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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!

Statements by Ministers

PREMIER PECKFORD:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:
I would like to read and table a letter that I sent to The Right Honourable Joe Clark today concerning the ongoing Canada/France situation, and I would like to read it into the record as a Ministerial Statement.

"Dear Mr. Clark:

I am most disturbed by recent comments made by you in the House of Commons in response to a call for Canada to use economic and diplomatic means to exert pressures on France to help resolve the Canada/France fisheries and boundary disputes.

Our position from the beginning has been, and continues to be, that the determination of Canada's boundary in waters off the south coast of Newfoundland is a national issue - not just a Newfoundland issue. As such, it is surely not unreasonable for Newfoundlanders to expect the Government of Canada to use every diplomatic and economic lever - and not fish alone - to achieve a resolution of this dispute with France."

AN HON. MEMBER:
Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD:

"In your response to calls for Canada to adopt broader measures to resolve this issue, you are quoted as saying that such measures would jeopardize jobs in other parts of Canada. In particular, I understand you made specific references to possible loss of 1,000 jobs at the Michelin plant in Nova Scotia." They were very surprised, by the way, if anybody reads the media reports, to hear that Mr. Clark said that, the Michelin people. "Surely jobs in jeopardy in Newfoundland are equally as important as jobs elsewhere in the country."

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD:

"It is most regrettable that in addressing this national boundary issue you have now regionalized this issue further and appear to suggest that the maintenance of jobs outside Newfoundland is of greater importance than the maintenance of jobs in Newfoundland. A national sovereignty issue of this magnitude cannot be addressed from a narrow regional perspective."

And I go on to say:

"It must be remembered that Canada's strategy for resolving this issue using fish as its only bargaining lever has resulted in a significant tonnage of fish being offered to France. The tonnage offered already translates into approximately 700 real and potential jobs in the processing sector alone and a similar number of jobs in the harvesting sector. The Government of Newfoundland has always indicated a willingness to share in the cost of the resolution of this national issue

as reflected in our full support for a reasonable fish package involving surplus stocks. Surely, you would agree that the price of a settlement of a national issue should be shared fairly by all regions of Canada and not by Newfoundland alone."

AN HON. MEMBER:
Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD:
"Notwithstanding your comments, the Government of Newfoundland maintains that the Government of Canada does indeed have an obligation to address the Canada/France dispute from a national rather than from a regional fisheries perspective. I am therefore calling upon you to reconsider the approach which you have taken on this matter."

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. TULK:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. TULK:
Mr. Speaker, let me say to the Premier, for this side of the House, that we endorse this letter wholeheartedly, as we endorsed the actions of this House of Assembly on Friday.

As a matter of fact, if you will recall, it was this side of the House which, I believe at about ten minutes to six on Thursday last, rose and suggested that we do what we did on last Friday. It is arrogant in the extreme what the Prime Minister and what the national government have done.

It is a national problem, and it

should be addressed as such, it should be dealt with as such. In the meantime, while the Prime Minister of this country, Brian Mulroney, sits in his place in Ottawa and does nothing, our fishermen on the South coast of this Province have to obtain French fishing licences in order to fish in waters that they have always fished in.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. TULK:
Mr. Speaker, this latest turn of events shows something else. It shows that relations between this Province and Ottawa, and I say this to the Premier quite sincerely, have not improved as he promised us they would in 1984.

If anything, they have deteriorated, and, I say to him, we feel the same way today as we did with the factory freezer trawler issue, when his colleagues in Ottawa ignored him then and gave three factory freezer trawler licences rather than the one we thought they were going to give.

It is not a regional issue, Mr. Speaker. I emphasize that. It is not a regional issue, it is a boundary issue, and as a boundary issue it becomes an issue for Canada.

I also want to address very briefly, if I may, the notion of sanctions against France, and I want to point out that our minister—

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

MR. TULK:
By leave?

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

MR. SIMMS:
Thirty seconds.

MR. TULK:
It was our Minister of Development, who was late coming to the scene, when the member for Twillingate (Mr. W. Carter), our spokesman on fisheries, asked them to introduce sanctions some two or three weeks ago.

Mr. Speaker, what we are looking at here is the breaking of another political promise. There is no infliction of prosperity on this Province.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

MR. TULK:
And until we see a change in the structure of government in Ottawa, the same kinds of things are going to continue.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

MR. TULK:
— and our Premier has to be held responsible.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMONS:
Good going! More!

PREMIER PECKFORD:
A point of order, Mr. Speaker, and of clarification.

The Government House Leader did indicate at the time that leave was granted, even though the hon. member was going over, but we were not intending to give leave for the hon. member opposite to lash

into the government and to do all those kinds of things.

We thought we were being reasonable and fair in allowing the hon. member to summarize and complete the statement he had already made, and that being what we had thought, obviously that was okay. But if the hon. member wants to get into a big harangue and an attack or so on, then obviously he cannot expect co-operation.

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

MR. SPEAKER:
There is no point of order.

MR. TULK:
Am I allowed to speak to it?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
No.

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

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

MR. TULK:
Let me tell the Premier that when the Government of Canada is wrong we will speak against the Government of Canada, and when the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is wrong, we will speak against that government. And in this case they have something to answer for.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please! Order, please!

There is no point of order.

MR. FENWICK:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. LONG:
Where is the common ground here today? What happened to the common ground?

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

MR. FENWICK:
Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the Premier has made this statement today. Unfortunately, last Friday, when the emergency debate was held, I was at my son's high school graduation on the West Coast of the Island and was unable to attend. I regretted that, because there are certain moments in the House when one wishes to be here. However, I will just take a minute or so to say I support the resolution wholeheartedly that was passed last Friday and I am pleased to see that the government is continuing with the very defensible position that it is a national issue, that it has to be dealt with with national levers, and that is the only way indeed that we will ever get any kind of a resolution to it.

But one I would have suggested that may be looked at, is, as I understand the economy of St. Pierre and Miquelon, which is not one that we particularly want to damage but is the focus of this entire dispute, it is my understanding their tourism industry is worth about ten times the income that their fishery industry is, and that the ferry service back and forth between St. Pierre and our own Province may be looked at in terms of saying, Well, instead of a dozen trips a day, or whatever is involved, we might look at maybe one or two trips a week, in which case we can

exert the kind of pressure very, very locally that may actually bring the French to some sort of reasonable conclusion of the whole dispute.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I endorse the actions of our own provincial government and I think it is very important that we continue to push for a settlement there. I know, in our contact with the fishermen in that area, that they are getting more and more desperate to find some sort of solution to this issue, and it must come to a head soon. Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. RIDEOUT:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Last year my department was approached by the Quidi Vidi/Rennies River Development Foundation for financial assistance to help in the construction of a major interpretative facility on the shores of Long Pond in Pippy Park. This project is part of a long term development strategy designed to enhance the Rennies River water system in St. John's.

The main focus of this interpretative facility is in the area of freshwater ecology, particularly as it relates to wildlife habitat and the life history of salmonids.

Although this request for funding is somewhat different than the

fisheries related projects that we normally assist, I feel that this center will provide a valuable opportunity for the general public to gain a greater understanding of the ecological relationships which exist in our aquatic habitat. A center of this nature will complement the efforts of the Department of Fisheries in educating the general public on the significance of our freshwater resources. It may also provide some degree of insight into the management aspects of our fish and wildlife resources.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to announce today that my department has awarded the Quidi Vidi/Rennies River Development Foundation a grant of \$20,000 to assist them in the construction of a fluvarium or stream tank which will be constructed as a part of the interpretative facility. This facility will accommodate visitors with a wide range of interests, from students and tourists to post-secondary classes from Memorial University and the Institute of Marine Technology.

It is also my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that the Development Foundation is presently negotiating to incorporate a fish hatchery and laboratory space into their interpretative center in conjunction with the Marine Institute's Fisheries Management Programme. This would provide this Province with a totally unique interpretative and educational center which would provide one further addition to our Province's center of excellence policy in regards to our marine environment.

Mr. Speaker, I would like, at this time, to congratulate the Quidi

Vidi/Rennies River Development Foundation for undertaking this most worthwhile project and wish them every success in the completion of this programme.

I Just want to say to hon. members, Mr. Speaker, that you and I had the great pleasure yesterday of participating in the presentation of the cheque to the Foundation on behalf of the government.

MR. W. CARTER:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. W. CARTER:
Mr. Speaker, I welcome this announcement on the part of the minister. I think that money spent in that area is money well spent. It is one of the most attractive areas in St. John's. I am sure a lot of other members have had occasion to walk up that trail frequently. I am excited by the prospect that the kinds of things the minister outlined in his statement will be taking place.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I must say I am having trouble reconciling the involvement of the Department of Fisheries. I would have expected that that project would have been supported, maybe, by the Department of Tourism or some other department of government. As important and as attractive as it is, I am hoping that the \$20,000 that the minister has announced today as being allocated to the Quidi Vidi/Rennies River Development Foundation, will not be taken from the minister's vote. Because I can think of a lot of things in rural Newfoundland today that are

more fisheries related and certainly more important in terms of helping to provide needed facilities for fishermen to pursue their livelihood.

Again, Mr. Speaker, having said that, I do not want to give the impression that we oppose the awarding of this grant. We just have some reservations as to from what source it should come. I, too, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues, would like to congratulate the Quidi Vidi/Rennies River Development Foundation. I think they are doing an excellent job. I think the area in question is an area with probably the greatest tourist potential on the Avalon Peninsula.

I am told that Rennies River itself is one of the best trout rivers in the Province. I am delighted that City Council and my colleague, of course, from Waterford - Kenmount, who serves on the City Council and undoubtedly has had a hand in what is going on there, have seen fit to recognize the outstanding tourist potential of that area and have taken the initiatives that they have taken in its restoration and development.

Mr. Speaker, again we welcome this announcement and wish the Quidi Vidi/Rennies River Development Foundation every success.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. LONG:

Mr. Speaker,

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. LONG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We would also add our congratulations to the continuing good work of the Quidi Vidi Foundation. We also welcome the announcement by the minister today, although I would have some concerns with the way the announcement is being made and the lack of a coherent approach by the government in giving support to this very exciting and significant development in the city.

I understand that the project that this grant is directly going towards, the \$20,000 for the fluvarium end of the Quidi Vidi route, which actually begins, of course, down at the lake in Quidi Vidi, in my own district, and runs all through the older part of the city and, then, will end up at Long Pond. Hopefully the intent is to have a showcase there that, as the minister talks about, should be quite an exciting project. But I understand they are still having financial difficulties in being able to put in a plan for the next couple of years to ensure that this will happen.

To my knowledge, this is the first reference that has been made in this House by any representative of government to the work of the Foundation and to the project that they have been developing very much on their own in the last couple of years.

AN HON. MEMBER:

There has been other money.

MR. LONG:

Yes, I understand there has been other money, but this is the first time that a statement has been made with reference to the goods works that they are doing. It is

positive to hear the Minister of Fisheries come in and talk about the value that he sees educationally and in terms of the development of the science and technology that would go into the fluvarium. I would just say, Mr. Speaker, that I believe there is more this government could do in enhancing the development of the work of the Foundation.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

MR. LONG:
Otherwise, we see it as a very positive, initial step and we hope that we will hear more from the government on this project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. BARRETT:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. BARRETT:
Mr. Speaker, the Promotional Services Division of my department, the Trade, Investment and Promotion Branch, has as its mandate the promotion of the industrial and tourism development opportunities of the Province by utilizing mass media advertising, preparation and publication of promotional literature, participation in trade fairs, exhibitions and international trade missions, and providing guidance and general assistance to industrial prospects.

The objective of the Promotional Services Division is to create an awareness within the national and international marketplace of the

investment potential to be found within the Province, of the expertise and resources available from Newfoundland and Labrador businesses and organizations, and the assistance provided by government sources for entrepreneurs.

This division meets this objective on two levels: First, the print and video mediums, trade show participation and forums are utilized to present a professional, positive image of the Province and all its resources. This is supplemented with continuing follow-up such as mail outs, press and trade missions and audio-visual presentations.

The secondary level consists of a counselling service to public and private groups who wish to engage in their own promotional campaigns. This mandate is exercised with due regard to the private sector and complements their efforts rather than competing with them. One aspect of this service is the creative and technical support given to the tourism industry in their ongoing marketing thrusts.

In essence, the Promotion Services Division is responsible for putting the department's messages, programmes and opportunities in a format that dynamically impacts on the marketplace. Without that consistent promotional effort, Newfoundland and Labrador will relegate itself to insignificance in the competitive world market arena. Because the division sets the highest professional standards for itself, both the department and government effectively compete on the international scene for potential investment in this Province. Given the status quo,

it has been demonstrated that government could not better utilize its present resources. The division's physical plant is now fully equipped and operational, and the present staff are professionals who represent a level of expertise that is not yet available in the private sector of the Province.

The general direction of the department's promotional campaign since 1982 has been in the oil and gas, ocean industries, seafood, trade and investment, and tourism sectors. More recently, the high-technology "Centre of Excellence" concept has been added to the divisional repertoire.

An extensive and comprehensive public relations and communications programme is in place and comprises many facets which complement each other and work effectively in concert, and there are a number of these which are listed for members to review.

One of these issues is the print media, literature and advertorial insertions programmes. In that regard, I am proud and pleased to present for you this afternoon a sample package of the Department of Development and Tourism's promotional and informational support literature.

These publications cover a variety of departmental concerns and interests and are distributed, according to their designed nature, at trade shows and at exhibitions, in response to requests resulting from advertising, at trade missions and press tours, to trade publications, and general public relations and informational contacts.

They include some fifty-seven individual pieces of industrial literature in a variety of "tailored" kits, and thirty-three pieces of tourism literature. As you will note, these publications represent a wide spectrum in type of quality and design, depending on the function of the individual piece or package. They range from high gloss sales tools geared at the international market arena, through dual-purpose "Advertorial" pieces, to low budget utilitarian productions designed as informational "follow up" pieces to respond to specific requests, once the "sales tools" have been effective in attracting tourism or industrial prospects. "Utility" productions also include directories - as the provincial "Manufacturers", "Offshore Industrial" and "Seafood Products" directories, as well as some informational pieces on departmental information or incentive programmes, designed mainly for local consumption.

Several of the literature samples, notably the seafood promotional pieces, were designed and utilized as "Advertorials" - accessing a cost-effective strategy of advertising and publication combination whereby the entire publication is inserted as an "advertisement" in appropriate trade publications to achieve wide national and international distribution; and a print-over_run is accepted to "swell the coffers" of the provincial publications inventory, and is subsequently utilized as a support literature piece, thereby saving duplicate production and printing costs.

Included in this advertorial category are "Explore Newfoundland Seafood" and "Newfoundland Sea Food - A Smart Idea" - in both the

English and French languages.

"A Taste of Newfoundland" - originally produced as a literature piece, was subsequently reproduced as an advertorial in a food trade publication, with overprint runs, thereby realizing considerable cost saving on an expensive "literature" reprint, while achieving wide distribution through advertising on an extremely effective marketing tool.

I trust, Mr. Speaker, that all will avail of the opportunity, and the pleasure, to peruse this representative sample component of the Department of Development and Tourism's promotional campaign, which has maximized the ability of government to successfully infiltrate and compete in major international markets within a small budget regime. This effort represents the major promotional thrust of this nature made by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador in the international marketplace.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to say that I really did not want to have to take the time of going into such detail on this, but the Estimates Committee, when my department's estimates were being reviewed, there was, seemingly, a total lack of awareness, especially by members opposite, in terms of the types of things that the department was doing on a national and international perspective, as it related to marketing initiatives and the ability of this Province to attract and to be able to compete effectively on an international basis. So, hopefully, a review of the information that will be circulated will address that concern.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. KELLAND:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Naskaupi.

MR. KELLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to thank the minister for providing an early copy of the statement, and I think it is seconded that other ministers follow that procedure. By providing a statement a considerable time or a fair time before we get to the House, it allows us to have a chance to properly peruse it and make some meaningful comments on its content. That would apply except in the case of unexpected issues that arise at sometime, or emergency issues, in which there is no time to provide an advance copy. So I thank the minister and commend him for that.

I would also like to commend the minister and his Promotion Services Division for the efforts they are making in the promotion of our Province in the general fields of industry and tourism. One, in particular, I have a specific personal interest in. The list of publications is pretty impressive and, as the minister indicated, a package is going to be provided to each member of the House. And to put the thing in perspective, what he said on the tail end of his statement, this was requested by the Estimates Committee. In fact, the member for Fortune - Hermitage and the Resource Estimates Committee requested that those publications be made available, and I would not want it to appear otherwise. I

commend the Minister for responding to that request. And to also put into perspective another of his comments, the purpose of an Estimates Committee is obviously to request information that we do not have.

The Minister says we have a lack of awareness of what is happening in the area of promotion of industry and tourism, simply because the Minister has not or previously provided the information. Now he has, and I thank him for it. As a member for Labrador, one of the four Labrador seats, I often feel that the promotional effort in our Province is geared more towards the Island part of the Province.

I am sure my colleagues in the House, no matter which party, share that feeling from time to time. I do not want to be particularly paranoid about it, but there has been evidence, over the years, that would indicate that the island gets the major concentration of effort.

I believe the Minister is fully aware of that particular situation, and I know he would be quick to rise in his place and say that he is aware and will take steps, and is taking steps, to correct it.

I would like to know, because he has come under a fair bit of criticism on the amount of money he spent in his travel and things of that nature, in promotions of one kind or another, if he has in place a monitoring mechanism? I would be interested to know, at some future time, Mr. Minister, in a discussion that we could have, if you have some kind of a monitoring mechanism in place that would judge the effectiveness of

the dollars that are being spent, and are we getting the full value of the dollar in the area of promotion.

There are certain strategies that I support in what the minister is describing. If the minister is hanging with me for a minute, till I finish my response, if you do not mind.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

He could not hang with you, because I could not hang with him.

MR. KELLAND:

You are going to hang with the cucumbers, Premier.

Anyway, that is an aside. I would like the minister to pay a little attention for awhile, as I did to his statement. I support, for example, the strategy of using the advertorial. I believe that is an advantage. I had some experience in the media, and I know the effectiveness of it.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

The hon. the member's time has elapsed.

MR. KELLAND:

By leave, just to clue up?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

No.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

By leave.

MR. KELLAND:

Darn it! I can praise the man no further.

I support the general effort of what the minister and his department is doing, and I will =

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
No leave. No leave.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please! Order, please!

MR. KELLAND:
- continue to criticize if criticism is necessary, and praise where praise is deserved. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

MR. SPEAKER:
I would ask the hon. member, when I call him to order, if he would sit down.

MR. KELLAND:
My apologies, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. LONG:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I just have one thing to say about the Minister's lengthy statement, that I regret that there is no reference to the work of his department in promoting the Province's cultural community in artistic activity.

MR. BARRETT:
That is not the role of my department.

MR. LONG:
That is not the role of his department, the minister says. Mr. Speaker, I would submit that there is no one in the government taking proper responsibility for the promotion of the Province's unique heritage, culture and artistic activity. In fact, all we see is that we get to put some fiddlers, some young people on

posters, and that is about all we do for the struggling artists of this Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
That is not true, now. That is not true.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

MR. LONG:
I would say, Mr. Speaker, that this minister and other ministers have a long way to go to adequately and properly promote the culture -

AN HON. MEMBER:
Do you promote (inaudible)?

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

MR. LONG:
- and to understand the value in terms of the economic development of this Province and the promotion of our cultural industry. Other than that, we thank the minister for the materials and we look forward to having a close look at everything that he has put our way.

MR. SPEAKER:
At this stage, I would like to welcome to the gallery Henry Webb, a councillor from Nain.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:
I would also like to welcome twenty-five Grade 11 students, with their teacher Fred Framp, from St. Michael's all grade school, Arnold's Cove.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

Oral Questions

MR. K. AYLWARD:
Mr. Speaker.

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

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

I had a question for the Minister of Career Development (Mr. Matthews), but he is not here today so I would like it to go to the Premier. I would like for him to indicate to the House what is the situation concerning the community colleges in the Province and the recent reports of layoffs that are either happening or going to happen in the next few days? Would he indicate how many people are getting laid off and if there are any options offered to them in the way of retraining?

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:
I will have to take that question as notice, Mr. Speaker, and get the material and the information for the hon. member for tomorrow.

MR. K. AYLWARD:
A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. K. AYLWARD:
Mr. Speaker, this side has been in contact with a number of community colleges in the Province and we are being told that there are layoffs occurring. There was a report yesterday that layoffs are occurring. We are also being told

that -

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

MR. K. AYLWARD:
Would the Premier indicate to the House if he is aware that the capital budgets that were allocated to the community colleges are now being pushed into the operational account so that they can hang on to some of their staff?

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:
I do not know whether that is true or not, Mr. Speaker. As I understand it, the capital money is being used to upgrade various facilities in the community college system around the Province. Secondly, obviously there are going to be adjustments. We are about Her Majesty's business in trying to make these community colleges and other institutes and provincial institutions competitive. We have to bring in new programmes, and, therefore, obviously there may be some need to hire some new people who have the qualifications to do the new courses as opposed to continuing on with the old and having students coming out of our schools not having the right courses for the jobs that are available. So we are interested in doing that, but, as the same time, if in fact there are some adjustments and some layoffs, in being fair to the instructors and teachers in those institutions. To get into the specifics, Mr. Speaker, I cannot say because I do not have the data at my fingertips. But, as I indicated in my answer to the hon. member's original question, I will get the

information for the hon. member.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

A Final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A final supplementary, the hon. the member for Stephenville.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

Would the Premier tell this House if the government committed itself, in the last year when it brought in the new system, to, first off, offer options to the instructors, if they were going to be or are potentially being laid off, if these options were going to be offered in the form of retraining, and, also, if new monies were going to be allocated to the colleges so that they could put in new infrastructure and so on to deal with the new programmes? Did this government commit to that and are they going to keep that commitment?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Mr. Speaker, any statements that we have made along the lines that the hon. member has said, we stand by.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

Good to hear it. We will find out tomorrow.

MR. EFFORD:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Port de Grave.

MR. EFFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, in a short preamble in putting my question is to the

Minister of Health (Dr. Collins), I want to point out to the minister that he and his party have accused me of being an alarmist many times when it comes to the closure of hospital beds and the serious implication it is going to have.

I want to ask the minister questions in light of the letter that he received from a Mrs. Rowsell from St. Lawrence, Newfoundland. On April 6 she had taken her mother to the hospital and could not get her admitted. On April 7 she had taken her mother to the hospital and could not get her admitted. Then, Mr. Speaker, I think when you hear this you will see how serious it is. The last paragraph on the first page states: 'It is with great regret that I relate the following'

MR. SIMMS:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

A point of order, the hon. the President of the Council.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is permissible to quote from letters when addressing questions during Question Period. The hon. member should be well aware of that. I believe he has probably been warned a thousand times.

If Your Honour needs a reference, since the hon. members over there do not seem to think that is a fact -

MR. EFFORD:

It is a fact.

MR. SIMMS:

It is a fact, the hon. member agrees. Well, in that case the hon. member is out of order.

MR. TULK:

To that point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

To that point of order, the hon. the member for Fogo.

MR. TULK:

The whole point is the hon. gentleman was not reading, he was paraphrasing, he was just using the letter as a point of reference.

MR. SPEAKER:

To that point of order, I do not think there is a point of order. But I was just going to draw the hon. member's attention that his preamble was getting too long. So I ask him to please pose his question.

The hon. the member for Port de Grave.

MR. EFFORD:

I agree, Mr. Speaker, I was quoting and probably reading a little paragraph, but if the hon. the President of the Council had listened to the seriousness of the matter -

MR. SIMMS:

Ask the question!

MR. EFFORD:

I would ask the minister, in light of the fact that Carmelita Rowsell -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Do not use the woman's name!

MR. EFFORD:

- pointed out in her letter, Mr. Speaker, that her mother had died on the third trip to the Health

Sciences Hospital, and I will table this letter - the hon. the Minister of Health also has a copy of this letter - because she could not gain admittance to the Health Sciences Hospital because of bed closures -

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please! Order, please!

MR. SIMMS:

What is the question?

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. EFFORD:

That is the question!

What is the minister going to do now that the seriousness of the situation has been brought out by some member of the public? Because of the seriousness of the situation, what is the Minister of Health going to do?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please! Order, please!
Order, please!

MR. EFFORD:

Years ago people never got to the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Minister of Health, in light of the letter that he received and I received a copy of, what is the minister going to do about the situation of bed closures in the hospitals before we have more cases happen exactly as quoted in this letter?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, what we do with all

these representations to us is we have them investigated. My routine is that I send it on to the Deputy Minister immediately with a request to check with the institution for details on this matter, and to get back to me as quickly as possible.

If it is going to take some time to get the details, I usually ask for an interim report so that I can reply in some preliminary fashion to the person writing in the first instance. But in all cases these particular instances are investigated completely and a report is sent to the person writing the letter.

Now, sometimes it is more appropriate for me to send a brief report and then have the administrator of the institution send them more details, of course, on that. That is quite often done.

MR. EFFORD:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary.

MR. EFFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I do not mind saying in this House that that is a disgusting disgrace of an answer in light of the fact that somebody's mother -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Question!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. EFFORD:

I will repeat it again to the minister: Since they just closed another twenty beds this week at the Health Sciences Centre, will the Minister stop the closure of these beds before we have any more

serious situations? He does not need to have this investigated. The situation is clearly stated in this letter. It is very clear what is taking place.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is very clear what has taken place in this particular case. Because if you take the case as presented, the Health Science Complex and the administration up there were totally negligent in their duties, and I have great hesitation in believing that. That is why I look into these matters, and quite often a particular person may view circumstances one way, but when you get all the details there are other interpretations put on them. That is not to say that the original person is doing anything malicious, or whatever, it is just their view of it. But one has to take all matters into consideration, and that is what we do.

I know that the hon. member is using this particular incident as a full case for arguing underfunding of the hospital system. But one cannot do that. I think there are something like 98,000 admissions to our hospital system in the run of a year. With that number of admissions you are bound to get any variety of incidents happening. Some of them, perhaps, might even be preventable in the best of all worlds, but quite often they are due to circumstances over which no one has any control. Sometimes it is due to the family or the patients themselves; sometimes it is due to the transportation system; sometimes it is due to circumstances in the Outpatients.

There are any number of possibilities where you can point to a particular case having an unusual feature about it. The point I am trying to make is that you cannot damn or cannot characterize a whole system on one case, and particularly when you do not know all the facts about that case.

MR. EFFORD:

A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A final supplementary.

MR. EFFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I ask the Minister of Health if he is telling this House of Assembly that the administrators, the doctors, the nurses and all the staff in hospitals are not telling the truth when they make statements about difficulties and not being able to admit patients to the hospitals because of the bed closures? As we have witnessed here in this letter, as we witnessed last Friday when I told him about a gentleman who had to wait three days to get a bed for an operations, and as we have seen closures of beds in all hospitals, are you telling us that those people in those responsible positions are not telling the truth?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, if a hospital administrator, a nurse or a doctor tell me they are having great difficulty I believe them. I know there are great difficulties in running a health system. Every health system in the world is a difficult thing to run. We would

not have highly trained professionals, very expensive professionals, running these systems if they were run just like a very simple operation. They are very complex, complicated systems and, sure, there are difficulties, there are all sorts of difficulties, but this government helps out the system enormously with the funds that we apply. I happen to have somewhere the monies we put into grants to board operated hospitals just for their operations. This is not for transfers out of the Province, this is not for capital purpose and all that sort of thing. We gave to the board operated hospitals for operational purposes in 1984-85 just less than \$260 million. In this current year we are budgeting nearly \$335 million. That is an extra \$75 million in that four year period. This government is putting enormous amounts of money into their hospital system. I am sure the hospital system would like to have more - who would not? - but we are doing extremely well in terms of our ability to pay, and the hospitals I think are themselves giving an increasing level and an increasing quality of health care.

MR. KELLAND:

Mr. Kelland.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Naskaupi.

MR. KELLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have a question also for the Minister of Health. Everybody recognizes minister that the Melville Hospital in Happy Valley-Goose Bay is well beyond its expected life span. Other questions have been raised on it.

It requires urgent replacement in the minds of most people up there. I wonder would he give us some quick comment on what your current efforts are to have that come about, a replacement hospital for Melville?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, I visited the Melville Hospital a short while ago and had discussions with the staff and with other individuals up there, including some of the military personnel. I have also had discussions with senior people in the Grenfell Health Service. We recognize that the hospital in Happy Valley-Goose Bay is getting near the end of its useful life. It was designed for a purpose other than a civilian hospital and we are cognizant of the increasing demands on the hospital up there, as is the Grenfell System.

Now the Grenfell System themselves have mounted a study of what services, what readjustments, and so on, should be given, both on the Northern part of the Island and the Labrador part of their responsibility. We ourselves are studying this situation in detail and we are having discussions with other entities that are using the Happy Valley-Goose Bay area. At this point in time, I cannot give any detail outline of our plan for that area. I can assure the hon. member that we are conscious of the needs and the increasing demands up there, and we are in a planning mode.

MR. KELLAND:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. the

member for Naskaupia.

MR. KELLAND:

The Liberal Party, The Opposition, supports the idea, the concepts of regional hospitals, and I guess that is not a new piece of information. It seems the burning question now, Mr. Minister, is when will construction start on the replacement facility. And almost as important, where will it be located once construction starts? There are a number of reasons for that question which the minister is probably aware of. I wonder if you would comment on what your thinking is as to the location of the new facility, as well as anything you can give on when it will start?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member is aware that there is a construction freeze that has another two years to run for major institutions such as hospitals, so it certainly will not be before that construction freeze is lifted. But, as I mentioned, there are a lot of things to be gone into before one makes a decision on replacing something as elaborate as a hospital facility. We are engaged in an exercise of that sort at the present time.

In terms of location, I think the hon. member can be assured it is certainly going to be in the Happy Valley - Goose Bay area, within close proximity to the particular needs, that is, the community itself, and the airport facility. I cannot be more precise than that at this time.

MR. KELLAND:

A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A final supplementary, the hon. the member for Naskaupi.

MR. KELLAND:

As the minister is aware, of course, the thought is that it should be equally accessible by all parties who may use the service, civilian and military, and, therefore, there is strong thought that it should be off base and closer to the civilian community, but still readily accessible to the military.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. KELLAND:

He mentioned some other entities, Mr. Speaker, and I would ask him if he anticipates that the foreign governments involved in Happy Valley - Goose Bay might be expected to be contribute in some way to the twenty-odd million dollars that may be required to construct the facility?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, if a reasonable case can be made - that is an area that we are not neglecting - to the Canadian Government, to the United States Government and to other foreign governments which have facilities in that area and have needs in that area for health care, not only for their military personnel but, perhaps, for dependents and so on, if a reasonable case can be made in any direction we will certainly make it. We are conscious of the point that the member is referring to.

MR. FENWICK:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Menihek.

MR. FENWICK:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

My question is for the Minister of Social Services (Mr. Tobin), who, I believe, was here and I hope is listening on the phones. If not, the Premier can answer the question. It has to do with the situation regarding the young offenders who would normally be processed by the Young Offenders Review Board or by Provincial Court or Family Court. We are talking about the Young Offenders Review Board of the Province.

The question I have for the minister is this: It is our understanding that there are between ten and twelve young offenders who have been waiting since early March in order to have their hearings before the Young Offenders Review Board or the Provincial Courts. Because of the battling back and forth over jurisdiction between Judge Fowler's decision and Judge Wicks' decision, they have not yet had their hearings. Could the minister confirm that the number is correct, between ten and twelve individuals are held up this way, and, furthermore, give us some indication of how he is going to let these poor people out of the institutions they are in when none of the other mechanisms seem to be working to get them out?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Social Services.

MR. TOBIN:

Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member and, indeed, all hon. members realize, the Young Offenders Review Board was put in

place as a result of Federal legislation that came as a result of The Young Offenders Act. The Province acted on it and put in place the Review Board. I guess it was some months ago that Judge Fowler dealt with it and made his ruling on it as it relates to whether it is constitutional or not, and since then Judge Wicks has made a ruling that was contrary, basically, to the ruling that was made by Judge Fowler.

As a result of that we have now advised the Board that we will be and have been referring cases back to that Board. As I now understand it, Mr. Dixon has indicated to us and publicly that the Board is now going to hear appeals again, and that is the same system that was in place prior to the decision of Judge Fowler and prior to the decision of Judge Wicks.

MR. FENWICK:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. FENWICK:
If I understand the minister's reply correctly, he is saying that we are now referring these young offenders to a board that does not have the constitutional jurisdiction.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

MR. FENWICK:
My question to the minister is this, Mr. Speaker: There is obviously a much easier way to solve this, and I am asking the minister will he look at the possibility of dissolving the Young Offenders Review Board for

the time being, and allow the Appeals Courts to act, which eventually will decide this matter of whether the situation is constitutional or not with this Young Offenders Review Board? Dissolve the Board now, let the appeals go to the Provincial Court and the Youth Court where they belong, and then, when we get the decision perhaps in a month or two months from now from the Appeals Court, we are in a position to look at reinstating the Board if we have to. Will the minister agree that this is a better situation to go with than the very doubtful one that he is putting forward?

MR. TOBIN:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. TOBIN:
Mr. Speaker, we made a decision some time ago when we decided that we would put in place the Young Offenders Review Board according to the legislation that was passed by the Canadian Parliament. That legislation has been passed, as I said, as a result of The Young Offenders Act. We have put the Board in place. The Board is now operable. We have again referred appeals to the Board. The Chairman of the Board and the Committee is now in place and they are hearing appeals as they always have.

MR. FENWICK:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
A final supplementary.

MR. FENWICK:
My final supplementary is this,

and it has to go to the heart of the question. What is the minister going to do about the ten or twelve young individuals who have spent an extra two months in custody as a result of this foul-up, who have no culpability whatsoever on this mess that the government has put in place? What are you going to do to have their cases heard immediately? And quite frankly, not with a Board that has no constitutional jurisdiction at this point to hear anything.

MR. LONG:

To protect their rights.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Social Services.

MR. TOBIN:

Mr. Speaker, I did not know that the hon. gentleman was a judge of the Supreme Court.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Yes, judge and jury.

MR. TOBIN:

Judge and jury. I can say to the hon. gentleman, Mr. Speaker, we are going to do what we have been doing, that is, referring cases to the Young Offenders Review Board.

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Twillingate.

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker, my question goes to the Minister of Fisheries. Now we have the Government of France on one hand demanding that Newfoundland vessels, small inshore fishing vessels be licenced, those that want to fish

within their so-called territorial waters, and on the other hand we have a spokesman for the federal government saying that Canada does not accept that position.

I wonder can the Minister tell the House, Mr. Speaker, where does that leave Newfoundland fishermen who want to fish in what the French are claiming to be their twelve-mile territorial waters?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Well, obviously, Mr. Speaker, it leaves the otter trawl fleet, in particular, in a very, very, difficult situation. I think the Government of Canada is taking the right approach on the question of licences and permits, since the 1972 Treaty gives both countries the right to institute a regulatory regime. It also indicates that neither would do so for the inshore fishery.

So, France is taking a different approach here now, as of of last Friday - or last Thursday, whenever the vessel was charged - and I think Canada at the present time is doing the right thing by insisting that this is not the correct approach and trying to convince France to change its mind. But in the interim, and hopefully before this day is over, we will have some definitive answer to that type of question.

We are working very, very hard on it now. We have been working very hard on it since the whole incident transpired, and I am hoping, before the day is over, we will have confirmation from External and DFO as to just how we

are going to handle, perhaps the right phrase might be, 'interim arrangements.'

MR. W. CARTER:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Twillingate.

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker, I think there have been a number of people change their attitudes toward this policy because I recall, I believe it was on Friday, the minister himself I believe welcomed, at least indicated that he welcomed the announcement that vessels would have to be licenced to fish in our respective territorial waters.

But anyway, Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is now that France-

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. W. CARTER:

My question to the minister is, in light of the fact that France is now insisting that Newfoundland small druggers be licenced, in view of the fact we have the Government of Canada saying no, we are not going to go along with that, has the minister made representation to the federal minister suggesting maybe that Newfoundland vessels, which want to fish within the areas that they have traditionally fished, be given some protection against possible arrest on the part of the French authorities by the Government of Canada?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of

things in the hon. gentleman's preamble and question that need to be answered. First of all, the hon. gentleman will find nowhere, over the last number of days, since this whole incident started, that I welcomed the announcement by the French that they are going to impose a permit system.

AN HON. MEMBER:

That is not true.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Well, if it is not true, Mr. Speaker, that obviously means I am lying, and I am not.

Now, the fact of the matter is you will find nowhere that I welcomed a permit system by France. You will find my comments to this effect -

MR. SIMMONS:

On the public airways.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. RIDEOUT:

Go get them!

You will find my comments, Mr. Speaker, to this effect: It is the position of the Province that the historic status quo should be maintained, which means a no-license situation. But if the French are going to impose permits and licenses, then obviously we would be calling upon the Government of Canada to do the same thing. Now, that is quite different, Mr. Speaker, than saying somebody welcomed a permit or a licensing system.

On the second part of the hon. gentleman's question, Mr. Speaker, we have had more contact, almost on an hourly basis, but certainly several times a day, with DFO and

External Affairs trying to work out some particular arrangement that will continue to be to the benefit of the fishermen of Newfoundland, particularly those on the South Coast, on this particular matter.

MR. W. CARTER:

A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A final supplementary, the hon. the member for Twillingate.

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker, it appears that there are at least twenty Newfoundlander inshore druggers, and a number of boats under thirty-five feet in length, that frequent that area. Now, this is the time of year when they would normally fish in that area.

My question to the minister then, Mr. Speaker, and it is a repeat of my previous question: Will he make representation to his federal counterpart, that until they can arrive at a resolution to this licensing problem will the Government of Canada offer to protect Newfoundland vessel owners who have traditionally fished in that area and who still want to fish there? Will the Government of Canada give them the necessary protection against harassment or interception or arrest by French officials?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Mr. Speaker, I assume the hon. gentleman is suggesting that we go inside of the undisputed waters surrounding St. Pierre and Miquelon, because it is inside the twelve-mile zone that we are talking about here. The

Government of Canada position about this whole licensing permit system that we are talking about, by the way, is that the more you investigate that the more difficult and complicated it becomes. It appears from the application form that the French have circulated and some of our fishermen have gotten and we have now gotten our hands on, that they are not only talking about the undisputed twelve-mile zone surrounding St. Pierre and Miquelon but are talking about the whole disputed zone, the whole economic zone. In that case, the hon. gentleman is absolutely right, that is what we are saying and that is where we are. But in terms of inside the undisputed twelve-mile territorial zone around St. Pierre and Miquelon, that is a much more difficult question to address in terms of the question that he poses.

Mr. Speaker, we are, on a daily basis, several times a day, over the last number of days, in touch with the federal government trying to work out a solution that is to the benefit of the fishermen of Newfoundland and Labrador on this matter.

MR. FUREY:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for St. Barbe.

MR. FUREY:

Mr. Speaker, I have a quick question for the Premier. In light of Mr. Crosbie's statements recently that he does not want to see the Canada - France fishing dispute escalate into a trade war, and in light of Mr. Clark's statements that he must protect jobs in Nova Scotia, I wonder would the Premier agree to

striking an all-party committee on an urgent basis to go to Ottawa to meet with the Prime Minister and to lay out the case in a non-partisan fashion for all of Newfoundland and Labrador?

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:
Mr. Speaker, I think the government of Newfoundland are quite capable of making the representation that the hon. member refers to.

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

MR. FUREY:
Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Premier can tell us the results of his representation through telexes, letters and phone calls over the last little while?

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

MR. FUREY:
Could the Premier tell us the results of his personal representations, on behalf of the government on cancelling the mega-billion dollar contracts with respect to the Airbus and the submarines? Maybe he can tell us what the results of those representations have been?

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:
We are working on it, Mr. Speaker.

MR. FUREY:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
A final supplementary.

MR. FUREY:
The truth of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that it is zero, nothing, absolutely nothing. Now, I ask the Premier -

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

I have called the hon. member's attention twice or three times, and when I do I ask him to pay attention.

Would the hon. member please pose his final supplementary?

MR. FUREY:
Mr. Speaker, I apologize.

In the last number of weeks we have seen absolutely zero come from Ottawa. Now I ask the Premier would he now strike an all-party committee, for the good of all the fishermen in this Province to go to Ottawa, meet face to face with the Prime Minister, and all the politics and nonsense aside, lay out the case of why there should be shared burden across this country, why Canada as a whole should share the burden and not just Newfoundland?

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:
Mr. Speaker, I find it difficult to agree with the hon. member's suggestion because that would be putting on a committee members of a political party who do not want to see Newfoundland share any greater jurisdiction in the fishery of Newfoundland and

Labrador.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD:

We will be playing right into Central Canada's hands to have anybody from the Opposition accompanying us, because there are quite a few in Central Canada and in the Maritime Provinces who do not want to see us have any more say over the fishery, or we would not be into this mess we are in now. Nor, Mr. Speaker, secondly, could I agree to taking members from the Opposition along because their position is give Northern cod to the French.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

The time for Oral Questions has elapsed.

Answers to Questions
for which Notice has been Given

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, just very briefly. The hon. the member for Port de Grave (Mr. Eppard) asked me a question in Question Period and I have some information to give now. So I am taking the question in Question Period as a question accepted by me on notice.

The hon. member referred to a patient who was admitted to the

Health Sciences Complex. The details are as follows: On April 6, the elderly patient, who had a number of chronic diseases, was seen in the Out Patients at the Health Sciences Complex and was subsequently returned home. It was the determination in Out Patients that the patient should be returned home. She was also seen, as arranged, again the next day on April 7. She was then due to come back for further review on April 14. However, on April 13, the day before she was due to come back, she was admitted as an emergency with a certain symptom. It was determined that this was a new condition. She had certain investigations. She subsequently had surgery and, unfortunately, the following day she succumbed as a result of the particular disease process. So those are the details of that case.

MR. WINDSOR:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Finance.

MR. WINDSOR:

Mr. Speaker, I table the answer to question number 50 from the hon. the member for Gander (Mr. Baker).

DR. TWOMEY:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Public Works.

DR. TWOMEY:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I wish to table in this House answers to questions asked in the Estimates. A question was asked by the member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Gilbert) dealing with the executive purchase of

vehicles; another question was asked by the same member dealing with rental space; another question was asked by the same member on the Order Paper dealing with the location and cost of rental space in the St. John's area; another question was asked in the Estimates by the hon. member for Stephenville (Mr. K. Aylward) dealing with his request for information on the eye glass services.

MR. WARREN:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Minister of Northern Development.

MR. WARREN:
Mr. Speaker, I wish to table an answer to the question on the Order Paper by the member for Naskaupi (Mr. Kelland). The question was: How many people are currently working in my office? The answer is two. How many of these persons were appointed by Order-in-Council? The answer is two. List each title and salary applied to that title. Executive Assistant, SA.02 pay scale; secretary to the minister HL.12 pay scale. Table a job description for each Order-in-Council? The answers is regular duties associated with the position.

I might add, Mr. Speaker, an extra requirement I considered when selecting the individual was that that person would give at least 100 percent of their working hours and talent to the people of Labrador, and in particular to the constituents of Torngat Mountains. I believe that those two people have done that.

Were any of those jobs

advertised? The Executive Assistant's position is a transfer within the department. The Secretary to the Minister is a transfer from Social Services in Nain, and subsequently the position in Nain has been filled by another resident of Nain, subsequently giving an unemployed person in Nain a position working with government. Mr. Speaker, those same answers apply to the question asked by the member from Menihek (Mr. Fenwick) on the Order Paper also.

Petitions

MR. W. CARTER:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. W. CARTER:
Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a petition signed by almost all of the residents of Tizzard's Harbour, in the district of Twillingate, of course. The petition, Mr. Speaker, reads as follows:

Whereas television is recognized the world over as an important medium in the educational, cultural and social development of a community, and

Whereas communities immediately adjacent to the community of Tizzard's Harbour have recently been provided with cablevision, and

Whereas residents of Tizzard's Harbour have been denied access to cable television,

Wherefore, the undersigned

residents of Tizzard's Harbour, your petitioners, humbly pray and call upon the House of Assembly to instruct the Minister of Consumer Affairs and Communications to intercede on our behalf by making representation to the N-1 Cable Television Company Limited and, if necessary, to the CRTC" which, of course, is the regulatory federal body, "with a view to having cable television service extended to Tizzard's Harbour."

Mr. Speaker, I realize, of course, that this House does not have jurisdiction over cable television, but the prayer of the petition I think is quite legitimate in that these people feel that they have been discriminated against. They are asking their House to instruct the Minister of Consumer Affairs and Communications (Mr. Young) to make representation to the television company on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, Tizzard's Harbour is an important, although small, fishing community on the Northeast Coast of our Province. It is a community where we have hard-working, independent people, most of whom derive their livelihoods from the sea. I suggest to you too, Mr. Speaker, that it is a community where they probably have less cases of social assistance than any other community of its size in the Province.

These residents, Mr. Speaker, feel they are entitled to the service of cable television. They have seen other communities in the area, namely Moreton's Harbour, Bridgeport, Valley Pond, which is in the immediate area, get cable television and for some unknown reason their community has been omitted.

MR. CALLAN:
It is uneconomic.

MR. W. CARTER:
Mr. Speaker, the member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan) says that it is uneconomic to service Tizzard's Harbour. Now, let me tell him, Mr. Speaker, that it is no more uneconomic to service Tizzard's Harbour than some of the other places that have been serviced in the immediate area.

Not only that, Mr. Speaker, surely a company that has been given a licence to install and operate cable television, which is, at least from what I can understand, a very lucrative business - it is not a poverty stricken business by any means - surely these companies must be expected to take the small places with the larger places.

They should not be allowed to pick and choose where they want to extend their services. For example, if that were the case, then only the larger urban areas in the country would today have cable television.

I suppose the same thing could be said for telephone service. If the telephone companies were allowed to pick and choose and allow only the service to be put in the larger, more densely populated communities, then -

AN HON. MEMBER:
(Inaudible).

MR. W. CARTER:
Mr. Speaker, I wonder would you ask the member for Bellevue to please remain silent while I present this important petition. He might laugh but it is not a joke. It is not a joke in Tizzard's Harbour. Please, would he remain quiet while I am doing

my job?

Mr. Speaker, as I was pointing out a moment ago, cable television companies should not be allowed to pick and choose the places in which they provide the service, any more than the telephone company or the hydro company should be allowed to confine their activities to the more densely populated communities in our Province.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, considering the remoteness of a large number of Newfoundland outport communities, including Tizzard's Harbour, it is obvious, Mr. Speaker, that these are the places where good television service is probably more badly needed than in the more urban, densely populated areas. People in those small communities have less opportunity to avail of other entertainment and sources of recreation.

For that reason it seems to me that there should be a responsibility placed on these companies when they are given a licence because a licence to operate cablevision in the Province carries with it a great deal of responsibility.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

MR. W. CARTER:
I conclude, Mr. Speaker, by saying that the licence to operate carries with it some responsibility. Therefore, in this case I believe that they have a responsibility to provide the service to Tizzard's Harbour they have provided to other maybe a little more densely populated communities in that part of our Province.

Mr. Speaker, I take pleasure in presenting this petition, Sir. I ask that it be referred to the department and to the minister to which it relates.

MR. GULLAGE:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the member for Waterford - Kennount.

MR. GULLAGE:
Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to support the petition by my good friend, the member for Twillingate (Mr. W. Carter), concerning this most important matter of providing, I suppose, the final communications link for these people in that they do not have access to cable television, as, indeed, most areas of the Province do.

When we see that Morton's Harbour, Valley Pond and Bridgeport, adjoining communities, have been given cable service, it seems strange that Tizzard's Harbour, just because it has a smaller population, that this should be used as a basis for denying them what possibly should be considered a right in this day and age, and that is, good communications and access to a service that, indeed, all of their neighbors have.

I raised the point, Mr. Speaker, during the Estimates debate, about the mandate of the Department of Consumer Affairs and Communications and whether, in fact, they should be dealing, on a more precise basis, with the problems of communications throughout the Island in matters where federal jurisdiction, the CRTC, does not apply. I would like to suggest that perhaps this particular community is an area

where the Communications Department should focus some attention and deal with the matter of extending this vital service of cable television to the one community that has been left out, when, in fact, all of their neighbors have been included.

So I would like to commend my colleague, the member for Twillingate, for his initiative in bringing this petition forward, and I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that the Department of Communications, in particular, and the government would give prompt attention to the petition and see that this vital service is, in fact, extended to the people of the community of Tizzard's Harbour.

MR. YOUNG:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. YOUNG:
Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the petition presented by the hon. member for Twillingate. I would mention to you, Mr. Speaker, that our department has worked closely with the cable industry in providing services, Mr. Speaker. To date the cable industry has achieved approximately 80 per cent participation, the highest in Canada, Mr. Speaker, without government financial assistance.

A report, Mr. Speaker, has been commissioned by the federal Department of Communications and we are waiting for that report to be studied. I may say, Mr. Speaker, the industry in this Province is in a position to respond to any programme to assist with the extension of services. I have been told - I do not know -

that it is not economical to install cable television in communities with less than fifty families. This is why we have been in touch with the federal Department of Communications to try and get some federal assistance to help the cable companies to install cable television in these smaller communities.

I wholeheartedly support the petition, Mr. Speaker, and once it comes to my desk at the department, I will write the cable television company N-1. I think there was some correspondence I signed today to that cable television company, N-1. I support the petition, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

Orders of the Day

MR. SIMMS:
Mr. Speaker, we will continue with Order 3, the concurrence motion on the Resource Committee.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the member for Naskaupi adjourned debate.

The hon. the member has two minutes left.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. KELLAND:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

If I can quickly make a reference to something which relates to the Resource Estimates, and I did not have an opportunity to say when I responded to the minister's statement a bit earlier. I am

very interested in mapping, particularly mapping that is of a promotional nature for our Province. For the most part, Mr. Speaker, most provincial maps show mainly the Island of Newfoundland, with the region of Labrador as a small inset. I wish, somewhere along the line, we could produce provincial maps that would show our entire Province in its total perspective. I wanted to make that comment, because it does give a false impression to those people from outside our country who may wish to visit, only to find that instead of a small portion of our Province, Labrador is, indeed, quite a large part, probably better than two thirds, and I think it should be reflected as such.

I would also like to suggest to hon. members that now that the minister has taken the time to respond to our request to have packages made available that we take the time to go through them, each of us, from both sides of the House, and look for quality, omissions, and whatever, any points that come to mind, and take the time to offer constructive criticism to the minister so that future publications may be improved for the good of us all.

The only other comment that I have in wrapping up, Mr. Speaker, is that I support all the comments, I guess, on this subject by my colleague for Fortune - Hermitage who questioned the procedures, the process of the Estimates Committees, and I alluded to it myself when I spoke yesterday. I would like to see someone in the Chair who is not a direct member of the administration, a parliamentary assistant, because no matter what the government side says, an individual in that

category does have a vested interest in attempting to make the government appear in a good light.

Some of the statements offered by the Chairman of the Resource Estimates Committee were, to say the least, not the way the rest of the Committee remembered the proceedings. I would like to make the point, and that we do give due consideration to that on future occasions when Estimates Committees are struck, that we have a duty to perform, we have a duty to question and seek information from the ministers in the Estimates Committees, and they have a duty to respond and provide the information to us as Opposition members, and to the general public, whom we represent.

But equally true, members of the Committee, when they speak in a concurrence debate, particularly the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, have the obligation and the responsibility to report and comment accurately on the proceedings. I think we have an example of that and how it can go astray and how a Chairman can possibly abuse his position as a Chairman by using his vested interest for the good of the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Northern Development.

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, I thought I would take a few minutes to say a few words in this Concurrence Debate. In particular, I am honoured to be able to follow the member for Naskaupi, who, I would say, has

contributed quite a bit to this hon. House in the last two and a half years. I am sure that as long as he is here, he will have the constituents of Naskaupi close at heart.

Mr. Speaker, I was surprised in the Estimates Committee that only three questions, I think, were asked about my particular department by the hon. member. In looking at our budget, he failed to mention one very, very, important decision that government made, the cut of roughly \$130,000 in air transportation for the staff in Labrador.

When I became Minister of the Department, the first thing I noticed was that our travel throughout Labrador was quite extensive and expensive at the same time. Subsequently, government decided that travel by government employees in Labrador would be co-ordinated to the fact that one or two departments will be able to travel on the same aircraft.

Mr. Speaker, when we talk about resources, I have to compliment the Minister of Fisheries on a very bold initiative, a really bold initiative of this year, for the first time ever, letting the fish plants in Makkovik, Postville and Hopedale be operated and controlled by the people themselves. It was a major initiative by this government to let Torngat Fisheries operate and manage the fish plants in those three communities which, I might add, is the first time ever that government has decided to take such a bold initiative, and I am confident that William Flowers and his Board of Directors of this Co-op will have a successful year.

Mr. Speaker, in the Estimates Committee the \$100,000 for the Mokami Project Group was also mentioned. I think, Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to my two colleagues, the members for St. John's East and Menehik, we should realize that there are social and economic gains in any project that is undertaken.

I am quite pleased with the resolution that was passed in this hon. House to form a committee that will comprise members of both the official Opposition and government.

Now, I, myself, see nothing wrong with inviting a member of the lowly NDP to be a member of that committee. Personally, I see nothing wrong with that, because I believe that then the hon. the member for St. John's would have the opportunity to get outside the overpass.

He talks about issues in Labrador, but when I talked to him the other day, before I had an opportunity to speak, I learned he has never been in Labrador. So, if we can get him on there to attend even one of our proposed meetings, the hon. gentleman may have a chance to come to Labrador. I am sure that the only thing he knows about Labrador is what he reads in the newspapers, or what he hears from some of those-

MR. LONG:
(Inaudible).

MR. WARREN:
Mr. Speaker, I think the old saying is, you believe half you hear and all you see, or none you hear and half you see, something like that. But, I would say to the hon. gentleman for St. John's East, I think he has to realize

that there are social and economic factors in anything that is done, and government is addressing the social element as well as the economic element in promoting the NATO base in Goose Bay. The NATO base, in Goose Bay, will have a positive effect on practically every single human being living in that area.

Mr. Speaker, this year, also for the first time, the Combined Councils of Labrador have received funding to assist them with their administration costs, again thanks to the department that I am responsible for.

Mr. Speaker, housing: There is \$2,056,000 in my department which will be spent on the construction of housing in native communities along the North Coast of Labrador. There is a new government store, in fact, the last one of its kind to be built on the Labrador Coast, to be constructed in Hopedale this year at a cost of approximately \$1 million. Mr. Speaker, when this store is completed, government will have five brand-new, spanking-new government stores which are equally as good as Sobey's or Dominion or the General, or some other stores in St. John's, but on a smaller scale, in those smaller communities.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I would like to add that government has looked very favourably on Torngat Fisheries, which is operate the fish plants at Makkovik, Postville and Hopedale.

I have said to several groups in Labrador, show us a very appetizing proposal, show us a proposal that we can live with and you can live with, and I think the

time is coming when we can seriously look at the people themselves forming a co-operative, or an association, or a Labrador Inuit Development Corporation, or a Naskaupi/Montagnais Development Corporation to operate and run these stores. I have always said and will always maintain, that when a facility is brought up to standard, when a facility is fit to be run properly, without extra burden, I would like to specify without extra burden to the taxpayers of the Province, I am sure government will look favourably towards turning over or transferring the government owned stores to the people themselves.

MR. KELLAND:

Would the hon. member permit a question?

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, as long as it does not come out of my time.

MR. KELLAND:

Just a few seconds. In that last point, are you also looking at not the development associations and so on, but are you also looking at the potential proposal from, say, the private entrepreneur sector? I do not know if you said that or not.

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, in response to the hon. member's question, if the private entrepreneur sector is from the district of Torngat Mountains, yes. But, Mr. Speaker, I will not accept, I will not consider, I will not look at the M.A. Powell's, or the Hudson Bay Companies, or the big conglomerates from outside going into the district of Torngat Mountains and operating their stores.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let me just continue. I have to take exception to the hon. gentleman for Naskaupi, because he made a little dig at my colleague for Bellevue. He said he does not usually attack individuals. Mr. Speaker, on the day in question, when the hon. gentleman decided to join this party, I remember listening to UOCM, **Open Line**, and the only member other than the newly elected member from Waterford - Kennmount, who was not elected at that time and was within his rights to say what he had to say, he was a guest on **Open Line**, but the only member from this House who appeared on **Open Line** at that time was the member for Naskaupi who viciously attacked the member for Bellevue.

AN HON. MEMBER:

There were two.

MR. WARREN:

Maybe there were two.

But, Mr. Speaker, it was the member for Naskaupi who viciously attacked the member for Bellevue.

Now, Mr. Speaker, whether you believe it or not, he can get up and say out of one side of his mouth he does not do it, and out of the other side of his mouth admit that he does do it. Mr. Speaker, I have to take exception to the hon. gentleman, in that he did make a vicious attack on the member for Bellevue.

Mr. Speaker, there is one other thing I would like to bring to the attention of hon. members of this House. The other two members for Labrador wanted to ask questions, and they thought they had something going for them, on the caribou hunt in Labrador this year. In fact, Mr. Speaker, a

question was about to be put about an extension to the hunt for the George's River caribou herd, and, to take the wind out of their sails, there was a special meeting held with my colleagues four and a half days before the hunt was supposed to end, and it was decided at that time that we would extend the hunt for an extra four and a half days. That decision was made on the same day, the twenty-eighth, that the hunt was supposed to end. At that time, the commercial caribou hunt had accounted for a total of 590 animals, and within the next four and a half days they arrived at a grand total of 1,510. So you can see how favourable and how conscientious this government is to the well being of the native people of Labrador. We went out of our way on the last day of that season to extend the hunt for another four and a half days and, subsequently, they were fortunate enough to kill an extra 950 animals. So that just shows, Mr. Speaker, the concern that government has for the Native people in Labrador.

MR. KELLAND:

A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

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

MR. KELLAND:

I would just like to make a clarification here.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

A point of clarification is -

MR. KELLAND:

A point of order.

MR. SPEAKER:
All right. I will listen to the point of order.

MR. KELLAND:
A point of order in which I hope to clarify some statements.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

I will listen to a point of order.

MR. KELLAND:
My point of order is that the Minister Responsible for Northern Development is mixing two particular items related to caribou which are entirely different.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

That is not a point of order.

MR. FUREY:
How do you know, Mr. Speaker.

MR. KELLAND:
Mr. Speaker, would you allow me to finish and then judge?

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Minister responsible for Northern Development.

MR. WARREN:
Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say, although I only have two or three minutes left, I was kind enough to permit the hon. gentleman to pose a question which I answered very favourably. I would just like to say to the hon. gentleman, as long as I am an elected member of this Assembly, which, I can foresee, will be for a long, long time to come, I will continue to address the concerns and the aspirations of the people in Labrador, particularly in the district of Torngat Mountains.

I should say in closing, Mr. Speaker, I do find it ironic that there is a move afoot on the Opposition benches, although I am not quite certain of this, and the hon. member for Naskaupi and the Leader of the Opposition are quite aware that posters have already been printed in the name of an individual, Danny Demarais. The poster does not say anything about a nomination, it says, 'Elect Danny Demarais the member for Eagle River.' I already saw the poster. The poster is already done up, a big picture of Danny Demarais, 'Elect Danny Demarais the member for Eagle River.'

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have been told that the member for Naskaupi and the Leader of the Opposition have started a game. They are not contented, they are not satisfied -

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

The hon. member's time has elapsed.

MR. WARREN:
By leave?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
No leave.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

Is the House ready for the question? The question is, shall the report of the Resource Committee be concurred in?

On motion, the report of the Resource Committee was concurred in.

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

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, we will carry on now with the same Order 3, but we will do the Social Services Estimates Committee.

MR. SPEAKER:

Social Services Estimates Committee, the hon. the President of the Council.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the member for St. John's North (Mr. J. Carter), who is the chairman of this particular committee and who is unavoidably absent today and for the rest of this week, I have great pleasure in introducing the concurrence motion for the Social Services Estimates Committee.

First of all, on behalf of the Chairman, I would like to thank the members of the Committee who performed their duties admirably, and they were the member for St. John's North, as I said, as Chairman; the member for Port de Grave (Mr. Efford) as Vice-Chairman, who I understand did a tremendous job and is a great man; the member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan) who is also a great man; the member for LaPoile (Mr. Mitchell) who is also a great man; and the member for Humber West (Mr. Baird) who is even a greater man.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMS:

I would also include the present member for Eagle River (Mr. Hiscock) who is a great man -

MR. BAIRD:

And who was there.

MR. SIMMS:

- and the member for Fleming Street - is it? - the member for

St. John's East (Mr. Long) who is an interesting gentleman and a great man, no doubt, a great man.

Anyway, those were the members of the committee, Mr. Speaker. I also want to say I understand from reports received from members opposite, as well as members on this side, that clearly, and this is no reflection really on the members of the other Committees, but clearly this particular Committee was probably the hardest working Estimates Committee of this entire session.

MR. SIMMONS:

(Inaudible).

MR. SIMMS:

Correct. Maybe even this century.

They held more meetings than any other Estimates Committee did during this present round. They held more than they were required to, I guess, because, in essence, it was basically a meeting per department. They had seven departments, as I understand it, and they held eight meetings, more than were called for. They held a meeting, in fact, on the very last day went, right up to the last minute, Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, the day that the reports were to be submitted, and they even ran on that day, I understand, beyond their allotted time, which normally would be 12:30 a.m. I think they ran later than that. I am sure the Vice-Chairman will comment on that, when he speaks next in this particular debate.

So, Mr. Speaker, commendations go to all members of the Committee who performed their task in an admirable fashion and should be commended.

I understand further, from

speaking to members on the Committee, that the sessions ran quite smoothly; that ministers were quite forthcoming in their responses; that members were diligent in their questions, and persistent, and all in all, I understand, it worked out extremely well.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the Committee dealt with the Estimates of the Departments of Justice, Health, Education, Career Development and Advanced Studies, Culture, Recreation and Youth, Social Services, and Environment and Lands. Those were the departments.

I have some notes here, given to me by the Chairman, which he asked me to mention in passing as to the topics that were discussed, just to summarize for hon. members, just to refresh their memories.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Where is the Chairman?

MR. SIMMS:

The Chairman is unavoidably absent today and for the rest of this week, I believe.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Why?

MR. SIMMS:

I have no idea.

With respect to the estimates of the Department of Environment and Lands, which is a new department, I guess it is fair to say - it really is a new department, because the Lands Branch from the old Department of Forest Resource and Lands has now been transferred to that department - the following topics among many, I guess, but certainly the following topics, I am told, were discussed, to refresh member's memories: The

Ultramar leak from the underground storage tanks, members may recall that issue, illegally occupied Crown lands, the Environmental Assessment legislation, the Sprung greenhouse - members will recall that one, I am sure - the dust level in Corner Brook, Baie Verte and the tailings in Baie Verte, the use of fenitrothion, Paradise River, employment equity - I am not quite sure how that was related to Environment and Lands but, nevertheless I am told that was a topic. That is affirmative action.

MR. RUSSELL:

(Inaudible) disabled people.

MR. SIMMS:

I see, as it related to the disabled in the Environment Department. As a matter of fact, there was a question or two, I guess, about the minister's press secretary, I gather. That was also a topic. So, those were some of the topics in Environment and Lands. Members may want to focus on those as they reminisce about the discussions.

Under the Department of Social Services, among other topics, there were discussions about day care, discussions about the Transition House, about the Boy's Home, about incentives for work for social service clients and about assistance to families with disabled children. I would assume there were many other topics and I am sure the Vice-Chairman will refer to them because that is his first love, the Social Services area.

Under the Department of Culture, Recreation and Youth, there were discussions related to double daylight savings time. Everybody will recall that. The

Newfoundland and Labrador - Summer Games, the rabies outbreak, library hours, Arts Council - a love of the member for St. John's Fast (Mr. Long) and no doubt he was the one that raised that, provincial parks - he probably raised that too. He does not like to see what we are doing with provincial parks. Provincial archives, of course, I am very familiar with all these topics, being a former minister of that department. I would love to have the hon. member participate in this debate. I am looking forward to what he has to say that might be of some use, of course. Sports archives, another very topical item, sales tax on art work, I believe, was another topic. Those were all some of the topics discussed when we did the estimates of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Youth. Members will want to reminisce, I am sure.

AN HON. MEMBER:
The Red Trench.

MR. SIMMS:
Did it really? The Red Trench, I am told, was also a topic of some discussion.

Under Career Development and Advanced Studies, Mr. Speaker, one of the topics I am certain received considerable discussion was the whole question of post secondary education, particularly the community college programme that was introduced last year by this government, funding, I guess, for community colleges, first year university programmes, how they are working. All those kind of things were discussed, I gather, in that committee with the minister.

Under the Department of Education

I am told there were interesting topics discussed, like the question of school busing. **The Sunday Express** was discussed, I understand, in every department. School board funding was another topic. I also understand the minister's excellent performance as minister of the department was brought up during the estimates of the Department of Education. I understand the minister's excellent performance was brought up under the Education estimates but I believe it was the minister who brought it up. He did mention to me that it was a topic. I asked him if he could tell me some of the topics and this was one of the items, 'the minister's excellent performance.' So I thought I would mention it, of course, so we can get concurrence in all of these matters when we vote on these estimates.

The Department of Health: I gather there was a considerable amount of discussion in the Health estimates. I do not have all the topics but among some, I understand, optometry was discussed, the nursing situation in the Province, the homes that we often hear the hon. member raise, as a matter of fact, and hospital operations in general.

AN HON. MEMBER:
Chiropractors.

MR. SIMMS:
I cannot seem to find anybody who recalls chiropractors being discussed under the Department of Health estimates. However, the Minister of Justice tells me, when they dealt with the Justice Estimates that, in fact, chiropractors was discussed under Justice. I am anxious to hear the hon. member, when he gets up in his capacity as Vice-Chairman to

explain the relationship of asking a question concerning chiropractors to the Minister of Justice. I do not know how it would fit in, unless it is legalities or something like that. Perhaps that might be it, I do not know. I really would be interested in hearing, because I missed out on that particular committee meeting. I usually read all the transcripts of all the estimates committees, but unfortunately they do not come until two or three months after it is all over.

I understand another topical item was the question of the legislation that the government intends to bring in with respect to enforcement of maintenance orders. That, I think, is forward and progressive legislation that I know the member for St. John's East (Mr. Long) and the member for Menihek (Mr. Fenwick), both, are very, very supportive of, as they are with respect to most programmes that this government brings into the legislature. They are very, very supportive.

They are certainly less partisan in their views and opinions and comments, I believe, generally speaking, not always, than members of the official Opposition. But then again, I guess, members of the official Opposition want to try to score political points at any cost, rather than give a sensible view or observation about something that this government brings in.

DR. COLLINS:

Also, Liberals are rather negative-minded.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, that is, in essence, the only bit of information I have

with respect to the operation of the Estimates Committees.

I do want to comment, though, and to reiterate what has been said in the last day or so from other members who have participated in these debates, about the workings of the Estimates Committees. I recall very clearly in 1979, when I was sitting in Your Honour's Chair there, as Speaker, when this whole question was debated and raised and brought in. It was a matter of amending the rules of the House and one of the major rule changes was to bring in this new system of taking estimates out of the House, and into Committees outside the House where members on all sides of the House would have a better opportunity to participate. Because often, Mr. Speaker, in the past when the estimates were done in the whole House, quite frequently members would spend the entire amount of time allocated for the budget, seventy-five hours, on just doing two or three departments. One thing that has happened is that at least all departments, generally speaking, get some kind of scrutiny. I think that was a major and innovative legislative change to the rules of the House and something that has been beneficial.

Over the last seven or eight years there has been a considerable amount of debate, back and forth, as to whether or not the committee system is, in fact, doing a good job. I would have to say this year, I believe, the committee system has worked very well generally speaking. I know members opposite would probably have some criticisms of it, but I think, generally speaking, the system this time, as I understand it, at least, did work out very

well and all members participated.

Mr. Speaker, speaking of rule changes, I understand we have a committee of this House that was struck sometime last year. The hon. the Minister of Environment and Lands (Mr. Russell) can confirm it because he is the Chairman of the Committee, as a former Speaker, and it was struck last year. I gather that committee will again be putting forth some interesting proposed changes to our House rules. I am not sure if any of them relate to the Estimates Committee or not, but I guess we shall all see in due course. None of us really know, except for the members of the committee because it has not yet gone to the caucus. As I understand it, that is the next step. But hopefully, we will have an opportunity before this session concludes to deal with that report and deal with that in the proper fashion.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, I have only thirty seconds remaining. I am delighted to have the opportunity on behalf of the member for St. John's North, the Chairman of the committee - do any of the hon. members wish to give me leave? I would be happy to carry on, but I gather members opposite -

AN HON. MEMBER:
(Inaudible).

MR. SIMMS:
I wanted to wait and see if the member for Port de Grave (Mr. Eppard) was going to return. The hon. member for Fortune - Hermitage (Mr. Simmons) is going to speak instead, and no doubt, he will be able to perform a very capable job.

Mr. Speaker, therefore, I move the

motion on behalf of the member for St. John's North.

MR. SIMMONS:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. SIMMONS:
Mr. Speaker, the member for Port de Grave had to step out to meet the continuing demand from the press for his advice on various matters. His guidance and his comments on the way this government operates the health system is the latest incidence where his insight is required, and that is what he is doing right now.

In his absence, I shall attempt to put before the House a few views relating to the committee. Since the gentleman who was the Chairman is not present in the Chamber, I shall refrain from saying what would be my foremost view on the subject because I like to say those things to a man's face. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I want to get into some specifics as follows:

First of all, this committee dealt with education and well it might have. For the minister for Grand Falls to talk about any kudos that might have been forthcoming for the Minister of Education, he could not have picked a worse example, not that the Minister of Education is incompetent. He is a very nice fellow, but it is in the area of education, I suppose, that the government's record of neglect of rural Newfoundland is most blatant.

We could make a case in terms of health services and we could make in terms of social services. We

could make it in the area of rural development and in all those cases, Mr. Speaker, I think you will agree representing as you do some rural communities, in all those cases, there has been a fair degree of neglect. But it is in the area of education that I find the neglect most blatant and most insulting.

I heard the gentlemen for Bellevue (Mr. Callan) yesterday, quite apart from the fact he had difficulty with his numbers, I thought he made a very good point. His difficulties with numbers arose when he talked about what was the most pressing, the most important resource, and he said at one point it was offshore, but then he realized that would displace people and then he told the committee or the House that it was the people of the Province which were the most valuable resource. Then, later in his speech, he classified offshore as the second most important resource, and later still, he classified something else as the second most important resource, I think it was fisheries.

But that aside, Mr. Speaker, the fact is that as the gentleman said yesterday in this same debate, it is our young people who are our most valued resource.

How can a backbencher of that administration, of that government, say that and still sit with the administration that so pillages, so savages, the chances and the educational opportunities of Newfoundland youth, particularly in rural Newfoundland?

When I look at the per capita education spending figures for the Bay d'Espoir School Board, the one that embraces a fair amount of the

district which I represent - Fortune - Hermitage, the Board that represents the Connaigne Peninsula - Fortune Bay North area, insofar as my district is concerned - and compare that to the more urban centers like St. John's, I cannot for the like of me fathom how people, particularly people who are teachers by career path, can sit on that side of the House and support a government that has so savaged the opportunities of the young people of this Province, and do it blatantly, do it with bareface and do it on a continuing basis. Why, Mr. Speaker, should the geographic domicile of a young person in this Province have anything to do with his chances of getting a first rate education? Anything less than a first rate education, of course, is not going to serve him very well in the competitive society in which he will find himself as a young adult in a few years time.

Mr. Speaker, there is only fifteen minutes and one could spend all of that time on the question of education funding, but I will have to move on because there are some other issues that I want to touch on. Before leaving education, let me talk specifically about the allocation of teachers and how it shakes down in terms of the numbers of teachers available to the rural students as opposed to the number of students to the urban students. Once again you see the unfairness, the callousness of this particular administration.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately we do not have television in this House. We do not have radio in this House. But I find as I travel around the Province that the word is getting out about this

administration because so many peoples lives are being adversely affected by the policy of this administration, whether in education, whether in health, whether in social services, whether in transportation. So many tens of thousands of lives are being adversely touched by the callous policies of this administration, that the word is getting out. The word is spreading, even with the absence of television and radio coverage of this Chamber, the word is spreading to all the corners of this Province that this is an uncaring administration. This administration does not understand the problem at all.

Mr. Speaker, you would think that with grassroots sorts like the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) sitting there in the Cabinet, giving advice to the other ministers, there would be some hope.

The day that that minister went into the Cabinet I said, 'Now there is going to be a new day dawning, a new period.'

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMONS:
He is a man of well above average intelligence.

AN HON. MEMBER:
A Liberal.

MR. SIMMONS:
A man who has been trained well by a compassionate Liberal caucus and then -

MR. TULK:
Right on.

MR. SIMMONS:

- sent into the enemy camp to see if he can straighten them out, a man whose oratory has so often awed this Chamber. But I have seen no difference. Well, the caribou hunt was extended by four and a half days, so you cannot say there has been no difference, but I see no real difference in terms of expenditures on rural education, no difference in terms of the lessening of the waiting time for people who want to have life and dead type operations in hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, the member for Torngat Mountains has let down his side completely. Those who sent him over there to straighten out that hon. gang are very disappointed in the gentleman for Torngat Mountains.

Mr. Speaker, if we could do relays in this particular Chamber, as you do in some races, I at this point would seek the permission of this House to just back out and let my colleague from Port de Grave (Mr. Efford) take over.

MR. EFFORD:
Oh, you are doing an excellent job.

MR. SIMMONS:
He is the person who should be speaking here and I am just trying to pinch hit in his particular stead.

The next thing he would have said, so I am going to say it for him, is Sprung. You see, Mr. Speaker, if you were not among such a bias, prejudiced crowd of people as we sit here today, stand here today, if you were out anywhere in rural Newfoundland, out where people really have their finger on the pulse of things, I tell you, Sir, and some time when you had it up to your teeth with Flatrock and

Torbay and these places, come with me to the real world down in Rencontre East, Jack Fountain and some of these places.

MR. TULK:

I will take him to Fogo then.

MR. SIMMONS:

I did say the real world, like Jack Fountain or Rencontre East, come with me, Sir, and let me show you the truth of what I am about to say. I can take you into any group of people, into a kitchen, a stagehead, anywhere at all, a school classroom, and I would say three words, in turn, without telling them who you are, what party you represent and, with respect, despite your fame in local circles, you might not be a household name, say, in Jack Fountain, pardon me for saying so, that might be the case, but if you and I were to go and I were to walk into a classroom with you and say the word Sprung, I would get immediate, unrestrained laughter, ridicule.

If I said the word limousine, I would get complete and unfettered laughter.

MR. TULK:

What is the third one?

MR. SIMMONS:

Mr. Speaker, these are two of the three words and discretion tells me that the other word I should tell you privately. The point is made. Sprung is a joke, a very expensive joke, a very expensive joke.

Why is it, Mr. Speaker, because they have watched a government squirm. They watched one minister literally destroy himself so that he had to hauled out of the department altogether. They

watched a Premier -

MR. WARREN:

They lasted more than ten days though.

MR. SIMMONS:

He is back, oh, mph, oh! Well, look who is here. I did not know you were allowed to eat in the House.

Now, Mr. Speaker -

MR. WARREN:

(Inaudible) despicable.

MR. SIMMONS:

Mr. Speaker, I may be, as he says, 'despeckable,' but I would never suggest that he was despicable. I would never do it.

Mr. Speaker, I paid a tribute -

MR. WARREN:

And do it one more time and you will get a punch in the mouth.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMONS:

Do what, do what one more time?

MR. WARREN:

Try it one more time and (inaudible).

MR. TULK:

Praise him up.

MR. SIMMONS:

Mr. Speaker, I have said -

MR. WARREN:

Try the act one more time.

MR. SIMMONS:

I have lauded the gentleman's oratory.

MR. WARREN:

Try it one more time.

MR. SIMMONS:

I commended him for getting the caribou thing extended by four and a half days. Now, if the member wants to interject himself in this debate, he can take the consequences, -

MR. WARREN:

Try it one more time (inaudible).

MR. SIMMONS:

- he can take the consequences. Alright?

MR. WARREN:

I will not be Cal Mitchell, I tell you that.

MR. SIMMONS:

Now, Mr. Speaker, he seems to be all fired up about something now.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

Get his two staff to restrain him.

MR. SIMMONS:

He seems to be all fired up about something, I see.

Now, Mr. Speaker, as I was saying, you and I were having a little friendly chat about Jack Fountain, about cucumbers, about limousines. I was trying to tell the House, Mr. Speaker, in the most placid terms I know how.

MR. WARREN:

I have lasted more than ten days though. (Inaudible) ten-day wonder.

MR. FUREY:

That is a minister speaking up.

MR. SIMMS:

I think, Mr. Speaker, the heir to the Sir Winston Churchill mantle wants to say something to the House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMONS:

I think he feels a speech coming on.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:

Tell us about income tax.

MR. SIMMONS:

I think he has found, Mr. Speaker, you can actually put three words together.

MR. WARREN:

Tell us about income tax.

MR. SIMMONS:

I will tell the gentleman about that anytime he wants to hear about it. Okay?

MR. WARREN:

Yes, tell us.

MR. SIMMONS:

But right now I am talking about an issue and I would like to stay with it.

MR. WARREN:

Well, behave like a gentleman.

MR. SIMMONS:

I am doing my best. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his expert advice, expert as it always is.

Now let me come back to what really hit the nerve in the first place, I was talking about a Minister of Agriculture who literally destroyed himself trying to defend Sprung and a Premier who has made a laughing stock of himself around this Province with his cucumber antics, out promoting him, printing silly little

booklets and waving them on television and doing everything else, Mr. Speaker. What a living joke, if it was not such an expensive joke! The people out there are laughing at them, laughing at them!

Nothing else, Mr. Speaker, has caught the imagination of the Newfoundland people so much as that cucumber thing. Not even the member for Placentia West (Mr. Patterson), Mr. Speaker, has caught their imagination so completely as that cucumber antic, nothing else.

Mr. Speaker, the thing that comes a close second is this limousine business.

MR. FUREY:
Old limo 'Alf.'

MR. SIMMONS:
Yes, you know what I mean. The limousine thing, the \$200 tip and the \$1200 limousine and the \$1600 for the suite.

MR. DINN:
Geoff Sterling tried that same tactic.

MR. TOBIN:
You just be careful, I will tell you that.

MR. TULK:
Another threat.

MR. SIMMONS:
Now, Mr. Speaker, I am not the one who rented the limousine or the \$1,600 for the suite.

MR. TOBIN:
You just be careful, I tell you that.

MR. SIMMONS:
Mr. Speaker, I am not the one who

rented the limousine for \$1,200. I do not need to be careful! I am not the one, Mr. Speaker, who gave a \$200 tip to somebody down in the Boston States. I am not that person.

MR. TOBIN:
How small! How low! A snake would be above you. How can you get on that low with a colleague? You should be ashamed of yourself. It is disgraceful. Everybody is disgusted, and they do not find it enjoyable either. They are not all like you.

MR. SIMMONS:
Mr. Speaker, I do not particularly find it enjoyable either, to tell you the truth. I do not find the member's interventions enjoyable. Do you understand that? Now, Mr. Speaker, if that member would just keep his cool, he would not put both feet in all the time.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

The hon. member's time has elapsed.

MR. SIMMONS:
That is too bad, Mr. Speaker, because I was just getting to them on limousines and cucumbers and tips.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am about to clue up.

MR. YOUNG:
Your time is up.

MR. FUREY:
Ask for a point of order.

MR. SIMMONS:
Does the minister think he is Bas Jamieson, or something?

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Minister of

Environment and Lands.

MR. RUSSELL:

Mr. Speaker, I sat here for the last fifteen minutes listening to the member for Fortune - Hermitage, who almost made me ashamed to be a member of this Legislature. Mr. Speaker, the sarcastic and satirical way the hon. member for Fortune - Hermitage just behaved does nothing for the reputation of this House or its members.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. RUSSELL:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is the last one who should poke fun at members of this Legislature.

MR. TOBIN:

It is despicable.

MR. RUSSELL:

Mr. Speaker, in the estimates and shortly after this session opened, the hon. the member for Fortune - Hermitage posed some questions pertaining to Sprung, and he inferred that I and my predecessor in the department had deliberately gotten around the Environmental Assessment Act, and now he says that I did.

In the Estimates Committee, Mr. Speaker, I pointed out to the hon. member that there is a definition of undertaking pertaining to that which, in part, says, 'If, in the opinion of the minister, of an significant environmental impact, would be an environmental study.' We, Mr. Speaker, did not intentionally do that. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, a few days later the hon. member posed a question to the Minister of Justice, and subsequently wrote her a letter asking her to

investigate. He did not have the courtesy or the decency, Mr. Speaker, to ask me or to copy me on that letter, but went to the Minister of Justice with a letter, of which I have a copy, and asked her if we had done anything wrong and violated an act.

Mr. Speaker, members of this Legislature, on both sides, deserve better courtesy than that. But from the hon. member for Fortune - Hermitage, we can all understand it. Mr. Speaker, the hon. the member for Hermitage -

MR. SIMMONS:

A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

A point of order, the hon. the member for Fortune - Hermitage.

MR. SIMMONS:

Mr. Speaker, that is the first part of the point of order, that the district I represent is Fortune - Hermitage, not Hermitage.

MR. RUSSELL:

I corrected that.

MR. SIMMONS:

But, more to the point, Mr. Speaker, no breach of courtesy was intended. The minister, I believe, was in the Chamber when the Minister of Justice invited me to write her, and I did so at her suggestion. So, let the record be straight on that. If any courtesy was breached I apologize to the minister, because that was never my intention.

MR. SPEAKER:

There is no point of order.

The hon. the Minister of Environment and Lands.

MR. RUSSELL:

The hon. member for Fortune - Hermitage went on for some time talking about education and the quality of education in rural Newfoundland. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Education we have at the present time is, if not the best, one of the best we have ever had in this Province.

It was this government, Mr. Speaker, which implemented the idea of equalization payments to school boards. Now, we can argue and we can debate that perhaps it was not enough and it is not enough, and I, perhaps, would be the first to agree that more is needed. However, Mr. Speaker, it appears to me that members opposite are trying to get on the bandwagon. I will show you, Mr. Speaker, how interested members opposite are in education in my district, and I will table this. This is a letter which I received from the superintendent of the Notre Dame Integrated School Board, dated 18 November 1987. 'The board wishes to invite you to its regular meeting on 18 January 1988 to discuss its concerns with respect to school board funding. Mr. Walter Carter, the other MHA who represents part of this district, has also been invited to attend the meeting. An early reply would be appreciated.' I wrote the superintendent on 26 November indicating I would be pleased to attend, and I wrote him on the 20th, thanking him for the opportunity to attend the meeting. The hon. member for Twillingate, for some reason or other, did not see fit to attend, yet he comes into this Legislature, Mr. Speaker, as do all members opposite, expressing all their concerns about education in this Province.

MR. SIMMONS:

That was unfair, Jim. That was unfair.

MR. W. CARTER:

A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker, we heard the minister a moment ago pontificating about the member for Fortune - Hermitage and saying how ashamed he was. Now, let me explain to the hon. member and to the House what happened. I did receive an invitation and I did indicate that I would be attending.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Mr. Speaker, this is no point of order.

MR. W. CARTER:

No, one second. Mr. Speaker, there has been a serious charge made here and I want a chance to reply to it. I left my home in St. John's, with my wife, at nine o'clock that morning, on a Thursday morning, to drive to Lewisporte to attend that meeting. I got as far as Gander, my wife got ill, and I had to take my wife to my home in Twillingate. My intention was to go through Lewisporte that evening to attend the meeting and proceed to my residence in Twillingate. When I got to Gander, my wife became ill and I had to take her immediately to my home in Twillingate. She was too ill to be left alone that night.

MR. DINN:

This has nothing to do with it.

MR. W. CARTER:

Yes, it does. The next morning,

Mr. Speaker, I phoned the superintendent and explained why I was not present. Now, I would expect the member to do the decent thing and apologize for the insinuation.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. W. CARTER:
That is a matter of record.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

There is no point of order. The point is well taken. There is some clarification there, but there is no point of order.

The hon. the Minister of Environment and Lands.

MR. RUSSELL:
I was not aware of why the hon. member did not attend the meeting. I said that for whatever reason, the hon. member did not attend, and I certainly accept his explanation.

MR. SIMMONS:
Do you apologize?

AN HON. MEMBER:
He showed a lack of interest, he said.

MR. RUSSELL:
Well, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member, as far as I understand it, has not yet sat down with the school board to discuss the financial situation, either.

Mr. Speaker, it appears that hon. members opposite are very good at jumping on bandwagons.

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

MR. SPEAKER:
A point of order, the hon. the member for Fortune - Hermitage.

MR. SIMMONS:
The minister is right about bandwagons, and I am about to jump on another bandwagon now. Because any member in the House could do what he did. For example, the gentleman for Burin - Placentia West, the gentleman for Grand Bank and I, were invited to a similar board meeting. The gentleman for Grand Bank and I turned up, the member for Burin - Placentia West did not turn up. I am sure he had a good reason. I am saying it in his presence. But speaking of courtesy, about which I was lectured a moment ago, what the minister just did to the member for Twillingate you would not do to a dog without checking with him first.

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

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

MR. SIMMS:
The hon. member for Fortune - Hermitage should certainly be the last one to lecture this House on courtesy.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMS:
Of all people, he is the last one. Mr. Speaker, what happened a few moments ago, the Minister of Environment and Lands in debating this particular concurrence motion, made reference to the fact that the member for Twillingate did not attend a particular meeting, for whatever reason. The

member for Twillingate got up and explained the reason why he was not there. The minister subsequently accepted that explanation, like an hon. gentleman would, and there is no more than that to it. The hon. member for Fortune - Hermitage is now trying to make some political gain out of this, or something? because, Mr. Speaker, there is no point of order in what he raises. It is obviously an attempt, I suppose, to take away time from the Minister of Environment and Lands, who only has fifteen minutes to begin with. So, I mean, the minister has accepted the explanation, and apologizes if there is any misunderstanding.

MR. SPEAKER (Parsons):

There is no point of order, and the Chair will not condone any more speeches to this point of order. I have seen for myself where the hon. minister said something, perhaps, that the hon. member for Twillingate did not accept, and from my observance, I can see that his explanation has been accepted by the member for Twillingate.

The hon. the Minister of Environment and Lands.

MR. RUSSELL:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. the member for Fortune - Hermitage said in his comments that when he went into parts of Newfoundland and used the words 'Sprung' and 'limousine', he got unfettered laughter. Mr. Speaker, when I go out into parts of rural Newfoundland and use the term 'subsidized salary', I get unfettered disgust.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. PATTERSON:

And they knifed their own and they knifed the other man (inaudible).

MR. FUREY:

Which salary are you referring to, the Premier's?

MR. PATTERSON:

No, your leader's.

MR. RUSSELL:

I am referring to the subsidized salary of the Leader of the Official Opposition.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. RUSSELL:

I will have other comments on that at a later date.

Mr. Speaker, in the Estimates Committee there were some questions raised pertaining to Ultramar, and points that the hon. House Leader mentioned a few minutes ago. I cannot comment further on the Ultramar thing, of course, because it is now before the courts. One of the points raised, or questions asked in the Committee was about PCBs, I believe, at Cartwright. I am hoping to be in a position tomorrow or the next day to announce the awarding of a contract to clean up the PCBs at Cartwright. I can tell hon. members that I believe there were ten companies which bid on the contract, and I will be announcing the award of that tender in the next couple of days.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take the couple of minutes I have left to talk about the Crown Lands Division of the department, which is working very, very well. The response to the amnesty programme, if you will, giving persons the

opportunity to apply for a parcel of Crown land, is going well. Well over 2,000 applications have been received up to now, and some are coming in every day.

Mr. Speaker, all those persons out there in the Province who are now occupying Crown land illegally, I certainly invite them to come forward and submit an application and thus get rightful title to the property which they now have.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is only fair that they do that, in view of all the applicants and other persons in this Province who have come forward under normal conditions, if you will, and paid the fees and the survey costs and things like that. It is only fair to these people that those who have occupied Crown land for ten, fifteen, twenty or twenty-five years, and who now have an opportunity to get that piece of property for \$250 plus the normal fees, do that, and I would encourage them to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I will have more to say on the general budget, as it pertains to my district, later.

MR. EFFORD:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. EFFORD:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. EFFORD:
Mr. Speaker, as Vice-Chairman of the Committee I want to say a few words not only about the Committee attendance and the way in which it was operated by the Chairman of the Committee, but also about a couple of the departments for

which I am the critic, namely, the Department of Health and the Department of Social Services. I will leave the other departments to the shadows, my hon. colleagues, the member for the Strait of Belle Isle, and the hon. the member for Eagle River.

There are a couple of things I want to be clear on. I am very confused about what purpose the Estimates Committees really serve. What purpose do they really serve? When you look at the Estimates Committees, and I will give you a small example, we are supposed to be approving the spending of millions and millions, in fact, a couple of billion dollars for the coming year, and each time we approve a particular department, the guidelines of that department are supposed to be followed, and what the Estimates Committee approved.

I want to give you an example, Mr. Speaker, on a small scale. For example, the expenses incurred by a minister in entertainment and the general expenses of his office, the spending of \$3900 in any given department was approved by the Estimates Committee. Yet, when we look at the revised spending for the following year, we will see that ministers spent as high as \$9,000 and \$10,000, after \$3,900 had been approved. Now, what purpose does the Estimate Committees serve if we sit down here in this hon. House of Assembly and we debate back and forth and finally come to an agreement that we will pass the estimates on the understanding that he is going to spend a maximum of \$3,900 and, yet, the minister can spend what he feels like with no obligation to nobody? Now, that is only one small instance.

We can go further than that and we will see that in minister's travel - it happened with the Minister of Fisheries, the Minister of Development, with the Premier, and many other ministerial departments - we approved \$30,000, transportation for the minister and his assistants for the year, yet, when we look at the estimates, we see that they spent as high as \$60,000 to \$80,000 - \$30,000 to \$40,000 was approved, depending on the minister's office. So what is the point of us sitting down here and approving those estimates and approving the budget if nothing is followed? That is only in the thousands of dollars. You can even go into the millions of dollars, where we approved an amount of money to be spent, which was not supposed to be exceeded, and, yet, we find in the following year that all these amounts were exceeded. So what purpose does the Estimates Committees serve?

My colleague from Fortune - Hermitage pointed out about the Chairman of the Social Services Committee, and he is quite right in some of the things he said about the way in which the Committees are run. The Opposition members of the Committee spent their full time there and they did everything they possibly could to get questions answered. But at no time could we direct a question to any member of the minister's office without interference from the Chair or interference from the minister himself. We know we cannot ask the Deputy Minister or Assistant Deputy Minister a question on a policy, but we can ask him a question on fact.

MR. SIMMS:
No.

MR. EFFORD:

The President of the Council shakes his head and says, no. But we did. It has to go through the minister, I understand that. But at no time during the Committees that I sat in on, and I say in on not only the Social Services Committee but on the Resource Committee and the other Committee also - I attended almost all the Committees - did any of the ministers allow questions we asked to be answered by their assistants. The only time the assistants answered a question was when we asked it directly to the minister and he did not have the answer; then he turned to his officials. But when we asked indirectly, as I did in Justice, for the Deputy Minister of Justice to answer the question, the Minister of Justice would not allow it. I asked him directly and she would not allow it. So, what is the point?

MR. SIMMS:
Why would she?

MR. EFFORD:

We have absolutely no control. We do not get anywhere. It is a farce. It is not happening. It serves no purpose. If you can approve budgets and set down an amount of money that is supposed to be spent and any minister, in his department, can exceed that by hundreds of thousands of dollars, at will, what is the point of approving a budget? There is absolutely no point.

MR. SIMMS:
She had the answer.

MR. EFFORD:

The Minister of Justice did not have the answer, nor did any of the ministers have answers. That is the problem with ministers of

this administration, this government, they have no answers.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to reaffirm what the member for Fortune - Hermitage clearly pointed out about the Chairman. That is exactly what took place. I want to stick to the department that I am shadowing. I want to stick to that because there is a major problem in the Department of Health, and especially in the Department of Social Services because we have absolutely no guidance from the minister.

The minister, himself, is not showing any representation in the department. He is not putting forth any new ideas, he is not putting any forth any policies, and on numerous occasions the questions came forth from the critics here on this side and it very, very seldom did the Minister of Social Services have the capability of answering either question without turning around and having a three or four-minute debate with his officials so they could advise him on how to answer the questions.

Simple questions required simple answers, but the Minister of Social Services - and I excused it because the Minister is only new in his department. He has only been in there two or three months, so I excused some of the basic questions.

But there are a couple of things we have to look at. The Minister of Social Services, as he stated clearly to the press and to this hon. House on numerous occasions, is a formal social worker, he knows, he is experienced, he has knowledge of the past coming into the Department of Social Services and he is going to be a great plus.

I have to sit here and wonder what he meant because we have not seen any positive signs coming out since the minister got appointed to the Department of Social Service. I have not seen any changes for the benefit of the people. We have seen changes, yes, we have seen cutbacks. The minister will still stand in the public and he will still stand in this House of Assembly and say there are no cutbacks.

He is quite right when he says we cannot prove it because there is nothing on paper, as in most cases in the Department of Social Services, things are ad hoc from here to here, just verbally communicated from one department to the other, so there is nothing on paper as to say where the cutbacks are. But the calls go out to the district offices and to the regional offices and the cutbacks are implemented, number one, in transportation, very clearly. I can take the minister to any department in this Province, in regional or district offices, and give him examples of where the cutbacks have been. Any member of the government knows full well what I am talking about.

A family a year ago was allowed \$28 for transportation from Bay Roberts to St. John's if they had to come in and they had their own transportation and had to come in on another taxi, on a company taxi, not an individual. This year, six months passed, it was reduced to \$14. Now, if that is not a cutback, I would like for the Minister of Social Services to explain what it is. Transportation from Carbonear to Bay Roberts was \$10. It was reduced this year to \$5.

I can understand that the Department of Social Services have to be sure that the system is not abused. In many cases we agree the system is being abused, but you have to have your social workers taking care of that.

That is where qualified people and the properly trained people comes in to take care of those problems, but, when a direct order comes from within the Department of Social Services to the district and regional offices, telling them to cut back on transportation, that is a clear - there is nothing else - you can answer it no way except that there are cutbacks. Yet, the minister will deny the cutbacks.

There is an answer for that, a very simple answer. It is one of two things: Either the minister does not want to publicly state what he is doing, or he does not know what the officials in the department are doing, he is not aware of the problem. It is only one of two things. Either way the minister is quite guilty of not being able to effectively run the Department of Social Services.

The other question we asked the minister should also put also to the Minister of Public Works and his staff because I asked this question to the minister and his staff. Were they satisfied and happy with the fact that a committee had put tenders in the Newfoundland papers, and in mainland papers like **The Globe and Mail** in Ontario, requesting a consulting firm to come in and to tell the minister how to run his department? That tells us one thing very clearly, that the Premier and the whole administration on the government side is not happy about the way in

which the Department of Social Services is being run. They know there are many, many problems there.

This government is paying out to the Department of Social Services approximately \$60 million in salaries, all over the administration in St. John's, and all over the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

That is one tremendous amount of money. Now we are seeing the government advertise for a consulting firm which is going to cost, I will estimate anywhere between \$250,000 to \$500,000, for people to come in from another province or another country, probably. Who knows what firm is going to come in and tell the Minister of Social Services and his staff how to effectively run his department. To me it is absolutely disgraceful.

If the minister had any pride in himself, any pride whatsoever, he would just resign, he would have absolutely nothing to do with it. If his own Premier and his own Cabinet have not got confidence, he has no reason to stay there at all and how can the people of the Province have confidence in him?

I do not have much time. Have I used up ten minutes already? I have to change from Social Services. My time is limited. I want to go to the Department of Health. I am sure the Minister of Health, after the copy of the letter I presented to him today that he should have read before today, but I do not think he did - I do not think he was aware of the letter until I presented it to the House today. That is a shame, to know that the Minister of Health is not concerned enough to read

his mail.

I have been called an alarmist. I have been called about every name in this House of Assembly that you could possibly call somebody who is an Opposition member trying to put forth the concerns of the public and the concerns of the people of this Province. I do it because it is my job to do it. It is my duty to do it as an Opposition critic for the Department of Health. I am not fabricating stories. That is the one thing I have been accused of, fabricating, but I am not fabricating stories.

That letter, that I presented to this hon. House today, very clearly pointed out where a family from St. Lawrence had taken their mother into the Health Sciences Hospital on two occasions and the doctor suggested that she should be admitted to the hospital because of the seriousness of her, but, because of the shortage of beds, she had to return home. Now, the Minister of Health cannot change that to read any other way only clearly what the letter states.

On the second trip, they said, 'Well, we will have a bed ready for you on the fourteenth,' and the letter very clearly states that. But, unfortunately, on the thirteenth the woman died, and the letter clearly states that. The only reason that woman's daughter wrote the hon. Minister of Health and sent a copy to me is because she does not want to see this happen again.

That is what we have been doing here as Opposition members, pointing out the seriousness of the bed closures at not only the Health Sciences, but all the

hospitals in this Province. We are talking about dollars and cents and the government spending its money in the right way, the right manner, to suit the medical needs of this Province. If we are having bed closures at the Health Sciences and other hospitals at this time of the year, what is going to happen when vacation time comes in June, July and August. How many beds are going to be closed then? That is where the seriousness of the situation comes in.

We are talking about April and May when beds are being closed. It is not fabrication. I visited the Health Sciences again, as I said in Question Period today, last evening and on the Fifth Floor, 5A South, 5B South, twenty more beds closed this week.

MR. TULK:
Twenty more?

MR. EFFORD:
Twenty more beds closed this week. That is not fabrication. That is a fact.

MR. TULK:
That is not true, is it?

MR. EFFORD:
It is. I visited there last evening.

We are not talking about something to try to create a political scene here. I can go out any day in the week and create some political things that matter to the people of the Province. We are not dreaming something that happened. These are facts. The Minister of Health keeps talking about, well they gave out millions of dollars. I know that is a fact. Six hundred and twenty million, plus, will be given this year to

the medical system in this Province. We are not arguing the fact that it is not giving out money. Obviously the hospitals have operating budgets.

The problem is that the minister is not ensuring that the monies that are being given out are being administered in the proper way, where the priorities of the medical needs of this Province are looked after. It is more done on a political basis. That is one of the major, major problems.

We are not blaming it on the administrator of any hospital. We are not blaming it on the doctors. We are not blaming it on the nurses. We are not blaming it on any of the staff of the hospitals. It is a fact of life. Deaths are being caused because of the closure of beds. Nurses are overworked. When they close beds, they law off nurses.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member's time has elapsed.

MR. EFFORD:

In conclusion, I would implore the Minister of Social Services and the Minister of Health to recognize the responsibility of their departments and to run them effectively.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister responsible for Northern Development.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

First, I want to say that if any of my remarks earlier were unparliamentary, I wish to withdraw them.

However, Mr. Speaker, I have to say that there are fifty-two of us in this House of Assembly. Some of us are not gifted, I guess, with being eloquent speakers. Some of us are not gifted with all of the talents that some others are gifted with. But I believe each and everyone of us, at least fifty-one of us anyhow, have come into this House to try to do our best.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, some of us are less fortunate than others. However, I believe there is one hon. gentleman in this House who has a deformity, and it is a deformity of the brain. I refer to the hon. gentleman from Fortune - Hermitage (Mr. Simmons) because I believe, Mr. Speaker, from the action he portrayed earlier, the action coming from his mouth, it shows that he does have a deformity, and it is of the brain.

MR. TOBIN:

Ignore him Garf.

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, it is ridiculous that an hon. gentleman would condemn another gentleman in the House in the manner that he performed earlier. I think it is shameful. The man should hang his head in shame.

But, Mr. Speaker, I know where the hon. gentleman is coming from. All he has to do is to tell us

about a car that he knowingly sold to somebody in Springdale knowing that the motor was gone. All that hon. gentleman can let the people of Newfoundland and Labrador know about is the honesty that is in that individual gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I say to the hon. gentleman, let him ever try to put the kind of action that he expressed fifteen or twenty minutes ago, let him try it outside the doors of this House, and it will not be the member from LaPoile (Mr. Mitchell) that will be attacking him. I will tell him that much. I will guarantee him that I am a person, I hope so, of a little integrity, but I am a person to that will stand up for my rights.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, I got into this debate because there are items that have been discussed by all members in this House that are of interest to the people of the Province. But, Mr. Speaker, at the same time I think the hon. gentleman from Fortune - Hermitage

MR. SIMMONS:

A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A point of order, the hon. the member for Fortune - Hermitage.

MR. SIMMONS:

Mr. Speaker, I am listening with great interest to what the member for Torngat (Mr. Warren) is saying, a courtesy that he did not extend to me, but that is beside the point. He said a number of things which are incorrect. I was waiting for Mr. Speaker to bring

him to order for questioning the integrity and the honesty of a member and so on and making threats and that kind of stuff but, if that is the level of debate that the Chair is going to allow, I can do nothing to control it.

But, Mr. Speaker, I rise to correct him on a very specific matter, on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Parsons):

I am going to speak to that in a moment. The hon. member has challenged the Chair. What I heard the hon. minister say was that outside the House what would happen. If he had said inside the House, if he had threatened the gentleman, I would have certainly intervened. But, I distinctly heard the hon. gentleman say, 'if this happened outside the House', and the Chair again is responsible, and I feel that I have acted in a justifiable manner. So I want to make that clear with the hon. the member for Fortune - Hermitage.

The hon. the member for Fortune - Hermitage.

MR. SIMMONS:

My reference was to the gentleman's statement with respect to the honesty of a member in this House. I thought that the Chair ought to have intervened at that point because the rules specifically say that one member cannot impugn the integrity and honesty of another member. That is not the reason that I rise. If that is going to be par for the course, we will not engage in it, but if they intend to do so, well and good.

The reason that I rose is just to

correct the minister on a matter of fact. I sold a lot of cars in my day because I have bought an equal number of cars in my day, but I want to tell the minister, without fear of contradiction, that I did not sell any car with or without a motor to anybody who ever resided in Springdale.

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

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the House Leader.

MR. SIMMS:
I wonder can the hon. the member for Fortune - Hermitage (Mr. Simmons) also tell us that earlier in the debate he did not deliberately poke fun at the hon. member. Can he say that?

MR. SIMMONS:
How? How?

MR. SIMMS:
That is what he did earlier in the debate, and he gets up here now in this point of order and says, 'Oh, we should not lower ourselves to this kind of debate.'

This is a clear example, Mr. Speaker, of an hon. member who can give it but he sure cannot take it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMONS:
Mr. Speaker, I impugn -

MR. SIMMS:
Everybody in the House knows it.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the member for Fortune - Hermitage, I give you thirty seconds to reply because I have heard enough.

MR. FUREY:
Time limits on points of order.

MR. SIMMONS:
Mr. Speaker, I have impugned nobody's integrity or honesty. We all poke a bit of fun at each other from time to time.

MR. TOBIN:
When the hon. member was speaking, you poked some fun all right. You would not do it to me because you would not forget it.

MR. SIMMONS:
What is the point of thirty seconds without protection, Mr. Speaker?

MR. TOBIN:
(Inaudible) the rocks (inaudible).

MR. SPEAKER:
Order!

The hon. the Minister responsible for Northern Development.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:
Mr. Speaker, also in the hon. gentleman's for Fortune - Hermitage (Mr. Simmons) early remarks, he was talking about my appointment to Cabinet and apparently he left the impression, I think he may have said it in some words, that since I got in Cabinet I have not produced very much or have not done very much.

However, Mr. Speaker, I thought it would be appropriate if I could read a letter and I will table the letter, I think it would be appropriate if you read a letter, you have to table it, and I will read it, Mr. Speaker, with your indulgence. The letter is from the Local Service District of

Black Tickle, Domino, it is addressed to me:

"Dear, Mr Warren:

"On behalf of the communities of Black Tickle, Domino, we wish to convey our thanks and appreciation for your telephone call this morning to advise us of a road construction announcement by the hon. Norman Doyle which have been approved by Black Tickle, Domino. It gives us great satisfaction to know the hon. the Minister of Transportation saw at our request and accepted our proposal. It is also very satisfying to be the recipients of such support and interest as we have received from you during the past year in our community efforts."

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:

The next paragraph, Mr. Speaker:

"We do however resent the fact that Mr. Eugene Hiscock, MHA, saw fit to take advantage of the hard work of others for his own political gains."

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:

"His telephone calls to some members of the Local Service District Committee concerning the announcement were made earlier this morning. We challenge Mr. Hiscock to produce one piece of evidence to verify his involvement in our efforts to obtain approval of road construction in our community."

Mr. Speaker, I take pleasure assisting the people of Black Tickle, Domino since I became

minister, and other people in the district of Naskaupi, other people in the district of Torngat Mountains, other people in the district of Menihek. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to do so. However, Mr. Speaker, I have no intention of -

AN HON. MEMBER:

Table the letter.

MR. WARREN:

The letter is tabled, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I have no intention of taking a back seat to the hon. the member for Fortune - Hermitage (Mr. Simmons).

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:

The hon. the member for Fortune - Hermitage has brought nothing but disrespect to this hon. House since he became a member.

Mr. Speaker, I can see what happened today. One thing that has happened today, Mr. Speaker, and I can understand, knowing and being, not only a colleague of the hon. member for Fortune - Hermitage, but also having shared an office with him for a number of months.

I can see, Mr. Speaker, and I have heard it said by other colleagues over there that the hardest problem that the present Leader has is to keep most members quiet during the sitting of the House.

Mr. Speaker, it is very interesting to note that the first day the Leader of the Opposition was out of this House, she blows up, and the member for Fortune - Hermitage is back to his old form as one of the former leaders of

the Liberal Opposition. It is despicable that an individual would come in and lower himself so low that he would contend to cast aspersions on other members in this House who maybe cannot speak as eloquently as he.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, in closing, that have been in the Cabinet for more than ten days so far. The Premier has seen no reason yet for me to resign. I think I am gone over thirty or forty days and hopefully I will be there for some time yet. It is very difficult for the member for Fortune - Hermitage, the ten day wonder, to make fun at another member in this House.

So I would suggest to the hon. gentleman that he better do what he is doing with the member for LaPoile (Mr. Mitchell). I understand he does not travel on the same elevator with him. I suggest he not travel the same elevator with me.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. DECKER:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. DECKER:

Mr. Speaker, I guess I have learned from him who not to buy a used car from in this House anyway. I thank the hon. member for that little bit of advice.

Mr. Speaker, I attended the Social Services Committee when we had the hon. the Minister for Education (Mr. Hearn) and his entourage appear before that Committee.

I was somewhat pleased to see the minister finally take the opportunity of righting some accusations which were attributed to him. Hon. members will recall the vicious, unwarranted attack that the hon. minister levied against educators in this Province.

Hon. members will remember how he accused teachers who live outside the overpass, or who work outside the overpass, of being incompetent, unable to teach as well as teachers who live in urban areas, blaming them, I should say, for causing the drop-out rate. He levied practically every vicious accusation that one was capable of levying upon teachers outside the overpass.

Well, I had the privilege of sitting in the committee meeting when the minister finally admitted that he had been misquoted. Now, I was surprised to hear the minister say that because I, being a very good friend of the minister, except politically, and having all kinds of respect for him, gave him every opportunity to stand up in this House and say that he was misquoted. He did not do it until we got into the committee meeting, Mr. Speaker, and then he finally admitted that he was indeed quoted out of context.

So, that one thing, I believe, we can say good about the committee meetings, that the minister took advantage, and my friend the member for Gander (Mr. Baker) was also there, as was the member for Port de Grave (Mr. Efford) when the minister finally admitted that he was misquoted.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Did he apologize?

MR. DECKER:

He did not apologize, no. I am in the process of sending the word out to educators around the Province that the minister was misquoted but I am waiting now for him to apologize. I am hoping that when he gets up later in this debate he will apologize to the educators for any misunderstanding that he might have caused them. I will wait for the minister as I am sure he will have an opportunity later on.

In the committee when the Education Minister appeared, Mr. Speaker, we discussed a problem which, if it were going on in any other department in this land, I am sure it would be remedied at once. For example, we found a problem in the Department of Education which, if it existed in the Department of Health, for example, would be considered, I suppose, a disgrace.

For example, if a person who lives, say in the Strait of Belle Isle district, had a heart attack and if the word went to that person, 'Now, because you are living in the Strait of Belle Isle district, we are going to spend \$1000 on your disease, on your sickness, so we are trying to cure you with \$1000.' If a person say, in Gander were to take a heart attack and that person in Gander were told, 'You can only have \$800 spent and that person in Gander was told, 'You can only have \$800 spent on you with your heart condition, because you live in Gander. If a person who lives in St. John's had a heart attack and was told, 'Because you live in St. John's and you are unfortunate because of geography, we can only spend \$250 on you, if that was the situation with health care throughout this Province, I

believe there would be a revolt. I believe there would be an upheaval. There would be a revolution. I do not believe the people of this Province would stand for that kind of nonsense. Because surely all Newfoundlanders recognize that the deliverance of health care to Newfoundlanders is the responsibility of the government of this Province, and whether you live in Nain or whether you live in Cape Onion or whether you live in Conche or whether you live on Water Street, in St. John's, no matter where you live, it is the responsibility of the Department of Health to make sure that health care is made available to you on a system which is reasonably equitable. Geography does not matter, nor should it matter, when we talk about delivering health care in our Province.

Mr. Speaker, I will now take hon. members to the way education is being delivered in this Province. Mr. Speaker, the way the money is being spread around is a provincial disgrace. Let me give hon. members an example of two diametrically opposed cases in this Province where money is delivered. Let me take, for example, the Ramea School Board. The Ramea School Board receives in discretionary spending from the School Tax Authorities, forty-one dollars per student per year. Now that, Mr. Speaker, is the average income for children who, to use the minister's way of describing it, are unfortunate enough, because of geography, to live in a particular part of this Province.

Now, some of the urban school boards in the bigger centers, with a bigger tax base - we could take Gander, Grand Falls, St. John's or Corner Brook - receive as much as

\$287 per student per year - \$41.00 as opposed to \$287. Now, Mr. Speaker, this is a disgrace. This is a disgrace which only the Minister of Education and his department has the authority to rectify. It is only for the minister to go to his Cabinet and say, 'Lady and gentlemen, the School Tax Authority, the school tax collection system as we have it is not working, it should be abolished, and we have to face the fact that the buck stops with us and we have to find another way to fund education.

The hon. Minister of Environment and Lands, when he got up, spoke about the Notre Dame School Board. If the Notre Dame School Board - I assume it was the Integrated School Board that the hon. minister talked about - had the same tax base as one of the larger school boards in this Province, that particular school board would be receiving close to \$600,000 a year more than they are presently receiving.

Now, the hon. the Minister of Environment and Lands visited the school board. I assume he listened to what the school board had to say. But when you consider that that school board still comes in \$600,000 a year short, I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that it would have been a lot better had the hon. minister not even gone out to the visit the school board. I wonder who went out for political gain, because the problem is still there. The member talks about the superintendent, Mr. Hunt. Mr. Hunt happened, on two occasions, to visit the offices of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker -

MR. W. CARTER:
And my office.

MR. DECKER:

And the member for Twillingate's office.

- and he outlined the problem they are having.

I will say this much, though, Mr. Speaker, that the superintendent did not show any political stripe, and he told us in no uncertain terms, Look, I am not here to play political games. I am only concerned with education in this Province, and I am going to back the party, whether it is Tory, or Liberal or whatever, which can give me some indication that they will grapple with this problem which sees my school board \$600,000 less in receipts than some of the urban school boards.

Now, the concept of School Tax Authorities -

AN HON. MEMBER:

(inaudible) your district.

MR. DECKER:

The hon. member should be listening, Mr. Speaker. If he is not listening, let him pick up Hansard tomorrow and read what I am saying. I do not have the luxury of repeating it, I only have five minutes left.

The concept of School Tax Authorities is not working. Now, that is a fact. The government recognizes it, in credit to them, and they have tried to solve the problem by coming up with equalization payments. It would take \$10 million or \$12 million in equalization payments to bring the boards up to the board in the Province which has the most income. The government is coming up with equalization payments, but here is the point which the Minister of Education knows but is

not doing anything about.

In spite of the equalization payments, the gap is still widening. That is what happening in education. The gap is getting bigger. Ramea is worse off in 1986/1987 than Ramea was in 1985/1986. That, Mr. Speaker, is a fact that can be substantiated. Burgeo is worse off. The gap is bigger between Burgeo and the Avalon Consolidated in 1986 and 1987, than it was in 1984 and 1985. These are facts. So the hon. members can talk all they like about equalization payments. That is not the answer. Equalization grants are only helping make the gap worse; the gap is still widening.

MR. CALLAN:
What would you do?

MR. DECKER:
Now, my hon. former colleague, and I suppose my still friend from Bellevue, asked what we would do about it. That is a very pertinent question, Mr. Speaker, and in my limited time, or all night if members will give me leave, I will try to address it.

Number one, we will abolish the School Tax Authority. Now, let that word go out.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. DECKER:
That is our platform. We will do it. Absolutely!

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please! Order, please!

MR. DECKER:

Absolutely, totally, we will abolish the School Tax Authority. Let every Newfoundlander know it, and let every Newfoundlander hear it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please! Order, please!

MR. DECKER:
The hon. the Minister of Education obviously will not abolish the School Tax Authority, so I appeal to him: Would the hon. Minister consider one School Tax Authority? If they are so in love and so immeshed in the School Tax Authority, let us go for one, so that Burgeo and Ramea and Nain can at least be treated equal.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

MR. DECKER:
Would the minister accept one School Tax Authority? Would he go along with that concept? The minister knows and I know that we still have to bring all boards up to the level of the highest and there is still going to be extra money needed but, I can tell him where to get \$3 million or \$4 million to help with that.

AN HON. MEMBER:
I do, too.

MR. DECKER:
\$5 million or \$6 million in administration?

AN HON. MEMBER:
Yes, boy.

MR. DECKER:

Even better! If he will accept the concept of one School Tax Authority, why not take the other step and allow the government to do what it should be doing in the first place, allow the government to collect the money. He has got \$5 million or \$6 million in administration. Abolish the School Tax Authority, let the government live up to its responsibility; let the government collect and let the government disperse.

Mr. Speaker, if I had leave, I could go on all night and tell the hon. -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
By leave!

MR. DECKER:
Unlimited leave? Do I have unlimited leave?

MR. WINDSOR:
You may leave.

MS VERGE:
How will you get money (inaudible)?

MR. DECKER:
Mr. Speaker, I would certainly tell, but my time has now expired and I will end my debate.

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

MR. SIMMS:
Mr. Speaker, tomorrow we will be dealing with the private motion of the hon. the member for St. John's East Extern about Labrador forestry development of some sort or another.

On Thursday and Friday we will continue on with Concurrence Debates.

On Thursday, obviously, we will finish debate on the Social Services Estimates Committee, and then we will probably get into the Government Services, half way through or whatever.

Mr. Speaker, having said that, I move that the House at its rising do adjourn until tomorrow, Wednesday, at three of the clock and that this House do now adjourn.

On motion, the House at its rising adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, at 3:00 p.m.

Index

**Answers to Questions
tabled**

May 10, 1988

Harvard

ORDERS OF THE DAY 1/88

Question 50:

Mr. Baker (Gander) to ask the Honourable the Minister of Finance to lay upon the Table of the House the following information:

(a) What was the Government's total financial involvement in the Easteel company by way of loans or guarantees; the amount of the loans and/or guarantees; were they secured and, if so, to what extent and by whom?

(b) What action has the Government taken to recover their losses?

Answer:

As attached.

EASTEEL INDUSTRIES LIMITED

(a) To the best of my knowledge, the following information outlines Government's involvement in Easteel by way of loans and/or guarantees.

<u>Loans</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Security</u>
Dept. of Rural Development	\$ <u>13,725</u>	A specific charge over certain pieces of equipment & property.
 <u>Guarantees</u>		
- Working Capital	300,000	Security Debenture subject to National Bank's charge.
- To cover payments to unsecured creditors as a result of the 1985 restructuring	225,000	Security Debenture subject to National Bank's charge.
- Project financing:		
(i) Ongoing projects	1,500,000	Inventory & Receivables related to these construction projects
(ii) CN Container Contract	<u>1,000,000</u>	
Total Guarantees	<u>3,025,000</u>	

In addition to the above amount there is \$493,793 in Retail Sales Tax owing (\$221,000 represents arrears from the 1985 restructuring).

(b) Government has registered its claim/s where appropriate with the Trustee in Bankruptcy and the Receiver. With respect to the guarantees, once the Receiver disposes of the Easteel assets we will be in a position to determine Government's liability. Under Government's guarantee agreement with the Bank there is a provision for the Bank to realize on its security and apply the proceeds to reduce its indebtedness before calling on Government's guarantees for any shortfall. We anticipate that it will take several weeks to complete this process.

Hansard

*Public Works & Services
90 May, 1988*

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ASKED AT THE ESTIMATES' COMMITTEE:

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SERVICES:

Mr. Gilbert (Burgeo-Bay D'Espoir) To ask the Honourable the Minister of Public Works and Services to lay upon the Table of the House the following information:

QUESTION: (i) Details of the Executive vehicle purchases which were reported as exceptions to the House under the requirements of the Public Tender Act.

(ii) Why did the Minister find it not advisable to tender for the referred vehicles?

ANSWER: (i)(a) Department of Environment and Lands -

Purchased a 1988 Oldsmobile Cutless Cierra from Hickman Motors, costing \$17,239.73 including 12% R.S.T.

The vehicle was ordered on March 2, 1988.

(b) Department of Labour -

Purchased a 1987 Chevrolet Caprice from Hickman Motors costing \$17,946.78 including 12% R.S.T.

The vehicle was ordered on March 2, 1988.

(ii) Government Purchasing Agency officials felt the need to respond promptly to the requests of these two client Departments for Departmental Executive Vehicles. It was their interpretation that Section 3(2)(b) of the Act gave sufficient flexibility to dispense with tendering in these circumstances as the value of the acquisition was less than the \$30,000. threshold exception level referenced.

Their actions in this regard were not reported to me at the time. I have concluded, however, that

their motives were pure in being responsive to client requests, although they were perhaps overzealous in the pursuit of this objective at the expense of abiding by the strict letter of the law.

I can assure the House that it is Government policy to acquire Departmental Executive Vehicles through public tendering. My officials at the Government Purchasing Agency have been instructed to proceed with all such acquisitions in the future on this basis.

Hansard

10 May, 1988

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ASKED AT THE ESTIMATES' COMMITTEE:

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SERVICES:

Mr. Gilbert (Burgeo-Bay D'Espoir) To ask the Honourable the Minister of Public Works and Services to lay upon the Table of the House the following information:

QUESTION: (i) Details of leased rental space, as noted in subdivision 2.3.02.06

(ii) Given the new space created as a result of the Confederation Building extension, why is there no reduction in the amount voted for 1988-'89 versus 1987-'88.

ANSWERS: (i) These details have been provided to the House in response to a question on the Order Paper requesting a list and location of all rental office space leased in St. John's and outside St. John's, as well as the length of time for each rental agreement and the related financial terms.

(ii) The utilization of new space created within the Confederation Building Complex has been ongoing over the past several years.

To address the question raised, requires looking at our listing of leased properties in St. John's as at December 31, 1985, and comparing to the leased properties currently outstanding. The following table summarizes this position.

Leased space -

at 31/12/85 - 428,625 sq. ft. - \$4,693,362.

Leased space

at 31/3/88 - 276,835 sq. ft. - \$2,783,212.

The rationale for the lack of reduction in our leasing budget reflects additional leasing arrangements outside St. John's, as it is clear from the above that there has been a substantial reduction in leased space at St. John's as a result of the Confederation Building extension.

Hessard

10 May 1958

QUESTION FOR THE ORDER PAPER:

Mr. David Gilbert, M.H.A. (Burgeo-Bay d'Espoir) to ask the Honourable the Minister of Public Works and Services to lay upon the Table of the House the following information:

- QUESTION:
1. List and location of all rental office space leased in St. John's, outside the Confederation Building Complex, by the Province.
 2. Give the length of time for the lease of each rental agreement.
 3. Give the financial terms of each rental agreement.
 4. How much money has been spent on renovations for office space outside the Confederation Complex? What offices were renovated?

- ANSWERS:
- 1, 2 & 3 Rental index (attached)
 - 4 Summary of expenditures, as requested per the attached schedule.

R E N T A L I N D E X
AS OF APRIL 27, 1988
(Standard Measurements)

BUILDING	BLDG. NO.	LANDLORD	DEPARTMENT	RENTAL AREA	RENTAL RATE	ANNUAL RENT	TERM OF LEASE	EXPIRY DATE	RENEWAL OPTION	OPTION NOTICE
Atlantic Place 4th Floor	1645	St. John's Development Corporation	Dept. of Justice (Provincial Court)	19,533	7.50	146,497.50	5 years	88 12 22	2 yrs + 1 year	2 months
Atlantic Place Parking Garage	1645	St. John's Development Corporation	Dept. of Justice (Prov. Court) Park- ing for Police Van	-	-	480.00	Monthly	Tenancy		
Atlantic Place 5th Floor	1525	St. John's Development Corporation	Fisheries Loan Bd.	9,640.75	10.68	102,963.21	2 years 7 months	89 05 31	2/1 yrs.	6 months
Atlantic Place 5th Floor	1688	St. John's Development Corporation	Dept. of Education (Curriculum Div.)	5,572.56	10.68	59,514.94	1 year	89 01 31	1/1 yr.	3 months
Atlantic Place 6th Floor	1528	St. John's Development Corporation	Dept. of Energy (Petroleum Dir.)	13,984.08	10.68	149,349.97	5 years 7Months	92 05 31	None	
Atlantic Place 5th Floor	1676	St. John's Development Corporation	Public Works & Ser. (G.P.A.)	10,274.41	10.68	109,730.69	2 years 7 months	89 05 31	2/1 yrs.	6 months

R E N T A L I N D E X
AS OF APRIL 27, 1988
(Standard Measurements)

BUILDING	BLDG. NO.	LANDLORD	DEPARTMENT	RENTAL AREA	RENTAL RATE	ANNUAL RENT	TERM OF LEASE	EXPIRY DATE	RENEWAL OPTION	OPTION NOTICE
Ashley Building Peet Street	1681	Ashley Holdings Limited	Consumer Affairs (Landlord Tenancies Board)(Hearings Room)	1,672	10.00	16,720.00	3 years	89 01 08	2 years	2 months
Ashley Building Peet Street	1708	Ashley Holdings Limited	Social Services (Young Offenders Review Board)	500	16.00	8,000.00	13 months 23 days	89 01 08	Expires	
Ashley Building Peet Street	1532	Ashley Holdings Limited	Finance (Liquor Lic- ensing Board)	4,560	10.00	45,600.00	3 years	89 01 08	2 years	2 months
			Additional Space	864	10.00	8,640.00	13 months 12 days	89 01 08	Expires	
Ayres Building Pippy Place	1690	Oakford Rental & Realty Co. Limited	Finance (Pensions Division)	6,295	11.75	73,966.25	4 months	88 06 30	Expires	
Ayres Building Pippy Place	1703	Oakford Rental & Realty Co. Limited	Social Services (Regional Office)	3,450	9.95	34,327.50	3 years	90 07 22	2 years	2 months

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AS OF APRIL 27, 1988
(Standard Measurements)

BUILDING	BLDG. NO.	LANDLORD	DEPARTMENT	RENTAL AREA	RENTAL RATE	ANNUAL RENT	TERM OF LEASE	EXPIRY DATE	RENEWAL OPTION	OPTION NOTICE
Beothuck Building Crosbie Place	1503	J.E.M. Holdings Limited	Dept. of Labour	3,682	14.00	51,548.00	3 years	90 06 29	2 years	
Beothuck Building Crosbie Place	1656	J.E.M. Holdings Limited	Career Development & Advanced Studies	3,682	14.00	51,548.00	3 years	90 06 29	2 years	
Daily News Building Duckworth Street	1523	Terra Nova Investments Limited	Justice (Unified Family Court)	7,570	12.68	96,000.00	Monthly	Tenancy		
Eastern Canada Bldg.	1506	Terra Nova Enterprises	Dept. of Mines (Additional Space)	18,305 926	13.00 13.00	237,965.00 12,038.00	3 years 2 years	89 12 31 89 12 31	2 years 2 years	3 months 3 months
Medical Arts Building Empire Avenue	1511	Terra Nova Enterprises	Dept. of Mines	6,874	13.00	89,362.00	3 years	89 12 31	2 years	3 months
Elizabeth Towers Elizabeth Avenue	1508	Nfld. & Labrador Housing Corporation	Consumer Affairs & Communications	15,599.5	14.00	218,393.00	Monthly	Tenancy		
Elizabeth Towers Elizabeth Avenue	1507	Nfld. & Labrador Housing Corporation	Environment (Storage)	737	7.50	5,527.50	Monthly	Tenancy		
Eastern Canada Bldg.	1706	Terra Nova Enterprises Ltd.	Labour (Workers' Compens. Appeals Tribunal)	2,523	14.85	37,466.55	3 years	90 08 20	2 years	3 months

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AS OF APRIL 27, 1988
(Standard Measurements)

BUILDING	BLDG. NO.	LANDLORD	DEPARTMENT	RENTAL AREA	RENTAL RATE	ANNUAL RENT	TERM OF LEASE	EXPIRY DATE	RENEWAL OPTION	OPTION NOTICE
Elizabeth Towers Elizabeth Avenue	1507	Nfld. & Labrador Housing Corporation	Environment	1,848	14.00	25,872.00	Monthly	Tenancy		
Elizabeth Towers Elizabeth Avenue		Nfld. & Labrador Housing Corporation	Dept. of Public Works & Services (Accommodations Division)							
Prudential Building Elizabeth Avenue	1683	Lundrigans-Comstock Ltd.	Consumer Affairs (Landlord Tenancies Chairman's Office) Parking (1 Space)	478.87	12.50	5,985.88 240.00	5 years	91 06 30	5 years	6 months
Prudential Building Elizabeth Avenue Lease #2	1547	Lundrigans-Comstock Ltd.	Justice (E.M.O.)	1,641.31	12.50	20,516.38	3 years	89 05 23		Expires
Prudential Building Elizabeth Avenue	1666	Lundrigans-Comstock Ltd.	Justice (Lotteries Licensing Branch)	140.50	12.50	1,756.25	2 years	88 12 31		Expires
Prudential Building Elizabeth Avenue	1666	Lundrigans-Comstock Ltd.	Justice (Lotteries Licensing Branch)	1,893	12.50	23,662.50	2 years	88 12 14		Expires

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AS OF APRIL 27, 1988
(Standard Measurements)

BUILDING	BLDG. NO.	LANDLORD	DEPARTMENT	RENTAL AREA	RENTAL RATE	ANNUAL RENT	TERM OF LEASE	EXPIRY DATE	RENEWAL OPTION	OPTION NOTICE
Prudential Building Elizabeth Avenue	1666	Lundrigans-Comstock Ltd.	Justice (Lotteries Licensing Branch) (EXTRA)	336.08	12.50	4,201.00	2 years	88 12 14		Expires
					Plus Vault	480.00				
Prudential Building Elizabeth Avenue Lease #4	1549	Lundrigans-Comstock Ltd.	Ombudsman's Office	1,001.38	12.50	12,517.25	2 years	88 12 31		Expires
			Parking (1 Space)			240.00				
			Extra Space	413.71	12.50	5,171.37	1 1/2 yr.	88 12 31	Expires	
Prudential Building Elizabeth Avenue Lease #5	1650	Lundrigans-Comstock Ltd.	Public Works & Ser. (Realty Services)	761.63	12.50	10,853.25	1 year	88 12 31	month to month to June 30, 1989	6 months
			Plus Common Area	106.63						
Murray Premises	1551	Atlantic Leasing	Culture, Recreation & Youth (Museum)	13,352	10.00	133,520.00	5 years	89 11 30	5 years	6 months
			Plus Common Area			48,839.04				

R E N T A L I N D E X
 AS OF APRIL 27, 1988
 (Standard Measurements)

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BUILDING	BLDG. NO.	LANDLORD	DEPARTMENT	RENTAL AREA	RENTAL RATE	ANNUAL RENT	TERM OF LEASE	EXPIRY DATE	RENEWAL OPTION	OPTION NOTICE
Thompson Student Centre, Memorial University	1552	Memorial University of Newfoundland	Career Development & Advanced Studies	3,819	4.87	18,598.53	3 years	89 03 31	Expires	
Viking Building Crosbie Road	1514	Montreal Trust	Motor Registration	15,445	12.50	193,062.48				
120 Water Street St. John's	1516	Dome Holdings Limited	Justice (Adult Corrections)	5,227	5.73	29,958.50	Monthly	Tenancy		
Workers' Compensation Bd. Building Forest Road	1680	Workers' Compensation Commission	Public Works & Services (Public Service Commission)	13,863	12.50	173,287.50	3 years	89 09 18		
T. D. Place	1644	140 Water Street Ltd.	Education (School Broadcast Division)	2,983.64	21.00	62,622.34	5 years	89 02 26	2 years	6 months
The Cedars, Apt. 14 Tiffany Lane	1652	Mega Realty Limited Suite 603, T.D. Place	Premier's Apartment	-	-	11,700.00	1 year	88 12 31		
Canada Games Headquarters Building			Culture, Recreation & Youth (Prov. Recreation Facilities Commission)	220	4.36	960.00	Monthly	Tenancy		

R E N T A L I N D E X
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(Standard Measurements)

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BUILDING	BLDG. NO.	LANDLORD	DEPARTMENT	RENTAL AREA	RENTAL RATE	ANNUAL RENT	TERM OF LEASE	EXPIRY DATE	RENEWAL OPTION	OPTION NOTICE
Sir Humphrey Gilbert Building		Public Works Canada	E.M.O. Storage	3,178	NO RENTAL CHARGES					
Mt. Pearl Experimental Farm	1558	Federal Department of Agriculture	Rural, Agricultural & Northern Development (Veterinary Services)							
Combined Appraisers & Consultants Bldg. 25 Anderson Avenue	1709	Combined Appraisers and Consultants Co. Ltd.	Social Services (District Office)	8,250	15.90	131,175.00	3 years	91 01 31	2 years	2 months
Hanger #3 Torbay Complex	1655	M.O.T.	Transportation (Air Services)	42,720		1.00	Renewable	Yearly		
LeDrew's Express Building	1620	LeDrew's Express	Development (Tourist Services)(Storage Facilities)			6,000.00	Monthly	Tenancy		
Crosbie Building Crosbie Road	1660	Crosbie Realty Limited	Auditor General's Department	9,168	12.40	113,683.20	3 years	88 06 23	2 years	3 months

R E N T A L I N D E X
AS OF APRIL 27, 1988
(Standard Measurements)

BUILDING	BLDG. NO.	LANDLORD	DEPARTMENT	RENTAL AREA	RENTAL RATE	ANNUAL RENT	TERM OF LEASE	EXPIRY DATE	RENEWAL OPTION	OPTION NOTICE
Sparkes Building 283 Duckworth Street	1667	David B. Sparkes Solicitor	Culture, Rec. and Youth (Historic Resources Division)	4,000	7.50	30,000.00	3 years	88 07 30	2 years	3 months
Fagan Building Duckworth Street	1677	Don Fagan Limited	Justice (Supreme Court)	5,068	17.00	86,156.00	5 years	91 09 01	None	
Kampa Building 210 Water Street	1678	Kampa Limited	Justice (Sheriff's Office)	2,300	12.90	29,670.00	3 years	89 06 30	2 years	2 months
Balsom House 24 Nagle's Hill	1684	C.A. Pippy Park Commiss.	Public Works & Ser. (Inspection Div.)			7,500.00	Monthly	Tenancy		
Parking - Duckworth Street	1689	St. John's Municipal Council	Justice (Courthouse Parking)	20 park- ing spaces	60.00 ea per month	14,440.00	Monthly	Tenancy		
Topsail Road Profes- sional Group Bldg.	1710	Topsail Road Professional Group Ltd.	Insurance Division of Treasury Board	900	11.60	10,440.00	3 years	91 02 28	2 years	2 months
Terra Nova Enterprises Bldg. 347 Duckworth Street	1711	Terra Nova Enterprises Limited	Justice (Human Rights Commission)	1,476	9.80	14,464.80	3 years	91 02 28	2 years	3 months

Expenditures on Leased Premises
Outside Confederation Building
During Period April 1, 1987 - March 31, 1988

1. Enlarge waiting area Student Aid Offices, Thompson Student Centre -	\$ 3,777
2. Install wicket and counter, Unified Family Court, Duckworth Street -	\$ 848
3. Supply and install drapes, Lotteries Licensing Division, Prudential Building -	\$ 2,190
4. Supply and install drapes, Department of Consumer Affairs and Communications, Elizabeth Towers -	\$ 2,478
5. Alterations to Chairman's Office, Newfound- land Liquor Licensing Board, Ashley Building -	\$ 2,908
6. Supply and install drapes in Executive Offices and install vinyl wall covering in waiting area, Department of Energy, (Petroleum Dir- ectorate), Atlantic Place -	\$ 9,325
7. Install special circuits for computer terminals, Newfoundland Liquor Licensing Board, Ashley Bldg. -	\$ 2,118
8. Alterations for Department of Mines, Eastern Canada Building -	\$ 42,016
9. Enlarge holding cells, Provincial Courts, Atlantic Place -	\$138,347
10. Alterations to expand Department of Energy, Atlantic Place -	<u>\$ 81,653</u>
	<u>\$285,660</u>

Hansen

Department of Northern Development, 10 May '88



File No. _____

GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

ST. JOHN'S

Reply to Questions on the Order Paper by the Honourable Member of Naskaup1:

QUESTION: How many people currently work on the Minister's staff?

ANSWER: Two (2)

QUESTION: How many of these persons were appointed by Order in Council:

ANSWER: Two (2)

QUESTION: List each title and salary applied to that title.

ANSWER: Executive Assistant - SA 02 Pay Scale
Secretary to Minister - HL 12 Pay Scale

QUESTION: Table a job description for each Order in Council appointment.

ANSWER. Regular duties associated with the position. An extra requirement that I considered when selecting the individual(s) was a person who would give 100% of their working hours and talent to the people of Labrador and in particular the constituents of Torngat Mountains. The two individuals in my office do fit this category.

QUESTION: Were any of these jobs advertised in order to give the unemployed the chance of applying?

ANSWER: The Executive Assistant is a transfer within the Department.

The Secretary to the Minister is a transfer from Social Services, Nain, and subsequently, the position in Nain has been filled by another resident of Nain which in effect did give the unemployed an opportunity to obtain employment in his/her own community.

The same answers apply to the Questions on the Order Paper by the Honourable Member for Menihek. The names are: Mary Hayes
Patricia Ford

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