is one of the few things that you cannot choose in life. In the case of the Leader of the Opposition, he was born in Buchans Junction. I was in Buchans Junction in the last byelection and it is a lovely place. I would no more denigrate him for having been born there than I would expect others to denigrate me for having been born in St. Thomas, Ontario.

However, Mr. Chairman, the problem I find with it is that a lot of our sons and daughters have over the last number of years had to go elsewhere in this country in order to look for work. Many of them have had to go to Ontario. And I would be, quite frankly, very disappointed if they were greeted with that same kind of comment by individuals in Ontario, that because they were not born there they are somehow less worthy and less desirable of being involved in the political life their Province. I would hope that they would not hold back from participation as a result of it.

So, Mr. Chairman, the other comments that the Leader of the Opposition made in that same speech I find even more worrisome. He mentioned, and I paraphrase because I do not have the actual quote, that we in the New Democratic Party wish to drag him down to our level. And often when he was commenting about his

salary supplement, he said what the market will bear is what I go for, and so on.

Mr. Chairman, the general impression is left that the mark of a man or a woman is the salary that they make and the net worth that they can show on their balance sheet, and I find that even worse than accusing persons of being less worthy because of where they were born. For us in our Party, the mark of a person is their humanity, and that they have worth whether they are making zero cents a year or \$126,000 a year. Their worth is the fact that they are human beings and they have rights and these rights should be respected no matter if they are broke or no matter if they are rich. And to me, I find it very disappointing that the Leader of the official Opposition should denigrate me because my salary is less than his.

Mr. Speaker, my salary is less than his because that is what it was set at by the House and because of the choices I made and the occupations I wished to go into. I was a teacher, and teacher's make a good living, but not nearly as good as a corporate lawyer makes, and on that basis I expected to make less money. I see nothing wrong in making less money, just as I see the fact that people who have chosen to be businessmen, to be store clerks, to be technicians and so on make different salaries on it. And I think it is inappropriate to go and say to people that you are less worthy because your salary is less and because your net worth is less.

So, Mr. Chairman, when we get to decorum, and when we talk about decorum, it is based on respect

for individuals, all of us. I think it is important that we do not go and start using a person's birthplace, a person's level of income and their net worth as any kind of measure of their value. Surely their value in this Chamber should be the contribution they make to the betterment of the Province and not where they were born or what a balance sheet says.

MR. SIMMONS:
Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:
On a point of order.

The hon. the member for Fortune-Hermitage.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMONS:
I listened with some attention to the hon. gentleman from Menihek, and I say to him with great respect that I heard the speech that he had reported to him secondhand and I submit to him that he missed an essential part. It had nothing to do with the birthplace per se. The line that caught my attention in the address was 'let him leave some of his biases.' And I wonder would the gentleman, if he wants to discuss the speech, address the substance of the speech instead of piggybacking in a number of things that were neither said nor inferred. And would the member mind addressing the plea made to him that he leave some of his biases, biases such as 'profit is a dirty word,' for example, and address that issue if he wants to talk about the substance of the speech, because that was the burden of what was said that particular night, that there was concern expressed, a concern I

share, that the gentleman from Menihek is parading a lot of biases, some of them not very pretty to look at.

MR. SIMMS:

To that point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

To that point of order, the hon. the President of the Council.

MR. SIMMS:

Very briefly, Mr. Chairman, we on this side are not interested in any differences that may exist between the two parties opposite. We are interested in providing as much information as we can to hon. members, and we understood that we would carry the clock until around six-thirty because some members legitimately had some questions. Let us hear the questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

To that point of order, there is no point of order.

The hon. the member for Naskaupi.

MR. KELLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I will be as brief as I can in recognizing what has been basically agreed to by the parties in the House. I would like to direct some questions to the Minister of Development and Tourism. I would imagine he is within earshot, and perhaps he will return.

I would compliment the minister who is on his way back in, after reading his comments in Friday's Hansard. I believe the Minister of Fisheries probably set the tone a little earlier in being pretty forthright in responding to various questions that were asked

him, and I think it has been mentioned that the tone has changed somewhat and that there is an attempt and an effort by ministers to provide the information, in most cases, I cannot say in every case from what I have heard, to make an attempt to provide information that we require in order to make a vote on the Interim Supply Bill. I did read the minister's comments on Friday and he gave quite a bit of information there, including the split between the current and capital monies and so on in his department, and the provincial contributions to the various programmes that come under the various agreement and so on. So I appreciate that.

I would like probably though something just a little more specific as it relates to the tourism agreement. I do not like to use the term pork barrelling myself, and so on, but anytime there is funding available the potential exists. I do not apply that to the minister in any way, shape, or form and I hope we can continue to have a good relationship in our respective roles as minister and critic in the House.

What I would like to know from the minister, from his department, and particularly as it relates to tourism in this context, is if he could advise the House of what specific, reasonably major projects, say within the private sector, would be receiving funding under some part of the \$14.3 million that you are asking for in interim supply. I ask that because, being a representative of one of the Labrador seats, we have a vast area, of course, but a somewhat smaller population than the Island part of the Province.

There is, at least, Mr. Chairman, a perception of regional disparity in that many, many people in Labrador feel that they do not get their fair share of the funding that is available under the various departments and various programmes. That may very well be true. I have been a resident there myself for about twenty-two years, and it does seem, notwithstanding what we might have to offer in the potential tourism area, that we do seem to get somewhat less than might be considered our fair share, laying population differences aside.

So I would like to ask him for a list of the Development and Tourism, but particularly tourism projects - I think he has indicated that some have gone through the approval stages already - and what these might be. I am looking at the regional answer as to what sort of a share various parts of Labrador are getting. I know they are getting some.

I would also like to ask him if there is any money in there for a tourism conference in Labrador. It has been recommended to him by a number of agencies and individuals, members of the House, in fact, that the combined councils, for example, are looking for some support for yet another, I should say after several years, tourism conference concentrated in and on Labrador. I believe in my earlier meeting or meeting with the Minister responsible for Northern Development, he seemed to be quite supportive of that approach, and I think he indicated there might be some information forthcoming very shortly. I am wondering if somewhere in the funding there might be that.

I know this may sound like I am being a bit facetious, but I am not in the least, Mr. Minister, but I am wondering what portion the minister's entertainment budget might be of that \$14.3 million. Now I understand that it would be considerably less than \$14.3 million. I am not trying to imply that that is a great vast amount, but what happens with entertainment and travel, that sort of a thing, is what I am asking the minister. What happens when ministers go to various districts and various parts of the Province making announcements is often they will host receptions, things of that nature, and the perception is within the electorate out there, and in my district as well as all the others, is that the guest lists at some of these functions appear to be somewhat weighted in one direction. I am asking this quite seriously of the minister: Is there any basis for that? You know, if you were spending, say, a couple of thousand dollars, \$5,000 or whatever on a reception of some sort, why does it always seem and why do people believe that there are more Tories at a Tory Minister's function to announce a certain programme that should benefit the whole district? Why would not the guest list be a fairly even split? That is the public perception. So for that reason I am asking what kind of travel entertainment money does he have within there, realizing it is a small portion of the \$14.3 million?

Could I ask the Chairman how much time I have?

MR. CHAIRMAN:
Five minutes.

MR. KELLAND:

Five minutes left. Thank you.

Since I may not get another opportunity before we close for the day I want to probably direct just a few questions to the Minister of Rural, Agriculture and Northern Development (Mr. Power), who is not here, but the Minister responsible for Northern Development (Mr. Warren) is, so perhaps he could answer the question. I notice in Bill No. 17, that the money that might be handled by the Minister responsible for Northern Development is not broken out there. There may be various reasons, perhaps legislative changes required and so on, but it is not shown in the Schedule as a separate department. I really do not have the answer from anybody yet, and I have done some correspondence on it. In a meeting with the Minister responsible for Northern Development -

Would the other minister mind? What is he now?

MR. FUREY:
Culture, Recreation and Youth.

MR. KELLAND:
Culture, Recreation and Youth, (Mr. Butt) would you mind? I would like to direct some questions.

MR. BUTT:
Go ahead.

MR. KELLAND:
Thank you, Minister.

As it does not show separately, I would like to know if indeed there is a Department of Northern Development? And if there is not until legislation takes care of that, if that is what is going to

happen, what portion of the funding under RAND shown here would be handled by the minister? Does he have, for example, or will he have a deputy minister and will he have a separate department? Or is he looking after, as I believe he told me earlier at our meeting, Rural, Agriculture and Northern Development in Labrador, and the other minister of RAND is looking after Rural, Agriculture and Northern Development on the Island of Newfoundland? I have been assigned the responsibilities to be his critic in the House, and that is a little difficult unless we have a definition of what his responsibilities are. I know that is the second minister who has gone over to give him some direction. I do not mind waiting until he gets through. I still have a couple of minutes left.

MR. BUTT:
Put it off until after Easter, 'Jim'.

MR. KELLAND:
Just one second now, Mr. Minister.

It is the two faces I am worried about.

Anyway, I would like to have answers to those questions. I do not think I will take up any more time. It is very difficult to talk when another minister is talking to the minister. Perhaps, he would explain this difference to me also, when he gets up. Originally I believe he was designated as the Minister of Northern Development, I believe everybody remembers that, and more recently his letterhead says 'Minister Responsible for Northern Development.' I am asking, non-facetiously, in all earnestness and all seriousness if you would provide me with the

answers to those questions?

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the Minister of Development and Tourism.

MR. BARRETT:

Mr. Chairman, I am just trying to address some of the issues that were raised by the hon. member for Naskaupi. I am not sure whether I am going to be able to get it all in in the period of time I have at my disposal. Of the \$3 million current that we are talking about, \$1.8 million of that, which is a significant part, was to do with advertising for the year - I think I addressed that last week - and that is significant, that is over half of what we are looking for. Under Tourism itself we have budgeted \$260,000 for accommodations development, \$100,000 for tourist facility enhancement, and \$160,000 in travel generators. Now, these represent probably fifty to one hundred different applications from all around the Province and I am afraid I cannot categorize them for the member as to regionalization, as to where these are coming from. But I think the member must understand that what we do is respond to private sector initiative. I think, if you speak to your colleague next to you and other people, they will attest to the fact that we are responsive to initiatives that come from their particular district. We do not try to put more emphasis on a particular district because it happens to be St. John's West versus Naskaupi or something of that nature. It cannot be used that way, really. It is a federal/provincial programme that is responsive to the private sector.

MR. KELLAND:

Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the member for Naskaupi.

MR. KELLAND:

Mr. Chairman, it is not so much district by district but I was concerned about Labrador as a region as opposed to the Island as a region, and wondering if there are significant amounts or application approvals that would indicate to me, and everybody, of course, that Labrador was getting its fair share based on geographic and, I suppose, population consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the Minister of Development and Tourism.

MR. BARRETT:

I would suggest to you that they are not getting their fair share.

AN HON. MEMBER:

They are getting more.

MR. BARRETT:

No. I do not even think they are getting as much as they should be getting.

As I said, it is based on the initiative from the particular area, and that dictates what you are going to spend there. Now, we have attempted to generate interest, for example, by encouraging the Tourism Association of Labrador West. We have provided funding support for that train experience, for the marketing concepts of it and everything else. We have provided funding to enhance the ski facilities up there. We have provided some funding support for Ski Goose, if you recall a couple of years ago when I was down, as we have done to enhance the

Tourism Information Center, which are the kind of community things we do not normally get involved in, but we try to sort of do a bit more to try and elevate the kind of levels of interest that are necessary. But I think where most of the funding, when it comes to tourism support, has been going in Labrador is to accommodate the demand from the outfitters, because that seems to be where most of the activity arises. Now, we are not necessarily hung up on that. I would prefer to be able to say we are doing a lot more in terms of accommodations, attractions and things like that, but they are not things which are publicly driven. They are things which must come from the private sector in order for us to provide that opportunity, but I hope the member will realize that I am not at all adverse to participation in anything in Labrador. As a matter of fact, a couple of years ago I was the patron of the Canoe Regatta down there, and it was quite a fantastic event, to be there with those, festivities, and to try and encourage more festivals. We had one last year for the first time in North West River. It was absolutely a superb opportunity to try and encourage this kind of participation in a community. We do what we can with it.

To try and address a point, I think, respecting my own initiatives, under Interim Supply we are looking for a proportionat part of the salary component, a proportionate part of transportation, which is the travel component which is \$15,5000, by the way, of the total, and a proportionat total of the thing with respect to entertainment on travelling. The figure we are looking for I think

is \$3900 for that particular component for that four month period. Now, whether or not it is all spent, or twice as much of it is spent, I do not know, but that is what we are trying to achieve in that period of time.

It is difficult for me to address the member's concerns about perceptions as to who is invited to these things. If I go out somewhere I normally depend on the Tourism Association, the regional office, or the municipality to provide the guest list of who should be invited, particularly as it relates to what emphasis is being placed on what the initiative is. I do not have a hidden agenda as it relates to inviting all the Tory camp, or all the Liberal camp but not inviting the NDP camp, because I do not even know who they are for the most part. Maybe I should but I do not, and I try to be as non-selective in that area as possible. If the member has a particular criticism then I would be very delighted to act on that. But I am not sure if there is anything else I can offer.

MR. KELLAND:

What about the tourism conference for Labrador?

MR. BARRETT:

I am sorry. If I might just have a second?

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the Minister of Development and Tourism.

MR. BARRETT:

We do, certainly, intend to have a significant tourism conference. As a matter of fact, one of the things that we are really trying to do is do a combined cultural and tourism initiative that would

relate specifically to Labrador as a region within the Province. And I am hoping that we will have that in place before this coming tourism season, so it will probably be between now and the end of June.

MR. BARRY:
Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:
The hon. the member for Mount Scio-Bell Island.

MR. BARRY:
Mr. Chairman, obviously we will not have time to go very far into matters relating to the minister's department, but I would like to ask the Minister of Justice (Ms. Verge), first of all, with respect to the \$23 million that is being sought in the Interim Supply, are we talking about unusual expenditures here that would not have been part of regular, ongoing programmes?

I would also like to ask the minister to indicate to this House, with respect to Legal Aid, specifically whether there is any change in the philosophy of the minister's department with respect to ensuring that we do not have one law for the rich and one law for the poor.

I am looking at a bill that the minister has tabled, which we will have a chance to debate later on in this session, An Act To Amend The Legal Aid Act, where the intent seems to be to take away from certain individuals, who now have the right to choose a solicitor from outside the Legal Aid office, a solicitor in private practice for certain offences, and now the individual is going to be limited where the charge carries a minimum sentence of life

imprisonment.

Is this an indication that we have a concerted effort on the part of the minister's department to save money in the area of Legal Aid, risking that principle that there should be one justice under the law, one law for all, not one law for the rich and one law for the poor? I would like for the minister to just touch on that.

Just on one final point which is not of the same philosophical importance as certain other matters that could be raised, but from a practical point of view, is the minister aware that a very large percentage of the lawyers in this Province are operating in an environment where, basically, it is almost impossible to do satisfactory research because of the state of the Law Library.

And recognizing that this is a matter for the Law Society to a certain extent, will the minister acknowledge that there is also the fact that the judges are sharing the Law Society Law Library and, in terms of finding a new site for that Law Library, the judges of the Supreme Court are concerned that the law library not be moved away from the Courthouse where they can have quick and easy access when preparing their decisions? The Justice Department here has a lovely library, clean, tidy, easy to get at, lots of room for the number of volumes. I would invite the minister to go down and try to do a little bit of legal research down in the Law Library in the Courthouse where the judges have to work. There is an excellent staff down there, very co-operative, but they are working under intolerable conditions. I would suggest to the minister, if she does go down,

she had better take off her dress and put on a pair of coveralls.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. BARRY:

Now, there is nothing sexist about that. I wonder why members opposite get so uptight at the concept of a woman in anything other than a dress? I mean, I wonder who is showing their sexist stance and biases here now?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. BARRY:

I know they would like to see the minister barefoot, etc., in a dress, but times are changing, gentlemen, and I am sure the minister would have no hesitation at all about whipping into a pair of coveralls and going down and trying to do an hour's legal research down in the Law Library.

I mention this not because it is a matter of convenience to myself or other members of the practicing bar, but because the very quality of justice in this Province suffers if members of the Law Society cannot, within a reasonable period of time, with a degree of reasonable efficiency, do the legal research that is needed in order to defend their clients, in order to prepare for their trials. This applies to the judges of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador as well. The judges have the same problem in trying to prepare and research for their opinions.

So, on my first general question with respect to extraordinary expenditures, I would ask the minister to deal with in a broad sense, because we are not going to

have time to go into detail on all the expenditures that are contemplated by the minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the Minister of Justice.

MS VERGE:

Mr. Chairman, basically the amounts provided for in the Interim Supply Bill are for carrying on normal operations of the Department of Justice. There are amounts for some special events, or some expansions, however, that I will list quickly. There is an amount of \$3800 provided as our Province's contribution to the proposed new National Judicial Education Center. This is being set up at the request of the Canadian Judicial Council with the support of all governments of Canada. The \$3800 represents our Province's contribution based on our number of judges relative to the total number of judges in Canada.

There is an amount of \$30,000 for the Human Rights Commission to provide for their hosting the Conference of CASHRA, which is the Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Associations. That will be held in our Province for the first time this Spring. Apart from that, there are amounts for scheduled development of computer systems to modernize and improve the efficiency of the operations of some branches of the department, including the Provincial Courts.

As to Legal Aid, Mr. Chairman, the philosophy of the department and the government as a whole is to make available to all citizens of the Province, regardless of their financial position, good quality legal representation on the more

serious criminal matters, and family matters.

Legal Aid, as the member opposite will know, is cost-shared by the federal government. There have been significant improvements made in our Legal Aid delivery system in the past few years. We now have Legal Aid offices with staff solicitors in all the larger centres of the Province, off the top of my head I would say about eight centres, the largest office being in St. John's, where there are about eight staff lawyers. There is a bill before us, which we will debate later, providing for one small change, and I submit the thrust of that change is not to diminish the quality of legal representation available to eligible applicants since the Legal Aid staff lawyers have developed quite a bit of expertise in criminal law. There is a very good quality representation for clients from the Legal Aid staff lawyers. Rather, that will have the affect of making available more Legal Aid funding for the total population.

When it comes to legal libraries, Mr. Chairman, the department operates several in the Province, the largest the one in the Department of Justice. We also operate libraries for judges of each of the courts. The Law Society of Newfoundland operates a large library at the Court House in St. John's which is used by the Supreme Court judges in St. John's as well as lawyers primarily in St. John's. It is perhaps the best law library in the Province.

The facilities housing that library are inadequate. That has been acknowledged by the Department of Justice. We have had good discussions with the Law

Society and have come to an agreement that the library should be moved outside of the courthouse to another location close to the judges. We are aiming at moving into an available building on Duckworth Street a short distance away from the Court House.

MR. BARRY:

To the old Bank of Montreal on Duckworth Street?

MS VERGE:

Yes, Mr. Chairman, the old Bank of Montreal Building on Duckworth Street.

This is an arrangement that is being worked out in consultation with the judges. The Supreme Court Trial Division requires additional courtroom space, and as between the need for more suitable space for the library and additional courtroom space it is concluded by the judges that the priority for use of the courthouse is additional courtroom space. Therefore it has been decided to move the Law Library outside the courthouse to the nearby location on Duckworth Street, and use what is now being occupied by the library for additional courtroom space.

Mr. Chairman, that is being worked out in conjunction with my colleague, the Minister of Public Works and Services (Dr. Twomey). The target date that Justice has in mind is the Fall of this year, the Fall of 1988.

MR. EFFORD:

Mr. Chairman,

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the member for Port de Grave.

MR. EFFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, before I get into questions to the Minister of Health (Dr. Collins) concerning the amount of money that he has asked us to pass, approximately one-third of his budget, I want to make a comment on the former Minister of Social Service, the present Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Brett), concerning this afternoon's allocation of funds, and I want to do it very quickly because there is a portion of my district that has absolutely no water and sewer funding at all. I made application last Fall. I made application again on behalf of the town just this past month, and so did the committee from that town, Georgetown. So I want to bring it to the minister's attention that that application has been made by the Local Service District. I believe what he is saying is that it is not going to be block funding, it is not going to be funding to just the Tory districts this year, that he is going to be a fair minister in the allocation of funds, and it is going to be done on a need basis. So I just want to bring it to the minister's attention.

Sometime last June, I am not sure exactly of the date, the House of Assembly closed and did not reopen until just a short time ago. During all that time the government had ample time to administer and to prepare for this coming budget, and to explain to the House and to us as an Opposition what they need the money for, and to expect the Opposition to pass this bill without any questions or without any debate is absolutely ludicrous.

I am wondering why the Minister of Health, when he entered this

amount of \$204 million, which is a little less than one-third of the budget allocated for last year of approximately \$620 million, would not provide for us the information on where he is spending this amount of money. It would be a lot simpler process if we could just look at it in our meetings and approve of it without having to come in here and having to ask questions. So it points out one thing very clearly, that the government in power is not serious about what they are doing. The Minister of Finance came on this morning on the news media and said, 'If we hold up the passing of this bill, we are just keeping salaries from the poor and from the people who need them.' After nine months, you would think that you had the time to at least provide where the money is being spent. I am pointing out the careless in this particular government.

MR. J. CARTER:

A lame-duck figure.

MR. EFFORD:

Two hundred and four million dollars is not a lame-duck figure, as the member for St. John's North is referring to. It is not a lame-duck figure. It is a lot of money, and it is my concern, as the critic for Health, to be concerned about where this money is going to be spent. Because the minister himself has told the people in the Province that there is no more money available. In fact, restraints have to be brought in, and the question is that the money be spent where the priorities are, not on a political basis.

One of my first questions to the minister is that we have to get a breakdown of where this \$204

million is going to be spent, which is current, which is capital.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. EFFORD:

While the members tend to joke around, I am sure the minister will be very serious. I do not expect the minister to point out every individual dollar or tens of thousands of dollars that are going to be spent that make up this \$204 million, but I would like for him to break it down into current and into capital, and I would like for him to give us any major expenditures that are going to be made out of this money, not as the Minister of Public Works did earlier, something that \$30,000 or \$40,000 is going to be spent on. When we come up into the millions of dollars, we would like to know the larger details of the money that is going to be spent and then we will raise our questions from that.

So would the minister give us the breakdown in current and capital, and any larger amounts of money?

MR. CHAIRMAN:

The hon. the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Chairman, I have whacks of information here, but I understand the hon. member is not looking for details that way. I think I can say this, that the Department of Health has very large expenditures on hospitals. A very large proportion of our budget goes to the funding of operations in hospitals. We also have a large amount of funding for nursing homes. We have a large amount of funding for our public health services, public health nurses, vaccination programmes, these

sorts of programmes.

We have a considerable amount of money of a departmental sort where there is planning going on, where there are consultation services of various types, inspection services, these sorts of things. So, the \$204 million that is in the Interim Supply Bill for Health really is just the ongoing expenses of those sorts of a three-month period. I have got more information here than could really be given in a whole session.

What the member is looking for, I think, is are there any very unusual expenditures in the interim supply portion allotted to Health. I can say no, there are not. The amount of money for Health in the Interim Supply Bill is related to the ongoing operation of the department, by and large. There is a certain amount in there for capital funding, but a relatively small proportion, because we, as you will see when the budget comes down, have pretty well completed the five-year capital expenditure programme which was brought in there in 1979.

MR. EFFORD:

Would the minister permit a question?

DR. COLLINS:

Could I just finish this out?

We have just about completed the very large capital expenditure programme which saw the Clarendville Hospital built, saw the hospital built on the Burin Peninsula, which saw the new hospital in the Port aux Basques area, which saw clinics in Whitbourne, and so on. There is only one really major outstanding item in that particular five-year

expenditure programme, so the amount of money in there for capital is relatively small compared to the total amount that is in there for operating costs.

MR. EFFORD:
Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. EFFORD:
Mr. Chairman, I do not want to delay this, but we are talking about the sum of \$204 million. I just asked the Minister of Health to breakdown somewhat, in the way in which that \$204 million was going to be spent.

Now I know a lot of you members over there think that we do not understand English language, but that is the biggest pack of rhetoric and political speech I ever heard going around an answer. Now if the Minister goes along and cooperates, as all other Ministers did in answering questions, then I will accept the answer he has given, but I am not going to listen to nonsense about what he spent on Clarenville Hospital last year.

We know the Clarenville Hospital is built, we know the Clarenville Hospital is open, and we know it is functioning very well, and congratulate him for that. But what I am asking for is a breakdown somewhat in the larger expenditures of the \$204 million in dollars and cents, not political words. And if the Minister would concede by giving that I will accept that, but I am not going to accept a political speech in making no reference to the money whatsoever. Dollars and cents is what I asked for dollars

and cents is what I will accept.

DR. COLLINS:
Mr. Chairman, there is expenditure for the Minister's Office; there is expenditure for executive support; there is expenditure for administrative support; there is expenditure for health policy and planning; there is expenditure for programme review and planning.

Do you want me to read out all of this or just the headings?

There is expenditure for the vital statistics registry; there is expenditure for dental support; there is expenditure for health support administration; there is expenditure for consultative services; for community health services; for environmental health services; for mental health; for emergency and special services; air ambulance; road ambulance; St. John Ambulance; special needs services; education and promotion - Stop me if I am going too far - immunization-

MR. SIMMS:
How much of that \$204 million is for current account?

DR. COLLINS:
The vast, vast majority. There is less than five percent of that amount on capital expenditure, which is a very small amount of the total amount, because what we are doing in Interim Supply is to put in sufficient funding to carry on services until the main supply bill comes in.

The drug subsidization programme for indigents, and for senior citizens; the children's dental programme; coordination and development of senior citizen's institutions; government operated hospitals; licenced boarding

homes; Waterford home.

You know, I mean, if the hon. member wants me to go into all the dollar and cents of all these items I can certainly do it, but we are going to be in here for a considerable period of time.

MR. DECKER:
Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN:
The hon. the member for the Strait of Bell Isle.

MR. DECKER:
Mr. Chairman, I have a few short questions for the Minister of Education.

I do not know if he is still around or not. While I am waiting for the hon. Minister to come in, the rumor is that this Minister spends his money wisely and well, I believe to quote one of his own statements. So I do not want to keep this any longer that we have to.

The Minister is asking for \$131 million. I would like for him to confirm whether that is approximately one quarter of his budget for the year. I would like for him to tell the House whether there are any new programmes included in this amount of money. I would assume most of it is for current account. I would just like for the Minister to break it down in general. He has got the hang of it now, I would believe. Most of the Ministers cooperated, but some of them did not unfortunately.

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

MR. HEARN:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Certainly, for the information of the hon. member and the members opposite it is basically just a continuation of the last quarter expenditures of the Department. Nothing new entirely, all budgeted. Of the request, we have seven pay periods, and staff travel. Our staff members travel only when necessary. I think if you talk to the people in the field they say that they get good mileage from the people in the Department.

The largest single item in the amount is teachers salaries \$93 million plus. We also have the full amount of school insurance, which is paid on April 1.

That is about \$1.5 million. About \$7 million, approximately, on textbooks. We have to pre-order each year to have them in for September, etc. Of course, the continuing thing, school board operations, around \$12 million, and transportation is around \$6.5 million. That is just the internal workings of the department. But I have a full breakdown that I can certainly give you, if you wish.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN:
A point of order, the hon. the member for Fogo.

MR. TULK:
Mr. Chairman, just one final thing. I think most of the people who have had questions on this side have had them answered very well by most of the ministers. Since the Minister of Fisheries, practically all the ministers have tried to answer some of the questions. But just recently, with the second last minister, we

almost had a breakdown of what we are trying to get here. I think what the member for Port de Grave was asking for is the cost of capital construction, in actual figures, out of a budget of \$204 million. Now, the minister said approximately 5 per cent. He said he estimated less than 5 per cent. So that is less than \$10 million. What we would like is the figures, and, once that is done, I think we are prepared for the vote.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Chairman, to that point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN:

To that point of order, the hon. the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Chairman, if the hon. member had a particular reason for a particular item, there is no problem in asking it without going into a long preamble. The total amounts of this \$204 million related to capital expenditure, as I say, is less than 5 per cent. It is considerably less, with some \$2.5 million, of the \$204 million related to capital expenditure only.

Now, if the hon. member wishes to know what it is for. It is for the continuation of the renovation of the Central Newfoundland Hospital, which has been an ongoing capital project for a period of time.

On motion, Clauses (1) through (3) carried.

On motion, resolution carried.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee rise, and report that it

has adopted a certain resolution, and recommend that a bill be introduced to give effect to same.

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

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

The hon. the member for Terra Nova.

MR. GREENING:

Mr. Speaker, the Committee of the Whole has considered the matters to them referred and have directed me to report that it has adopted a certain resolution and recommends that a bill be introduced to give effect to the same.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole reports that it has considered the matters to it referred, has directed him to report that it has adopted a certain resolution, and recommends that a bill be introduced to give effect to the same.

Resolution

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to provide for the granting to Her Majesty for defraying certain expenses of the Public Service for the financial year ending the 31st day of March, 1989, the sum of seven hundred and eighty-seven million eight hundred and ninety-two thousand nine hundred dollars (\$787,892,900).

On motion, resolution read a first and second time.

On motion, a bill, "An Act For Granting To Her Majesty Certain

Sums Of Money For Defraying Certain Expenses Of The Public Service For The Financing Year The Thirty-First Day Of March One Thousand Nine Hundred And Eighty-Nine And For Other Purposes Relating To The Public Service", read a first, second and third time, ordered passed and its title be as on the Order Paper.

MR. SIMMS:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. SIMMS:
Mr. Speaker, I want to thank hon. members for their co-operation and ensuring that the business of the government will continue. I might add, for the benefit of hon. members and information of hon. members, His Honour normally speaking would come in here at this point in time to give Royal Assent, but he has a prior engagement or a prior commitment and was not available at this late stage, so he will now give Royal Consent tomorrow morning at Government House. That has been done before and it is perfectly in order. In fact, it was done last year.

So having done all of that, Mr. Speaker, I now move that the House adjourn until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 29, at 3:00 p.m. for a very, very promising day, I can assure you, and that this House do now adjourn.

On motion, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 29, at 3:00 p.m.

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Answers to Questions
tabled

March 28, 1988

*Tabled by Hon. the
Minister of Consumer
Affairs & Communications
28 Mar. '88*

QUESTION 101

Mr. Furey (St. Barbe) - To ask the Honourable the Minister of Consumer Affairs to lay upon the Table of the House the following information:

- (a) Is the vehicle the Minister currently drives purchased by the Department or leased by the Department? In either case, did it go to Tender?
- (b) Provide a list of the companies who tendered on the vehicles and the amount of their bids.

ANSWER

- (a) Vehicle was purchased through the Government Purchasing Agency.

Yes, it went to Tender.

- (b) The following firms were invited to submit tenders:

Beothic Ford Sales
City Motors
Decker Motors
Elm Mercury Sales
Ted French Pontiac
Hickman Motors
Regatta Ford
Riverview Chev/Olds Limited
Royal Garage Limited
Terra Nova Motors
Tom Woodford

The following bids were received:

Hickman Motors - \$12,881.31 (Granted)
City Motors Ltd. - returned tender with no bid.
Royal Garage - \$11,733.15 (unit did not meet specifications.)

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