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Speaker: Honourable P.J. McNicholas

Thursday

19 May 1988

The House met at 3:00 p.m.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):
Order, please!

Statements by Ministers

MR. BUTT:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. BUTT:
Mr. Speaker, on May 3rd I announced a bold, new initiative designed to improve the network of services and facilities in our seventy-five provincial parks. I am happy to announce that the original deadline for mailing of applications under the private sector initiative programme, May 23rd, has been extended to the end of the month, Tuesday, May 31st.

Just to refresh hon. members' memory, the policy encourages participation of private sector companies, groups, persons and non-profit organizations in our provincial parks. While Newfoundland and Labrador has an impressive and attractive park system which offers a wide range of recreation activities and outdoor experiences, we feel there is room for additional services to enhance the enjoyment level of park users and visitors.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform hon. members that the response to the private sector initiative has been tremendous and confirms that the entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well in this Province. Despite the short notice given the public, as of this morning we had twenty-two

applications on file and several more are expected, particularly in light of this deadline extension. Judging by the number of verbal enquiries and requests for information kits detailing the programme, interest in taking advantage of this offering is extremely high.

The following is a breakdown of what has taken place so far, Mr. Speaker: The twenty-two applications encompass a variety of activities ranging from food concessions - mobile and fixed rigs - to recreation equipment rental and craft sales. The most popular parks are located on the Avalon Peninsula but we have also received applications for parks in all other regions of the Island and in Labrador. As of this morning, the Department of Culture, Recreation and Youth has mailed out 197 information kits: eighty to the Avalon region, forty-four to the Eastern region, twenty to the Central region, thirty-nine to the Western region and fourteen out of Province.

A special review committee, comprised of three senior government officials, is in place and has met to study the terms of reference and examine some of the proposals.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident the deadline extension will allow prospective applicants to submit their proposals in a more comprehensive fashion. At the same time, the extension should not impinge on our effort to ensure that these new services and facilities are in place for this camping season.

Attached to the statement, Mr. Speaker, are some statistics for the benefit of hon. members.

Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. WELLS:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. WELLS:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

When the hon. minister announced this initiative in the first place, we commended both he and the government on their endeavours. It is a good endeavour, but it has to be handled carefully, as we indicated at the time. There are a number of small communities in this Province close to parks which rely heavily on the use of parks in Summer for economic activity in the community, for an addition to it.

I will just use an example: In my own district of Windsor - Buchans, the community of Badger relies fairly heavily on trade generated from people using Catamaran Park, and I hope that the minister will be sensitive to the needs of these small communities adjacent to our parks when he makes his decision and will take this into account. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. LONG:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. LONG:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I have to say to the

Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth, as I did when he brought in his initial statement, that it seems to me the department is quite confused as to how to proceed with this programme. There is no indication from the minister that any of the twenty-two applications the department has received have been approved.

Now, tomorrow is the start of the Victoria Day Weekend and there have been letters to the editor and talk amongst the public about whether they can expect pizza stands or, as the minister likes to talk about, popcorn concessions in the provincial parks. There was no indication from the minister today whether the concessions will be opening when the parks open this weekend. I would say that that not only reflects a lack of preparation of this programme but reflects some of the administrative difficulties that the department is having.

I would also say to the minister, when he talks about almost 200 enquiries being received, that there is no indication of just how many concessions might go in any one place, so that at Butterpot we might see dozens of small concession stands of various kinds, and in the next park, down the road, we might see nothing. I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that what the minister has indicated again today is that this programme has not been properly prepared and does not seem to be working very well as we head into the Victoria Day Weekend.

MR. TOBIN:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Minister of Social

Services.

MR. TOBIN:

It gives me great pleasure today to inform hon. members that \$481,640 has been approved for seven Employment Enhancement Projects.

These projects, Mr. Speaker, will create a total of 53 jobs for some 1,382 work weeks for social assistance recipients to enhance their employability.

The Employment Enhancement Programme of Employment Opportunities resulted from the need to enhance the employability of some social assistance clients. With this goal in mind, a three year jointly funded agreement was made between the federal and provincial governments. This agreement is sometimes referred to as the four cornered agreement because of the 4 government departments involved, namely, Social Services, Career Development and Advanced Studies, Health and Welfare Canada and Employment and Immigration Canada.

Employment Enhancement is uniquely different from the successful Community Development Programme initiated by this Government. Outside the fact that there is federal involvement, there is also a training/academic component that has proven very successful in reintroducing some of our caseload clients back into the workforce permanently, or motivating them to continue their education.

I would like to point out to the House today that to date, so far this year Employment Enhancement has created a total of 473 jobs as a result of our allocation of \$3,250,000 which had been allocated for this programme.

These jobs represent 11,886 work weeks.

The results of this programme have been fantastic. Training projects such as Hospitality Management, Mining Familiarization and Survey Rodperson, Aquaculture, Fur Farming and Reforestation Training are just a few areas being touched by this programme.

Mr. Speaker, details of projects approved today will be distributed later this afternoon through Newfoundland Information Services.

MR. EFFORD:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. EFFORD:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, when you look at the natural resources around this Province, fish farming and many other things, it is a shame that we are no better off in 1988 than we are today, in that most of our population has to depend on the Department of Social Services for a job. It is the crying shame, Mr. Speaker, the situation we are in.

The minister says that the Employment Enhancement Programme is uniquely different from the Successful Community Development Programme. I am glad it is different, because the Community Development Programme is not nearly as successful as the minister is trying to portray, it is putting people further back economically than they were on social services.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. EFFORD:

And the minister is well aware of the situation these people are being placed into.

Now just recently, Mr. Speaker -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. EFFORD:

Just recently, Mr. Speaker, the report of the National Welfare Council of Canada stated that in three areas - the number of families, the number of single people and the number of children - our percentage of people living in poverty was far above any other province of Canada. Of the ten provinces in Canada, we topped the list of the number of people living in poverty.

I congratulate the minister on this programme, because it is the type of programme we need. We need to educate, we need to train our people, and more money should be put into this programme than into the Community Development Programme so people can be trained properly to get into the workforce.

The only question I would ask the minister and ask the government is, after the people are trained, what do they have to look forward to except leaving the Province to find work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. FENWICK:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Menihek.

MR. FENWICK:

Mr. Speaker, we have, I think it can be called, the basic philosophical argument with the direction of job creation of this government. Not that we do not think that training social services recipients for work in the private sector is not a good idea, but it is the kind of project you put in place after your basic social services are at a reasonable level for the people of this Province. And my argument to the Minister of Social Services and the government over there is that they are not at a reasonable level.

We have a major crisis in several important areas, including education and health especially, and especially looking after the chronic care old age people in our Province who need help. Just to highlight one particular proposal that was put in here, the Community Development Programme, which was a sort of brother of this programme, set up a programme in which people would visit old people in their homes and help them to stay there longer so that they did not need the dependency of the very short chronic care facilities that we have in this Province.

Mr. Speaker, those are the kinds of projects that I think should be expanded greatly, but not under a ten or twenty week make work programme. They should be a permanent facility of the minister's department or the department of Health, or which ever department wishes to take responsibility for it. Because what is happening is that since the people who require that care cannot count on it, they are

trying to get into the senior citizens facilities much earlier than they really need to, putting more pressure on the entire chronic health care system.

So, I would say to the government over there, these are great projects to put into place but you have not done your basic job. Get your basic job done, of looking after the people in this Province who are sick and not able to look after themselves. Get that in place, and once that is there and we have that working smoothly, maybe we can start looking at helping to create jobs in the private economy. But let us do our own job first.

DR. COLLINS:
Mr. Speaker.

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

DR. COLLINS:
Mr. Speaker, this is not the usual type of statement I want to make just know. I just want to inform the hon. House that the hon. the Premier has an important Ministerial Statement to make and he is inadvertently delayed. Possibly the House might consider reverting briefly to Ministerial Statement when he returns, but that request will be made at the time. I just want to inform the House, at this time, of that situation.

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

MR. WELLS:
If the hon. the Premier has an important Ministerial Statement to make, I think we ought to hear it. I agree to revert.

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

MR. LONG:
I am presuming that would be right at the end of Question Period.

MR. SIMMS:
Whenever he gets here. We would not interrupt Question Period.

MR. LONG:
Right. Okay.

Oral Questions

MR. W. CARTER:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. W. CARTER:
Mr. Speaker, my question would normally go the Minister of Development (Mr. Barrett), or if not to him then the Premier, but in their absences I shall address it to the Deputy Premier (Dr. Collins). Yesterday in the House, and again today on radio, the Minister of Development, in commenting on the reinstatement of the contract with the consortium of companies in which a French company is involved, said that, 'All of the funding provided...from the Offshore Development Fund...is targeted for Canadian interests with the greatest share' going to Newfoundland.

In the House of Assembly, Mr. Speaker, on April 21, in reply to my question the minister--

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

MR. W. CARTER:

I am laying the groundwork, Mr. Speaker, for what I think is an important question, Sir. I ask the Deputy Premier, then, how does that statement by the minister yesterday, and again today on radio, square with the statement given by the minister in the House on April 21, in reply to my question, when he said that \$187,000 of that \$900,000 contract will flow directly into the hands of the French company? Will the Deputy Premier tell the House which version is correct?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, I believe the hon. Minister of Development really did answer that. I am sure when he is available he will go into more details if that is required. But I think the answer he gave was that we had to make a very rapid response to a most unconscionable action taken by France in arresting a legitimately fishing Newfoundland vessel and its crew, a crew which had been fishing there for years and perhaps even generations. So we had to make a very rapid response to that and we wanted to make a response that was noticeable. So that is why that particular contract was suspended.

I think the hon. minister said, at the time, that we would have to review the implications of that. Now, I think that was a very good move to make. When the review was carried out, and the hon. Minister of Development, I think, made this clear in his statement, he found it was a very complicated deal. There were a number of local firms involved. It was a consortium arrangement. It was an initial study and it was quite an involved

arrangement. When that review was carried out it was quite clear that this particular contract gave credits and benefits to Newfoundland firms and Newfoundland workers, and, as it turned out, no direct benefits to the French partner in the consortium.

Now, as some later stage, if this whole exercise is proceeded with, it may well be that there might possibly be benefits to the French partner. I suppose they would not be in the consortium if they did not have that in mind. But this particular contract gave rise to no benefits and no particular advantages to the French partner under this particular contract. So, in view of that, I think Cabinet took a very responsible and, I do not mind saying, not an easy decision to reverse a previous decision.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

I think the hon. minister is getting into the realm of debate.

MR. W. CARTER:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. the member for Twillingate.

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker, my question, again, goes back to the Deputy Premier. Again I ask him: How can he square what the minister - he did not answer my question, by the way - said yesterday and what he said on radio this morning to the effect that none of the benefits of that contract will go to a French company? How does he square that with the statement that the minister made in the House, as

recorded in Hansard, page L1050 on April 21, when he said that \$187,000 of that \$900,000 contract would flow into the hands of the French? That is the question, Mr. Speaker. Which story is correct? Did the minister deceive the House yesterday or did he deceive the House on April 21? That is the question.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, it is not a question of deceiving or otherwise. On April 21, the Minister of Development gave information to the House that he had to the best of his ability. I do not think at that stage he had need to go into the minutia, the absolute details of the contract. The objective of awarding the contract was primarily related to developments offshore. Certainly there would be spin-off benefits to Newfoundlanders, but the main objective was offshore development and that is what the statement was all about. On reviewing the details it was clear that this particular aspect of the project, which was the first contractual approach to the whole project, had to be all done in Newfoundland. It was not a case of something being manufactured in France, that type of thing, but all the work was to be done in Newfoundland and a detailed assessment and review of the project showed that. If the hon. Minister of Development did not mention that on April 1 it was because he felt that it was not necessary to go into that. He was just giving broad parameters. It is not unusual, if one wants to announce a programme, to give the broad outline, but then if you are asked to go into the detailed employment aspect of it you come

up with facts that you did not need to have in the first place.

MR. W. CARTER:

A final supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER:

Before recognizing the hon. member, I think the phrase 'deceiving the House' is one, if we look at terms acceptable in Beauchesne, is acceptable in one particular case and not in another. I do not think it is a term that is really acceptable. I ask the hon. member to withdraw that.

MR. W. CARTER:

Of course, Mr. Speaker, and I apologize. That was a slip of the tongue. What I meant to say was, When did the minister mislead the House? I retract the word 'deceive'. The word I was looking for was mislead.

My final supplementary goes to the Deputy Premier. In his reply to me on the April 21, the minister was quite specific. He did not give me a round figure. He said \$187,000 of that contract would go into the hands of the French company, a very specific figure. In light of the contradictory statements coming from the minister on this matter, would the Deputy Premier undertake to have that proposal and the budget for that contract tabled so that we will know for sure exactly how much of the money under that contract goes to the French, or if in fact any of it goes to the French, or if it all flows into the hands of Canadians and Newfoundlanders?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, I will certainly bring that request to the attention of the hon. the Minister of Development. I think he is the one who will have the details. I certainly do not have that level of detail on this contract, and I doubt if, in any contract, we would normally have readily available, outside the department involved, that type of detail. So I will certainly bring that request to the hon. Minister of Development.

I do have to say it is not unique for a correction to be made in this House. Sometimes information is given by ministers in good faith, and, at a later stage when new information comes forward, often on a voluntary basis the minister will make a correction. Now, this, perhaps, is a slightly different situation, I admit that. But, nevertheless, it is not by any means unique for information to be corrected, and this is what the hon. minister did.

MR. FUREY:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister for St. Barbe.

MR. FUREY:

Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Deputy Premier, along the same lines, about this contract. We know that it is the largest consulting contract ever let by the Department of Development. Is it true, Mr. Speaker, that the company met with government in the last two days? We are told that this company has already let contracts, made commitments, and even set up an office in

Newfoundland. Is it true, Mr. Speaker, if that is the case, that this joint venture company has essentially overruled the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and, by logical extension, overruled this House, because we now have a resolution that is not worth the paper it is written on?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, this particular effort was worked on for some considerable time, and there was a consortium set up involving local firms. So there is a lot of groundwork done. I think what the hon. member is referring to is, were certain offices and certain people employed and that type of thing in that sort of groundwork that was laid? All this was not done in the last few days. This was done, I am quite sure, over a period of time.

The hon. member probably will remember that the resolution passed in this House referred to the withdrawal or suspension of contracts to companies of French registry. This particular company is not a French registered company. This is a Canadian registered company. Even though there is a French part to the consortium, it is not a French registered company.

MR. FUREY:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. FUREY:

Mr. Speaker, neither is Newfoundland Energy in Bermuda.

My supplementary is to the Minister of Fisheries. The Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Speaker, said in this House on May 6 that the leaders of the country -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Question!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

A supplementary question.

MR. FUREY:

I would ask the Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Speaker, does he still stand by his statement in this House on May 6 where he called on the leaders of Canada to insist, through the only language that France understands, economic language, on cancelling contracts and using trade sanctions against that country? I would ask does the minister still stand by that? If he has any principle, why is he still sitting in that Cabinet when they reversed that decision with this French company on the provincial contract?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Mr. Speaker, I will put whatever principle I have up against the hon. gentleman's any day.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear! Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:

If you want to talk about facts, Mr. Speaker, then we will talk about facts. If he wants to ask factual questions we will answer them factually. But if he wants to dwell in the depths of

political innuendo then we can do that, too. So if you want to talk about principles, we can start talking about principles.

Now the fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that, of course, I stand by the statement that I made in this House on whatever date it was that the hon. gentleman referred to.

There are some differences, Mr. Speaker, that this House and the people of this Province ought to be aware of when we are talking about not entering into bilateral trading relations with France as a way to bring pressure to bear on the French in this particular matter.

We are talking about here a contract, Mr. Speaker, that was awarded. We are talking here, Mr. Speaker, a contract that was valued at \$869,000 and some-odd cents, of which \$729,000 had been contracted, committed or awarded by the time the resolution was passed in this House, Mr. Speaker. We are talking here of having to pay out well in excess of \$700,000 to C-Core, to Newfoundland Design Associates, to Stone and Webster, to Memorial University.

Whether we get the work done or not, Mr. Speaker, there is a sum well in excess of \$700,000 that has to be paid out of the public purse because contracts are signed, work is committed, and Newfoundlanders are in France working on this project.

On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, when we are talking about Airbus or we are talking about nuclear submarines, Mr. Speaker, we are talking about contracts not yet entered into, in other words, the

economic leverage that can be used to the benefit of Newfoundland and Labrador. Quite a difference, Mr. Speaker.

MR. FUREY:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
A final supplementary, the hon. the member for Menihek.

MR. FUREY:
Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that this minister stood in the House and he set up a double standard.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

MR. FUREY:
Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister is: How can he stand in this Chamber, with all of Newfoundland and Labrador watching on this very sensitive issue, and call upon the Government of Canada to exercise trade levers, when he himself at a Cabinet table agreed to cancel a contract, and then he himself, on behalf of the fishermen, at the same Cabinet table agreed to reinstate the contract? How can he do that?

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

MR. RIDEOUT:
Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman ought to be ashamed to the depths of his soul to stand up in this House and talk about double standards.

Mr. Speaker, how can you stand in this House and say that we will use some fish, Mr. Speaker, some nonsurplus fish, Mr. Speaker, to give to the French to solve the Canada-France dispute? How can you do that, Mr. Speaker? Talk

about double standards, Mr. Speaker!

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:
The hon. gentleman should be seen and not heard when it comes to talking about double standards and principle, Mr. Speaker. We are talking about here, Mr. Speaker, a contract that was awarded of which well in excess of \$700,000 got to be paid out anyway to Newfoundland firms that I just listed out, vis-à-vis, Mr. Speaker, contracts that are not yet awarded that can be used as economic levers to the benefit of Newfoundlanders in the Canada - France fish dispute. No double standard, Mr. Speaker, but principle, honesty, integrity unlike what we get from the hon. gentleman.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. FENWICK:
Mr. Speaker.

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

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

My question is also for the Deputy Premier, and it has to do with the same issue, so it is by way of a continuation of the questioning. The question is this: Was any representation made by Pennecon and Newfoundland Design Associates, which are the two companies involved in the major contract, was any representation made by these two companies to the Cabinet in order to reverse that decision that was made ten days ago? Also, can the Deputy Premier tell us whether or not these two

companies are major contributors to the PC Party either provincially or federally?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, on the last point I have not the faintest, foggiest idea and I have no particular interest in finding out.

On the first point, I think it is correct to say that the Newfoundland companies, quite properly, had some communications with the hon. the Minister of Development - I would have been very surprised if they did not - and with the Department of Development. They can read the papers and they could see what the resolution of the House was and they could see that the consortium that they were involved in was going to be impacted by the actions taken by government, so they took a very natural reaction. I believe they got in touch with the department and made representations to them.

In terms of making representations to the Cabinet, I cannot speak for all my colleagues, but I would highly doubt it. I have not heard anyone say that. And I would think that the representations to the Department of Development and Tourism were sufficient for their purpose and that is what they did.

MR. FENWICK:

Mr. Speaker,

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. the member for Menihek.

MR. FENWICK:

Mr. Speaker, I have here a copy of two or three pages of the 1987

annual meeting calendar of the Progressive Conservative Party, in which there are two full-page advertisements copied here, one for Newfoundland Design Associates and one for Pennecon.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. FENWICK:

My question, Mr. Speaker -

MR. SIMMS:

A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, the evidence that the hon. member attempts to introduce as a preface for a question is so sickening and ridiculous it is not even worth commenting on, and I would be surprised if the Deputy Premier even bothered to respond to the question, if it even comes.

MR. LONG:

What is your point of order?

MR. SIMMS:

I wonder would the hon. member send us over a copy of the brochure they have for their annual meeting this coming weekend in Corner Brook? I would like to see all the union ads.

MR. FENWICK:

To the point of order, Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is one.

MR. SPEAKER:

There is no point of order, but the hon. President of Council anticipated my call to the hon. member by about one second, or vice-versa.

The hon. member is on a supplementary and I ask him to pose it instead of reading some article.

The hon. the member for Menehik.

MR. FENWICK:

My question then for the Deputy Premier is this: Since obviously there was representation made, and obviously there is a connection -

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. FENWICK:

The question is coming.

MR. SPEAKER:

Would the hon. member please ask his question?

MR. FENWICK:

Would the Deputy Premier admit that in fact the interests of two companies, which clearly have direct links financially to the Provincial PC Party, one of which has direct links to the federal PC Party managed to overturn a decision of this House, and put their interests ahead of those of the interests of the fishermen of the South Coast of this Province?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, that question supplies its own answer and the people in Newfoundland know how to deal with that sort of question. I do not have to deal with it.

MR. FENWICK:

A final supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER:

A final supplementary.

MR. FENWICK:

My final supplementary, Mr. Speaker, is this: How can this government then make the decision that they made yesterday to hold back on the only significant action we have with France if there is no possible connection between the two partners in the project and the Provincial government through the PC Party affiliation? I ask the Deputy Premier to explain to us how that decision could have been logically made, if it was not for that fact that their interests were put ahead of the fishermen of this Province and the interests of the Province as a whole, making us hypocrites in the eyes of the world?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, there was no hypocrisy in this action. The government responded rapidly to an emergency situation, but, on mature consideration, it was seen that the people of Newfoundland would not get any great benefit out of this; it would not hurt France, it would only hurt Newfoundlanders, and that decision was rescinded.

MR. TULK:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Fogo.

MR. TULK:

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier, but since he is not here I will ask the Minister of Fisheries. I presume he is pretty close to this.

On May 6, in the letter to the Prime Minister, the day that we had the debate here, the Premier

stated that the government was cancelling the contract. Not suspending, I say to the minister, not reviewing, not deferring, or anything of that nature, but cancelling the contract. Now, the minister has told us they could not do that, a Cabinet meeting could not do that. I say to the minister, was that a hasty judgement that we heard in this House by the Minister of Development? Was that grandstanding that we heard in this House by the Minister of Development? How can we, the people of Newfoundland, the fishermen of Newfoundland, how can the federal government, how can the French, how can anybody, in view of the action taken by the government, have any belief in the credibility of this government?

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

The hon. member is making a speech. He has interjected two or three questions in there, but the hon. member is making a speech, not looking for information.

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman only wants to see what would satisfy himself. The fact of the matter - I have been through it on several occasions today, the Minister of Development has been through it - is the government took the decision to cancel the contract. That was the decision that government took.

The information provided to government a few days following that decision was that, fine, you can go ahead and cancel the contract. Nobody is saying we could not cancel the contract,

but, by cancelling the contract, there was contracted and would have to be paid out anyway, on an \$869,000 contract, \$700,029 worth of work, including \$211,000 to C-Core. What party does that crowd represent, Mr. Speaker? Do they contribute to the P.C. Party? There was \$229,000 to IMD, Memorial University, and on and on it goes.

So the only people who would lose by our proceeding to cancel this contract would be the taxpayers of Newfoundland and Labrador. On the other hand, there are negotiations that may lead up to contracts that have not yet been entered into by the Government of Canada on airplanes or on nuclear submarines that are very, very significant and could be used. This would have been done. This was done. But, on reflection, Mr. Speaker, the only people to suffer would be employers and employees of Newfoundland and Labrador. And on top of that, if that was not bad enough, you would have to pay the money out anyway.

MR. TULK:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. the member for Fogo.

MR. TULK:

Mr. Speaker, is the hon. gentleman telling us that the government reflected on this in the House, they reflected on it in Cabinet, and still they did not know that there were contracts outstanding, and they cancelled the decision on May 6? Is that is what he is telling us, Mr. Speaker?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

MR. TULK:
Is that what he is telling us, Mr. Speaker? Is that how ineffective he is telling us that this government is? Or did they have some other reason to back off and not do as the Premier said he was going to do, stand up for the people of Newfoundland?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. RIDEOUT:
Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman would really like for this government to be as weak-kneed on positions that are important to Newfoundland as is the Liberal Party of this Province. Well, Mr. Speaker, it is not going to happen.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:
If we can be accused of anything, Mr. Speaker, it is making an honest effort to cancel a contract that was entered into by the government of this Province in good faith. Upon review, Mr. Speaker, we found that the taxpayer in Fortune or in Ming's Bigh or in Labrador would have to pay out in excess of \$700,000 anyway and that the only people to suffer would be Newfoundlanders and Newfoundland firms.

So, Mr. Speaker, the decision was taken on reflection, after the facts were known to us, that this would do nothing. It would not

move along the negotiations or bring pressure to bear one way or another, because we had to pay it out anyway, Mr. Speaker. It was over and done with. The money was gone in addition to anything else. On the other hand, on contracts that had not yet been awarded, that had not yet been let, these are real levers that can be used to the advantage of Newfoundland and Labrador.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. TULK:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
A final supplementary.

MR. TULK:
Mr. Speaker, I say to the minister - I will ask him if I have to - they did not know that this contract was going on for months, that it had been awarded months before? Did he not know that when he met in Cabinet on May 6? Why did they make the blunder, or whatever it was that they did make, and compromise the position of this Province in the Canada - France negotiations? Stand up and tell us!

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. RIDEOUT:
Mr. Speaker, any time we make a blunder and it is made in honesty for the benefit of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, I will stand up and take it on the chin any day.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. WELLS:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. WELLS:
Mr. Speaker, my question is for the hon. the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development (Mr. Power). During this past week it has been evident that there is a real financial problem, or likely to be a financial problem at Newfoundland Enviroponics, and the government owns 50 per cent of those shares. The cucumbers have been selling at fifty-nine cents retail in Nova Scotia, and apparently in the last few days selling here at the same price. The question, Mr. Speaker, is how long will the government allow this to continue when the cost of producing those cucumbers is in excess of \$1.25 per cucumber?

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

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

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

MR. PATTERSON:
I would like to remind the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Toiling Masses, that we are living in a market economy and the market decides the prices.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

There is no point of order. There is half an hour for question time

and I do not think it should be interrupted by spurious points of order.

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. WELLS:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I will just repeat my question for the hon. minister. How long will the government allow this to continue when the cost of producing those cucumbers is in excess of \$1.25 per cucumber?

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

MR. POWER:
Mr. Speaker, I am absolutely delighted to have a question about the Sprung cucumbers and our marketing arrangement in Nova Scotia. For a very, very long time this Province has had products dumped on it from outside - potatoes from PEI, hay from PEI, vegetables, any kind of produce from any part of Canada. When they have marketed all across Canada and they have some extra that they cannot market, they dump it on Newfoundland's marketplace, causing tremendous problems for the farmers in this Province. We cannot develop a substantial agricultural community because we keep getting products dumped in this Province from outside Newfoundland. Now, is it not a real pleasure that somebody in Nova Scotia is taking a little bit of pain? Somebody in Nova Scotia,

the Greenhouse Growers Association, have troubles with marketing their Nova Scotia cucumbers in Nova Scotia. Is it not a really strange phenomenon that we can produce something in Newfoundland, sell it in Nova Scotia, and are going to make a profit? The Leader of the Opposition's argument that we have to get \$1.25 per cucumber to make a profit is a fallacy. As I said in the House yesterday in response to questions from the member for St. Barbe, who said that if you sell them for fifty-nine cents a pound you cannot make a profit, that we are going to sell those cucumbers at an average price well in excess of \$1.00 per pound. We are going to make a profit. And if you look at the comments in The Evening Telegram today, which I am sure are quite accurate as most of their stories are, you read about Nova Scotia, and it says this fellow, Jim Keizer, who has a vested interest in making sure Sprung fails, the same as the Leader of the Opposition and the Liberal Party have a vested interest in making sure Sprung fails, - look at the opportunities for next Spring - this Jim Keizer, head of the Greenhouse Growers of Nova Scotia, said -

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

The hon. minister is taking far too long to answer the question. I ask him to confine his comments -

MR. DINN:
Do not answer any questions for them. Do not answer any questions!

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Oh, oh!

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

MR. WELLS:
There was no point of order.

MR. SPEAKER:
There was no point of order.

MR. POWER:
Well, in that case, Mr. Speaker, I will rise on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER:
A point of order, the hon. the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development.

MR. POWER:
With all due respect, Mr. Speaker, questions may be very short and very simple and very straightforward, and answers can be reasonably complex and reasonably complicated. The operation that we are into here, a very substantial operation in Newfoundland employing well in excess of 200 people, is in jeopardy by being maligned by the Leader of the Opposition and by some Nova Scotia greenhouse growers with vested interests. I do not intend, Mr. Speaker, to allow that to happen.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

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

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

MR. WELLS:
Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Your

Honour's ruling. For most of this session, ministers have frequently dragged on with the answers and used up Question Period. Your Honour is quite right, and I agree with Your Honour calling us to attention when we are making speeches instead of asking questions. I have no quarrel with it. But the same applies to both sides of the House. I appreciate Your Honour's ruling, and assure you that Your Honour is quite right. We support you entirely.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

There is no point of order.

I think we have been trying for quite a considerable time to try and get as short questions as we can and as short answers as we can. I know it is difficult at times. It is difficult for the Chair, and I know it is difficult for all of us, but I would like to see all of us combining and co-operating to try and develop this half hour of question time.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WELLS:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. WELLS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. POWER:

Another point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A point of order, the hon. the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development.

MR. POWER:

Mr. Speaker, I have been in this House for twelve or thirteen years, since 1975, and nobody can say I am not co-operative. I was about to finish completion of an answer, a fairly complex answer, about marketing arrangements asked by the Leader of the Opposition. I would like to have the opportunity to complete my answer.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

There is no point of order.

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition, a supplementary.

MR. WELLS:

Mr. Speaker, I have no concern for the greenhouse growers in Nova Scotia. The concern I am expressing is on behalf of the taxpayers of this Province who are paying the additional costs. Now, I ask the minister, Mr. Speaker: How long will the government continue to allow these cucumbers to be produced at a \$1.25 to \$1.50 and require the taxpayers of this Province to pay the difference?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. POWER:

Mr. Speaker, exactly the same question, and I would like to make exactly the same answer.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. POWER:

If those are the rules of the House, then he can ask the same question twice then I can give the same answer twice.

Mr. Speaker, the reality is, if you look at this Mr. Keizer from the Greenhouse Growers' Association of Nova Scotia, they are really concerned, they are really alarmed because we are going to produce a product here more efficiently, cheaper than they can produce them in Nova Scotia, which is what we said all along, which they for their vested interests and the Liberal party's vested interested would not agree to.

Now, the facts are, Mr. Speaker, that in this House there has to be a certain amount of truth involved in both questions and answers. The Leader of the Opposition says it takes a \$1.25 to produce a cucumber. That, if not a lie, is a deliberate misinterpretation of the facts of how we produce cucumbers in this Province.

It is inaccurate, Mr. Speaker. It is untrue. It is something that will be said by the Greenhouse Growers in Nova Scotia. It will not be said that the people who understand -

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

The hon. minister says the Leader of the Opposition deliberately misled the House. If that was not what he said it is what he implied, and I ask him to withdraw

that.

MR. POWER:

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw. I was going back to my earlier days as an educator, trying to inform. I withdraw the word deliberate. If not informed, they are poorly informed. I cannot say 'deliberate', but if they are not conniving with the Greenhouse Growers in Nova Scotia, or somebody else, to make sure that we lose money in this Province, that we cannot create industry in this Province, that industries from outside can function better than ours, then, Mr. Speaker, I have to say that the Leader of the Opposition, if not misinformed, has a tremendous lack of knowledge about what is happening in Newfoundland.

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, that the Greenhouse Growers in Nova Scotia are very concerned because - you know what? - we are going to corner the market on this product in Nova Scotia and in many parts of Eastern Canada as we bring on stream more of the Sprung type of facilities in Newfoundland. We are going to corner a lot of market for produce in Canada and nobody is going to stop us.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

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

MR. SPEAKER:
A point of order, the hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:
Mr. Speaker, I just got into the House a couple of minutes ago and I listened carefully to what has gone on in the last few minutes.

Your Honour ruled that the minister gave too long an answer. That is Your Honour's right to do. He gave too long an answer to a question asked by the Leader of the Opposition, and it was ruled that he could not finish his answer and you recognized the Leader of the Opposition.

The Leader of the Opposition got up a second time, since Your Honour ruled that he could get up on a supplementary, and asked the same question the second time that he had asked the first time. It was essentially the same question. What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander.

I rise on a point of order to ask Your Honour to look at Hansard -

MR. SIMMS:
Beauchesne.

PREMIER PECKFORD:
Well, to look at Beauchesne, but to look at Hansard as to the two questions the Leader of the Opposition asked, and see whether or not it does not fall under a Beauchesne reference, page 129, 171(d) "A question oral or written must not: repeat in substance a question already answered, or to which an answer has been refused."

MR. SIMMS:
Totally out of order.

PREMIER PECKFORD:
So if Your Honour, is trying to bring rational order to this Chamber, and you have legitimately ruled the minister out of order because his answer was too long, then I think it only fair for Your Honour to review the proceedings of the last number of minutes and rule the Leader of the Opposition out of order on his supplementary question.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

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

MR. WELLS:
On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, there is no difference between the hon. Premier and myself on what the rules are, so I need not waste time in debating that.

I agree with the proposition that he put. It is essentially correct. What I disagree with is that I asked a question that was answered, or to which an answer was refused. It is improper, I agree, to repeat it. I did not do that, with the greatest of respect, Mr. Speaker. What I did was respond to the minister's comment that I was expressing concern about the greenhouse growers in Nova Scotia, and he made his comments in that context. It was clear to me that he misunderstood my question.

My question was expressed in terms of the interests of the taxpayers of this Province, and I asked the minister if he would tell the House how long the government would allow this to continue and be a burden on the taxpayers of the Province.

PREMIER PECKFORD:
To that point of order, if you will allow me.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:
It is not a justification for the Leader of the Opposition to get up and say that the minister did not, in his view, omnipotent though he

thinks it is, answer the question. That has nothing to do with Beauchesne. Even if the question was not answered, even if he refused to answer it, the rules are clear, and not based upon the substance of the answer. Neither the Leader of the Opposition, nor any member, can repeat in substance the same question a second time. Regardless of what the Leader of the Opposition says about the greenhouse growers in Nova Scotia or Timbuktu it has nothing to do with it. It is a clear violation of the rules.

If the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development is going to be brought to heel because he was too long, even though members opposite have made questions go on for three and four minutes in this House over the last several weeks, then, in the same way as there are rules for this side under Beauchesne, and there are rules for that side too.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. WELLS:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. WELLS:
I have a brief response, Mr. Speaker. I will abide by Your Honour's ruling, whatever it was. I agree the topic was the same, but here is what Beauchesne says about answers, page 131, paragraph 358, sub-paragraph 2 -

MR. DJINN:
Your point of order is no good!

MR. SIMMS:

We are talking about questions, not answers.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

MR. WELLS:
I am responding to it.

PREMIER PECKFORD:
You are breaking the rules again.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

I am prepared to listen to the hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. WELLS:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Beauchesne, page 131, paragraph 358, sub-paragraph (2), says: "Answers to questions should be as brief as possible, should deal with the matter raised, and should not provoke debate."

Now, Mr. Speaker, in those circumstances it was necessary for me to ask the question I did on supplementary. If Your Honour feels it was improper, I abide by Your Honour's ruling. There is no problem.

PREMIER PECKFORD:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:
There he goes again!

I am not going to sit in my place in this House, as a member of this House who has been here since 1972, and see the rules of this House being abused by the Leader of the Opposition, who comes in here and tries to take this place on his back, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD:

That intervention by the leader of the Opposition was out of order on the point of order.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

I am not at all sure you can be out of order on a point of order, but that is beside the point.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

AN HON. MEMBER:

Challenge his ruling!

MR. EFFORD:

Name the member.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please! Order, please!

I am going to look at Hansard. Obviously the point of order was a repetition of a question that had already been asked. I am going to look at that and rule on that matter either tomorrow or on Tuesday next.

MR. WELLS:

I have a final supplementary if there is any time left, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The time for Oral Questions has long ago expired.

I would like to welcome to the gallery the President of The Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women, Ann Bell.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. LONG:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. LONG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It was my understanding when the doors opened today that we would proceed with Question Period and then, right after Question Period, we would hear the Ministerial Statement by the Premier. So before we get into Orders of the Day, I think now would be the time, as agreed upon, to have the Ministerial Statement rather than interrupting Orders of the Day at a later point.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

As I understood it there was a very definite understanding that the time that the hon. the Premier was going to make a statement was not definite. It was more or less when the hon. the Premier had come and it could be arranged.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

I am ready, Mr. Speaker, depending on the rules of the House.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier, by leave?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

By leave!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

Statements by Ministers

[By Leave]

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to announce changes which will greatly enhance the status of women portfolio in this Province.

In 1985 government announced the establishment of the Women's Policy Office to act as a central co-ordinating agency for women's issues within government. Since its establishment, the office has conducted research and consulted with departments and women's groups on issues as varied as child care, employment initiatives, apprenticeship, housing needs, wife battering, and student aid. The office has published original research documents on women in non-traditional training, the economic contribution of women's work to the community, and the effect of household-based income support programmes on women. Its community awareness manual on wife battering and its career booklet for young women have been distributed Province-wide. In addition, in its two years of existence, the office has sponsored two major conferences, one for female high school students from across the Province on the importance of making informed career choices, and another for female members of government boards, municipal councils, and development associations on how to be effective in placing women's issues on the public agenda.

Mr. Speaker, women's issues, by their very nature, are diverse. In fact, women's issues are issues of concern to all of us, but are often called women's issues either because they affect women most, or because women have been instrumental in bringing them to the public's attention. For

example, women lobbied for equality in appointments to government boards and commissions. In 1985 the Affirmative Action Task Force report recommended that government make every alternate appointment female until the total composition of boards reached 40 per cent. Cabinet, in reviewing the recommendations of the task force, accepted this recommendation but raised the overall component to 50 percent. As a result of this policy, the overall female composition of government boards has risen from 23 per cent to 34 per cent in two short years.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Since the scope and variety of work on women's issues reaches far beyond the boundaries of any one department, I am pleased to announce that government has decided to strengthen the mandate of the Women's Policy Office by making it a branch of Executive Council. Its new status as a central agency will enable it to liaise effectively with any and all departments to advise on and assess the impact of their policies and programmes on women. The new location of the office in Executive Council will reaffirm government's understanding of women's issues as multi-dimensional, while at the same time respecting that responsibility for improving the economic and social status of women rests with all government departments.

I am also pleased to announce that the hon. the President of the Council, the hon. Len Simms, will hold the portfolio of Minister Responsible for the Status of

Women. Mr. Simms has already demonstrated his interest in and commitment to women's issues. As President of Treasury Board, he has been instrumental in recommending two recent policy initiatives for public servants - equal pay for work of equal value and a pension plan for part-time workers.

Both these initiatives affect women significantly, and will greatly enhance the economic status of female employees. As a senior cabinet minister, he will ensure that women's issues are dealt with at the highest level, and that the impact of major government policies and programmes on women are considered. Mr. Simms will provide the women of this Province with a strong and committed representative within the provincial government. To further strengthen the portfolio, the Assistant Deputy Minister for women's issues will report directly to the minister, the President of Treasury Board. This means that the concerns presented by women's groups will receive prompt consideration and undivided attention.

The request for central agency status for the Women's Policy Office was recommended by the Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women and supported by other women's groups. This move was also strongly supported by the former ministers responsible for the Status of Women, the hon. Charles Power and the hon. Bill Matthews. I am pleased that this strengthening of the office will further demonstrate our commitment to achieving true equality for Newfoundland women by the most effective means at our disposal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. WELLS:

Mr. Speaker, I welcome the announcement. A lot of the statement does not add very much, but the announcement is good. The Premier's announcement, which appears on Page 3 of his statement, that he is going to strengthen the mandate of the Women's Policy Office by making it a branch of Executive Council, and by appointing the President of the Council to be the minister responsible, that is good. It may be beneficial, it may indeed help and it may give it a higher priority within government, and women's issues need a higher priority within government.

But we will be really impressed, Mr. Speaker, when the government provides more funding for safe houses for battered wives, provides more funding for day care facilities, and provides more day care facilities around the Province. Then we will be really impressed. For the moment this is more form than substance, although it is a move in the right direction and you cannot help but commend the government for it.

But, Mr. Speaker, it is more a claim of performance than real performance. When we see the government giving real attention to the day care needs and the needs for battered women in this Province, then we will be really impressed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. LONG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Without reservation, we welcome the announcement by the Premier and see it as a very positive initiative. It was only a couple of weeks ago, in the Estimates Committee, that I made representation to the minister responsible at that time, the Minister for Career Development, and had quite an open discussion about some of the pressure and strings that were under the Women's Policy Office, and some of the difficulties in defining a clear role for it, stationed, as it was, with another department.

At that time, the minister indicated that the whole structure of the office was under review. So we are quite pleased to see that, in fact, the initiative has been taken to give the Women's Policy Office a higher profile and to more clearly establish it as an agency on its own, with a minister directly responsible who is obviously a senior minister in the government.

We would have some concern, I guess, in that the minister who has been made responsible for this portfolio is obviously a very busy gentleman: He is the House Leader, he is the President of the Executive Council, he is the President of the Treasury Board.

MR. FENWICK:

He is a jack-of-all-trades.

MR. LONG:

So, what that says, and this is not to suggest in any way that the minister is not committed to this

portfolio, I am sure he is, but what that says to me, Mr. Speaker, is that there must be in supporting the restructuring, along with the physical move and the relocation of the office, more monies given to the office.

There needs to be more staff, there needs to be a more clear definition of programmes that the office can initiate. The question of the co-ordinating role that the office plays across government departments, in order for that to be more clearly defined, one example would be the office having responsibility for the interdepartmental committee on wife beating.

In order for the office to do what it needs to do in integrating and co-ordinating programmes, it must have more resources. Mr. Speaker, I say that the staff who have worked in the Women's Policy Office in the government in the last couple of years have simply done an outstanding job. The Premier has given recognition to some of the good works in the publications and conferences that have been produced.

But I say, Mr. Speaker, it is essential for the Premier to give a commitment to put more resources in this office so that the good works that these women are doing there would be free of the strain and pressure of carrying a heavy responsibility in the government, and that we can all look forward to this office having an increasingly large profile not only in government but within society at large in our Province, drawing attention to such important issues and helping the government establish new initiatives, particularly with reference to child care and

services for battered women.

With that said, we certainly welcome it and we look forward to working with the office, for our part, to continue to do everything to advance women's concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

Presenting Reports by
Standing and Special Committees

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

MR. BAKER:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to present the report of the Public Accounts Committee for the financial year ending March 31, 1986. Before tabling the document, I would like to make mention of the fact that two of our members are now leaving us, the member for Humber West (Mr. Baird), the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, and the member for Humber Valley (Mr. Woodford). I would like to thank them for their outstanding contribution during the last couple of years that I have been around.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. BAKER:
I would also like to mention and congratulate the new Vice-Chairman, the member for Bellevue (Mr. Callan), and the two new members of the Committee, the member for St. John's East Extern (Mr. Parsons) and the member for Naskaupi (Mr. Kelland). I am sure we will have an enjoyable time and a very productive time working

together during the coming year.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

Notices of Motion

MR. TULK:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. TULK:
If Your Honour will recall, I do not have a Private Member's resolution on the Order Paper and I understand if I want to put down a Private Member's resolution, this is the correct place, under Notices of Motion.

MR. SPEAKER:
Notices of Motion, yes.

MR. TULK:
Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to move the following resolution:

WHEREAS our fishing industry is of prime importance to our social and cultural well-being; and

WHEREAS an all-party resolution of this House condemned the actions of France in intercepting and detaining a Newfoundland fishing boat on the 5th. day of May, 1988; and

WHEREAS this House in that resolution urged the Government of Canada to use the full force of its diplomatic and economic relations with France to protect the interests of Newfoundland fishermen; and

WHEREAS the House recommended in that same resolution that the

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and all its agencies cease forthwith the conduct of business with companies of French registry for as long as the St. Pierre fisheries and boundary dispute remains unsettled; and

WHEREAS the Minister of Development informed this House that he would ask Cabinet to cancel all contracts presently existing between this Province and French companies; and

WHEREAS the Premier in a letter to the Prime Minister of Canada dated May 6, 1988, and subsequently released to the press stated, 'In the meantime, the Government, acting on the unanimous recommendation contained in the resolution of the House of Assembly referred to above, has cancelled a contract the Government of Newfoundland awarded to a consortium involving a French-based company to undertake an offshore related study;' and

WHEREAS the Government through the Minister of Development, May 18th, reversed the decision of the House and the Government thereby jeopardizing its credibility with fishermen, fish plant workers, their families, the Canadian Government and, indeed, France; and

WHEREAS it is unprincipled and ineffective to demand that the Government of Canada use the full force of its diplomatic and economic relations with a foreign country unless this government is prepared to do likewise; and

WHEREAS it is unacceptable to this House that the government disregard any measures it might pass, thereby rendering it ineffective;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House go on record as reaffirming its faith in our most traditional economic base, the fishery, by instructing the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to live up to its commitment to the fishery embodied in the unanimous resolution of this Assembly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House go on record as condemning the Government for the May 18th decision to continue with the original contractual agreement involving Bouygues Offshore Canada, Newfoundland Design Associates and Pennecon Limited.

I would say to the Premier that I would like to debate that resolution now. I seek unanimous consent to debate it now, if the Premier is ready to do it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. TULK:

I want to hear the Premier's views.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the President of the Council.

MR. TULK:

Are you going to speak on it?

MR. SIMMS:

No, I am rising on Notices of Motion.

MR. FUREY:

(Inaudible) the Premier (inaudible).

PREMIER PECKFORD:

He has a motion.

MR. SIMMS:

I have a Notice of Motion.

Mr. Speaker, I will ask leave on tomorrow to introduce the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Leader of the Opposition has stated publicly that 'it would be madness if Newfoundland had more legislative jurisdiction over our fishery'; and

WHEREAS such statements are injurious to the public good of Newfoundland and Labrador;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this House go on record as opposing any attempt to give fish to France in order to negotiate an agreement.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:
Are there any further Notices of Motion?

Answers to Questions
for which Notice has been Given

DR. TWOMEY:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Minister of Public Works and Services.

DR. TWOMEY:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I wish to table the answer to a question that has been asked on the Order Paper by the hon. member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir dealing with the number of people on the staff of my office; the cost to move the current Minister of Finance (Mr. Windsor); the cost to move the hon. the President of Treasury Board (Mr. Simms).

There was also a question dealing with sound proofing in the West Block, and a question asked in the Estimates Committee by the same hon. member dealing with a listing of the agencies required 'under The Public Tender Act'; and a listing of those agencies which should have reported but did not?

MR. SPEAKER:
Any further Answers to Questions?

MR. TOBIN:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. TOBIN:
Mr. Speaker, yesterday afternoon I was asked a question by the hon. the member for Port de Grave relating to meals and travel for people in Bay Roberts. I think Your Honour ruled me out of order at the time because I was not giving the exact answer. I now have the basic details for the member, if Your Honour would permit me to give them to him?

People travelling from Bay Roberts to St. John's by taxi receive \$14, Mr. Speaker. If they are travelling by bus from Bay Roberts to Carbonear, the bus rate is \$5. That is what they receive, Mr. Speaker. As it relates to meals - I think the member was concerned about that - let me say that -

MR. EFFORD:
(Inaudible).

MR. TOBIN:
We do, Mr. Speaker, when the request is made. We do not automatically give funding for meals, but when the request is made, we assess the individual's circumstances and pay accordingly.

MR. TULK:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. TULK:
(Inaudible) because is he is we are perfectly willing to do it.

PREMIER PECKFORD:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:
To whatever it was, a point of nothing and therefore out of order.

MR. TULK:
No, at this point, I just want to -

PREMIER PECKFORD:
Yes, well, we have the rules to deal with now, Mr. Speaker, so I am out of order as was the hon. member. There are certain bills that have to be done today, and a requirement mainly -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Oh, oh!

MR. TULK:
Okay. Go on.

PREMIER PECKFORD:
No, no. The Atlantic Accord Implementation Act has to be amended. We can do the other one right after that, because it has to come into force on tomorrow if we are going to coincide with the others.

MR. TULK:
When you are ready.

PREMIER PECKFORD:
We have no problems as it relates to the resolution that we ourselves put forward, because the

Liberal party is on record as willing to give Northern cod to the French. So we do not mind if you now support it and then have to do a flip-flop.

Petitions

MR. GILBERT:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. GILBERT:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have a petition from 170 residents of Burgeo, Ramea and Gray River to the hon. House of Assembly and Parliament assembled and it says:

Humbly Sheweth:

That whereas the Burgeo Road has received no upgrading or paving in the past three years; and

Whereas the Burgeo Road is the longest continuous gravel road in Newfoundland; and

Whereas the towns of Burgeo and Ramea are contributing greatly to the economy of this Province through their primary Industry; and

Whereas the cost of living and carrying on enterprise in our towns is significantly higher due to the inadequacy of the present road system;

Therefore, we, the undersigned, petition the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador to begin a programme immediately to upgrade and pave the Burgeo road. We are disgusted with the political games

being played and wish only to have our transportation problems alleviated. This will result in improvements in the economy of our area through increased tourism, more high quality fish products being prepared here and an increase in the service sector, all of which will increase employment levels and generate even more tax dollars. We ask only to be treated fairly and with respect and dignity.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is a petition that I have made several times this year in the House and it is made because the people of that area continue to send in petitions to me to present. As their member I have to present them, even though I realize that the Minister of Transportation is going to get up and say it is repetitious. But I would say to the minister, and to you, Mr. Speaker, that for the people who live in Burgeo, Ramea and Grey River it is not repetitious, it is a day-to-day way of live, it is the way those people have to live, subjected to the atrocities of the Burgeo road.

The people in Ramea and Grey River are subject to a little more punishment because of the fact they have to pay the rate to get on a ferry to come to Burgeo before they face the hazards of the Burgeo road.

And the ferry cost from Grey River and Ramea to Burgeo continues to escalate because of the inability of this government to sign a deal with the federal government. When they assumed control of the ferry service, it was a situation that meant escalating costs were going to be put on the taxpayers of Newfoundland, and, again, these costs were going to be passed to

the end users, the people who use the ferry system in Newfoundland.

Now, the people in this area have been driven to a day of mourning. I am sure the Premier is aware of days of mourning, he initiated them in Newfoundland. And the reason they did it, was to follow the same procedure that the Premier did in initiating his day of mourning some years ago.

The day of mourning by the people of Burgeo, Ramea and Grey River was to attract the attention of the rest of the people in the Province to an uncaring government and to try to bring their plight, having to live with the Burgeo Road, to the attention of the taxpayers in Newfoundland, and to point out the serious problems they have and the necessity of having the Burgeo road paved and upgraded. It adds to the cost of living, as they say in their petition, because of the added charges on freight coming into the area and the higher depreciation rate on their cars. Those people have now been driven to the point where they are going to the Small Claims Court on an individual basis. Over \$250,000 worth of claims are going to be filed against the Department of Transportation in the Small Claims Court to again prove the point they are talking about, the damages and the extra wear and tear on the vehicles they must use to drive over that road.

Just yesterday I saw in **The Evening Telegram** that judges of the court who have to go to Burgeo to dispense justice and to hear those claims, are now complaining because they have to drive over the road in their own cars or in cars provided by the Department of Justice. It is not just their own

cars, its cars. They do not like to travel over that road. Now, Mr. Speaker, how do you think the people of Burgeo, Ramea and Grey River feel? They have to drive over that road every day.

MR. W. CARTER:

And with a lot less income than the judges.

MR. GILBERT:

And with less income, I would say, and using their own cars not government cars. I would submit, Mr. Speaker, that if the Premier and the ministers over there had to drive over the Burgeo road, I would not be standing here today making a plea on behalf of the people of Burgeo and Ramea, their road would be paved.

I am sorry the judges are not happy that they have to use government cars to drive over this road, and for the discomfort they have to go through, but, Mr. Speaker, I think more about the residents of Burgeo and the people who have to come over that road in an ambulance. They are the ones I am concerned about, so I now call upon this government, the Premier and the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Doyle), to stop posturing regarding the Burgeo road, stop passing the buck and saying it is the federal government and we cannot do anything until we get an agreement. Start a process now to use the money that is available, the ordinary \$40 million they have every year to use for paving and upgrading.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. GILBERT:

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I ask the minister to stop posturing and do some paving on the Burgeo road.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

Before recognizing the hon. the member for the Strait of Belle Isle I would like to welcome Hazel McIsaac, a former member for St. George's.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. DECKER:

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this petition presented by the member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir.

I hesitated before standing up, because I thought some member from the other side would stand up and support this petition. But it is obvious, from the way they scampered out of their seats, that they do not have any great amount of interest in the Burgeo road. In the meantime, I am prepared to eat these words if some member would want to get up and support the petition, some significant member, hopefully the former Minister of Transportation who has reverted to his old habit of running out whenever something is mentioned on roads, or the present Minister of Transportation who, I am sure, is within hearing distance of this.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not praise the member for presenting this petition. Surely he has done a lot to bring this road to the attention of the people of this Province. I am sure it is a fact today that everywhere in Newfoundland and Labrador, and I would even say part of Atlantic Canada,

everywhere, people know about the Burgeo road and the problems being experienced there.

And a lot of that publicity, not all of it, Mr. Speaker, can be attributed to this hon. member who has stood in his place in this House so many times -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. DECKER:

-and so gallantly put forward the plea of the people of Burgeo. I think he deserves to be given all the credit he is due.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. DECKER:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member pointed out that this is the longest stretch of unpaved road in the Province.

Now I would venture to say that the people in Burgeo are not asking this government to go out tomorrow morning and pave that total stretch of road; people are not that unreasonable. What the people in Burgeo are asking is that this government would come up with a reasonable approach to paving their road. If they had some indication that some work will be done this year, some more work done next year and the year after, a reasonable approach, I do not think they would be nearly as upset as they are. They would not be accusing government of playing politics and this sort of thing if they could see some indication that this year they are a little closer to having their road paved than they were last year, and that next year they will be a little closer than they were the year before. I think the whole problem

is the uncertainty, because they realize the way this government has chosen to play the game; they realize this is nothing but politics and pork barreling.

What they would like to see is a reasonable approach to this, Mr. Speaker. They know the road will be paved eventually. They know about the Round Pond road situation and all the politics that connotes. They are aware of all the shenanigans and the under-the-table stuff that goes on with this government and they realize it is going to be extremely difficult for them to get their road paved if people like their member do not continue to bombard, do not continue to hit this government over the head, and that is why they are sending those petitions in, so that the member can present them.

MR. W. CARTER:

There were no petitions to get the Round Pond Road done.

MR. DECKER:

You are absolutely right. There was no petition to get the Round Pond Road done.

Mr. Speaker, when a former Conservative Premier of this Province, Frank Moores, was in power, he announced, I think it might have been in the early 1970s, maybe 1973 or 1972, that he was going to have a five year roads programme so that there would be no more confusion; if you lived down in Burgeo you could pick up the five year programme and you could see that two years down the road, or whatever, there would be paving done in your area.

At the time, I was mayor of a community in this Province. So I came into the Department of

Transportation and asked to see that five year programme, and the Deputy Minister sort of laughed at me when I asked for it. I said, 'Look, the Premier announced it at the Mayors and Municipalities Convention. I know it exists.' He said, I am not laughing at the fact that it exists, I am laughing at the fact that we are into our second five year programme.' 'But,' I said, 'the government has only been in power about two or three years.' 'You are exactly right,' he said, 'they have only been in two or three years and already they have come up with a second five-year programme because they had no intention of carrying out the first one, and I would assume that they have no intention of carrying out the second one.' Now, that is not the kind of five year programme I am talking about. I am talking about a five year programme which has some meat, which the government intends to carry out, not to get up and make political points on, not to try to get an election out of. I am talking about an honest-to-goodness five year programme so that the people in Burgeo and the people in Cape Onion and the people all over Newfoundland will know that there is a systematic system in place so that somewhere down the road, and they will know when, the road to Burgeo will be paved.

I should say, Mr. Speaker, that when I finally did see this five year programme, there was some pavement allocated to a part of the Province where I live. I was delighted. But the Deputy Minister said, 'Now, Mr. Decker, do not be too delighted, because it only takes a by-election to be called somewhere in this Province and you will lose that bit of pavement pretty so-and-so fast.'

Mr. Speaker, right on! I was hardly home before someone resigned - I forget who it was - and a by-election came due. And that pavement, which was in a five year programme in 1972 and 1974, still has not arrived in my district. So that is not the kind of foolishness I want to see carried on any longer. I would like to see a reasonable approach so that the people of Burgeo will not have to have their member standing up every day asking that that road be paved, they will know that the government intends to do it in good faith, Mr. Speaker. That is the key, in good faith. Thank you very much.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

Orders of the Day

MR. SIMMS:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Government House Leader.

MR. SIMMS:
I think there is an agreement to put Bill No. 32 through all stages today so that we may have it proclaimed in time. It is Order 30, Bill No. 32, "An Act To Amend The Canada-Newfoundland Atlantic Accord Implementation (Newfoundland) Act."

If Your Honour would like to call that order, then I will rise and speak to it on behalf of the Premier.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order 30. Bill No. 32.
The hon. the Government House

Leader.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, this is really a rather minor amendment but, in any event, it needs to be done. The Canada - Newfoundland Atlantic Accord Implementation Act originally, that is the provincial Accord Act and the federal Accord Act, as well, came into force and both were proclaimed on April 4, 1987 with the exception of Division 8 of the legislation. Part 2 of that Division in the federal Accord Act did not have provincial equivalent sections in the provincial Accord Act.

Division 8, part 2 of the federal Accord Act does contain, however, the same provisions as Division 7, part 2 of the provincial Accord Act, and relates to the public registry of interest where there was a 180 day transitional period provided for in that legislation under that act.

Now, what transpired since then, of course - in fact, that registry has not yet been established, incidentally, but the regulations pertaining to the registry, and the provisions of the federal Atlantic Accord Act respecting the registry, will now come into force on the 20th day of May. That 180 day transitional period really should not start to run until that particular date.

So it is simply to change the effective date to May 20, which is a date that has been agreed to by officials at the federal and provincial level. Our own act, the Canada - Newfoundland Atlantic Accord Implementation Act, needs to be amended to reflect that particular change. It is pretty well outlined in the explanatory notes there, Mr. Speaker.

I move second reading.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Gander.

MR. BAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I remember, quite some time ago, going through hours and hours in this House where we debated the Atlantic Accord, and the minister remembers it well. I believe there was one all-night session, Mr. Minister, that related to the Atlantic Accord.

The Opposition at that time was trying to make certain amendments to the Atlantic Accord which would, in our opinion, improve it. Some of the amendments were very minor. The amendments were so minor, as a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, that one particular amendment I proposed was something that the government agreed with, that the federal people agreed with, according to the Minister of Energy at the time, and that we agreed with, and we felt should be in there so all parties to the Atlantic Accord were in agreement, yet the point was made that there would be no amendments.

I would simply like to make the point that it is interesting that the minister comes along at this time and says that he wants to make an amendment, however innocuous this amendment is, and is looking for the co-operation of all parties concerned because there is a time deadline, this has to be done by tomorrow and so on. Nobody was so anxious to make amendments during that debate. There was no indication of co-operation at that time even, I will stress it again, Mr. Speaker, even on a very minor issue that we all agreed would not change the

substance of the Atlantic Accord but would be desirable to have in there, and we all agreed it should be there. Even under those circumstances the then Minister of Energy, although he expressed agreement with what was being said by the Opposition, said that there would be no amendments.

MR. TULK:

Was that the former member for St. John's East?

MR. BAKER:

That was the former member for St. John's East. Of course maybe his intransigent stand on issues like this is one of the reasons why he is no longer sitting opposite. As a matter of fact, that district is not even represented by a government member, for the first time ever, I believe, Mr. Speaker.

So now the government comes in with an amendment that seems to be fairly simple. The minister explained that it was a very minor change, they wanted a date put in there for a number of reasons. I have not, I must admit, Mr. Speaker, done my research on this bill, because to do so would be to go back through the Atlantic Accord, a rather substantial document, to try to determine if throughout that whole document, the Atlantic Accord, Bill 1 I believe it was at the time, if I remember correctly, to see if there were any clauses in there at all that would be affected by this date change.

Now I have not done that to my satisfaction. I suppose I should have, if I had been doing my job fully in the House. I have a lot of other things to do, a lot of other responsibilities. I would like to ask the minister the question: By making that change,

even though on the surface it seems simple, what else is there in the Accord that is tied to any kind of date like this? It says here, 'Where any right in respect of which an instrument may be registered in this Division was acquired before the coming into force of this section,' and so on, 'not later than one hundred and eighty days after the coming into force of this section, the priority and validity of such right shall be determined as though the instrument was registered under this Division at the time the right was acquired and as though this section was in force at that time.'

That is what exists now and it is amended by striking out the words, "the coming into force of this section," wherever they occur and substituting the words "the 20th May, 1988".

Is there anything else in that Accord - and I am thinking now in terms of the section on the environmental protection and the section on the licencing and all that kind of thing - dependent on that date that might change? I wonder if the minister has had that researched and could he explain that to us?

MR. SIMMS:

If the hon. minister speaks now he closes the debate, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TULK:

The Speaker knows that.

MR. SPEAKER:

If the hon. minister speaks now, he closes the debate.

MR. SIMMS:

No. His Honour came in midway and I was just letting him know.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the President of the Council.

MR. SIMMS:

The reason for this minor amendment, Mr. Speaker, is so that the 180 day transitional period, which is the period that deals with registering interests -

MR. BAKER:

Who does it tie down?

MR. SIMMS:

The idea of this amendment is to make sure that it runs on the same day as the similar transitional period which exists in the federal Accord Act begins to run. That is all. Nothing more nothing less. It is just to make sure it coincides. We did not have the date there so that it coincided with the federal act. So the date would coincide.

If the beginnings of those two periods did not coincide and did not begin at the same time, the resulting problems would be that people who wanted to make registrations and so on, it would be a bit of shamble. That is the whole point and purpose of it. So, there is no more than that to it. It is straightforward, May 20th.

MR. BAKER:

Could I ask a question?

MR. SIMMS:

Yes, boy! Or you can ask it in Committee, if you wish, in a minute, or whatever.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Gander.

MR. BAKER:

The other part was - and I do not want to prolong this, Mr. Minister

- I wanted to be assured, on the record, that there was nothing in that act that was now influenced by this. In other words, if this was this difference between the federal and provincial acts, then would that change anything in the understanding that we had when we originally passed the Atlantic Accord?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the President of the Council.

MR. SIMMS:

I understand what the hon. member is saying. Further, the expert legal minds we have working with respect to the legislation - development of the legislation, amendments to the legislation, drafting of the amendments - such as the Clerks at the Table, the Legislative Counsel people, they have not made me aware of any other problems that might exist with this date change. I do not believe it has any effect on any other section, and it is further confirmed by the Clerk at the Table, with the nod of her head. So I take the advice of the legal experts, the people who drafted the legislation.

I move second reading, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Is it the pleasure of the House that the said bill be now read a second time?

MR. TULK:

Just to make a point to the Government House Leader.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Fogo.

MR. TULK:

If it is possible, by leave or by unanimous consent, I think we

could dispense with Committee and get right on with it.

MR. SIMMS:

That certainly would be acceptable to us, if the third party agrees.

MR. LONG:

We agree.

MR. SIMMS:

That is agreed. So we could just do the necessary recording. Your Honour could dispense with all the reading and we would accept it as going through Committee stage as well as third reading. I do not know if you would have to sit at the Table or not. I am not quite certain.

MR. TULK:

No, not with leave. We can do what we like.

MR. SIMMS:

Anything that is done by leave, is done by leave.

MR. SPEAKER:

Is that agreed?

MR. SIMMS:

Is that agreed, Your Honour?

MR. SPEAKER:

Agreed.

MR. SIMMS:

Is that acceptable to the Table, I wonder? There is no difficulty there?

MR. SPEAKER:

Agreed.

MR. SIMMS:

We have to take a vote on it. So I move third reading, right?

MR. TULK:

Right! Take a vote that covers second and third reading.

On motion, a bill, "An Act To Amend The Canada - Newfoundland Atlantic Accord Implementation (Newfoundland) Act," read a second and third time, ordered passed and its title be as on the Order Paper. (Bill No. 32)

MR. SIMMS:

Your Honour, you wish to know the next item of business, I guess?

It is the continuing debate on the Meech Lake motion, which is Motion 5.

I thank hon. members, Your Honour, and the table for all your co-operation.

The continuing debate on Motion 5 which was adjourned by the member for St. John's East.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. LONG:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

To pick up where I left off, with only a few brief comments before the close of the debate on Tuesday, in speaking to the amendment proposed by the Liberal Party to the motion presented by the government to adopt the Meech Lake Accord and the amendments to the Constitution, it seemed to me, Mr. Speaker, that it was an interesting lesson in the business of how parliamentary affairs are sometimes conducted. The Government House Leader, when I was closing my remarks the other day, acknowledged that perhaps it was because I was a relatively new member I was making observations on the performance of the Liberal Party and that I should not be surprised. But I must confess that I was indeed surprised.

At the beginning of the debate on Meech Lake, shortly after the opening of the House and the presentation of the Throne Speech, when the Liberal Party gave a commitment that it was going to register its full opposition to the Meech Lake Accord and to the proposed motion by the government to give support from this House, and that it would not be presenting any amendments for the debate, it was not something extraordinary to see at a later point that the Liberal Opposition decided to indeed bring forward an amendment.

I guess the intention of such an amendment was to, perhaps, prolong the debate, which I have no problem with. I think the issue before us and the motion to give support from this House and from this Province to the Meech Lake Accord is one that should take all the time that members of this hon. House feel necessary to engage a full, thorough, comprehensive reading of the proposed amendments to the Constitution, and to take some time to establish clearly the position of all parties in the House, all members and, indeed, to consider all implications for this Province on the proposed adoption of the Meech Lake Accord.

Mr. Speaker, I must say that although recognizing the value and the validity of introducing an amendment to carry forward the debate for some time longer than might be without an amendment, it would seem logical to me that an amendment would be true to the principles that the party proposing it would bring to the debate, so it was with some surprise that I observed, as the members of the Liberal Party spoke to the party's amendment - I understand it was moved by the

member for St. Barbe - I understood, and perhaps I was mistaken and perhaps that reflected my relatively inexperienced position in the House, that it was not necessarily an amendment put forward by the party but an amendment put forward by an individual backbencher, one member of the House who wanted to make particular points in the debate.

In any case, Mr. Speaker, I was quite surprised to see speaker after speaker from the Liberal Party rise and speak to the amendment and say that they were opposed to the Meech Lake Accord, they would not be supporting the motion put forward by the government to give support from this House to the Accord. But they were also opposed to the amendment put forward by the member for St. Barbe. The first person I noticed making such remarks was the member for Gander. I was in my seat and I was quite intrigued and interested to hear the comments by the member for Gander who gave his reasons for not supporting the amendment, which calls for the recognition of special status, a special society for the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

He did not think that that made a whole lot of sense, and was not necessarily consistent with the process of amending the constitution. The very next day the Liberal Leader rose in his place to speak for the second time in the debate. He had spoken on the main motion, and was speaking to the amendment presented by a member of his party, the member for St. Barbe, and he said that he, too, could not support the amendment as proposed by the member for St. Barbe.

Then the member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir got up and said he had problems with the Meech Lake Accord, but he also had problems with the amendment.

Mr. Speaker, as I say, it was an interesting exercise for me as a relatively new member of the Legislature to observe some of how the business of this House is conducted on occasion, and it occurred to me that there may be some validity in making moves to use the rules and procedures and the Orders of the Day to take more time for what is a very important debate; we are, after all, talking about the people's Constitution, the Constitution of the country.

But, it would seem to me that if we are going to do that, if we are going to bring to the debate a genuine interest in having a full, thorough review of all the implications of the motion in front of us, if we are going to present any amendments, we would logically present amendments that reflect a genuine interest in the substance of the resolution before us.

Instead, Mr. Speaker, what I learned was that members of the Liberal party were allowing one amongst them to bring forward an amendment that did not, in any real way, reflect the opinion of the Liberal caucus, and certainly not the Leader of the Liberal party in this Province. So we find ourselves in what I would think to be a rather unusual situation, in which the hon. House is debating for a number of days an amendment to the main motion. I am not sure if there is anybody left in the House at this point who would believe with any commitment that the amendment has value and would strengthen the

motion.

I would not be too surprised, Mr. Speaker, although it might be out of order, if the member for St. Barbe were to rise in his place to conclude the debate on his amendment, having sat here for a number of days listening to the interventions by members of both sides, and he decided to withdraw the amendment because he had come to his senses and realized that it had nothing to do with the motion in front of us.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. LONG:

Mr. Speaker, it really had nothing to say about the Meech Lake Accord, the amendments to the Constitution of this country, but was more a gesture on his part to engage in -

MR. TULK:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. TULK:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I do not want to refer to the hon. member's speech at all because he is in full flight, and I do not want to interrupt him.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Deputy Premier (Dr. Collins) could inform us. I understood that the Premier said just now when I asked him if he wanted to debate the government's resolution that was put down by the government House Leader (Mr. Simms) today that after the legislation concerning the Atlantic Accord was passed, he would be ready to debate the resolution put forward by the

Government House Leader on behalf of the Government. I say to the Deputy Premier, if that is the case, we are perfectly willing to do that.

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

DR. COLLINS:
Mr. Speaker, I think what happened was that there was a certain amount of interjection or conversation across the House. I think the hon. House Leader opposite (Mr. Tulk) did suggest that we might get into that resolution afterwards. I think the hon. Premier responded by saying that we would have no problem with that, but the House Leader himself said that we will call the resolution in due course.

MR. TULK:
I thought you were going to call it after.

DR. COLLINS:
No, I am quite clear.

MR. TULK:
That is what was said.

DR. COLLINS:
No, the hon. House Leader said that we will call the resolution in due course. He did not make a commitment one way or another in that regard.

MR. SPEAKER:
To that point of order, there is no point of order. It seems there is a misunderstanding. I do not think there was any consensus as to proceed on that motion.

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

MR. LONG:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. BUTT:
We will all listen to you.

MR. LONG:
Mr. Speaker, as I was saying with reference to the amendment that is in front of us, the amendment to the motion presented by the government to give the support of this hon. House to the Meech Lake Accord, it would not come as a great surprise to me, Mr. Speaker, if the member who presented the amendment, the member for St. Barbe (Mr. Furey), were to rise in his place and admit that the amendment was presented not in the spirit of engaging the debate in front of us, or addressing the main motion and strengthening it and trying to draw out features of the adoption of the Accord that would be strengthened by such an amendment, but that instead the amendment was simply playing political games.

The amendment as it is presented, Mr. Speaker, calls for an amendment to the Meech Lake Accord that would give recognition to the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador as a distinct society, and that we would, along with recognition of Quebec as a distinct society, define a special status for the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Mr. Speaker, the member for St. Barbe's smiles and, as I have said, I have listened to other members of his party speak to it. I do not really think that in the spirit of the genuine debate that is happening across this country; coast to coast, and indeed, North to South - sometimes I do not think that we recognize that the country is more than just coast to

coast but that there is a very important part of the debate happening in the Northern regions of this country - that the amendment enters the debate in that spirit of genuine dialogue and is not really an expression of the reservations that many people have across the country about some of the weaknesses of the Accord, but rather it is simply an attempt by the member for St. Barbe to try and make some politics of what is otherwise a very serious, somber, thoughtful and, in many, many ways, a very divisive debate amongst people across the country. So what we have added to it is the suggestion that we recognize Newfoundland and Labrador in the Constitution of Canada as a special society.

Mr. Speaker, I was quite pleased in the earlier days of the debate on the main motion when the member for Bonavista North (Mr. Lush) stood in his place and talked about how Newfoundland and Labrador was a great society, what a proud people we are and what a proud person he is to be a representative of one section of the population, but then went on, Mr. Speaker, to give his own personal testimony, if you will, as to the special place that the people of Quebec, the French-speaking people of this country, have.

Mr. Speaker, j'ai pas une probleme avec le proposition de crée un statut special pour le Province du Quebec.

J'ai pas une probleme avec l'idll que peut être dans ce pays il y a deux nations, deux nations, Monsieur le President, grand on lis l'histoire de le pays c'est evident avec une perspective historique il y a peut être

vraiment des deux nations dans ce pays.

Le Province du Quebec, c'est une société vraiment unique et pour moi, c'est une question très différent, et c'est séparé de le statut, le position de la Province Terre Neuve et Labrador.

Mr. Speaker, essentially what I am saying is that I believe the issue of the place of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Province of which we are all, as individual members, proud to represent sections of the population, the question of our place in a country called Canada, of which we are the youngest member, is a question of a different sort than the place of the Province of Quebec.

The idea that we are indeed a very distinct part of this country is one that should not, in any trivial way, be confused with the very critical question of constitutional reform, the definition of the place of Quebec, as one of two founding nations of the country called Canada, the place of Quebec, and, indeed, the bringing into the constitutional family, as it is often referred to, of this Province.

Mr. Speaker, I think there is a lot to be said for the adoption of the Meech Lake Accord as a fundamental step forward in bringing this country to a point of being whole. I think, Mr. Speaker, without having had the adoption by the provincial Legislature and without the acceptance of the people of Quebec and their leaders of the Constitution, as it was repatriated not too long ago, what we have, in reality, legal and otherwise in this country, is a fractured reality. The absence of

Quebec's signature to the Constitution is one that Canadians, coast to coast, North to South, should not, and, I believe, do not take very lightly.

Mr. Speaker, the situation we see on the national political scene is one in which all three parties, my own party, the New Democratic Party, the Liberal Party, and, obviously, the government are united in a drive to bring Quebec into the Constitution and to adopt what is admittedly, certainly by members of our own party and certainly by Mr. Broadbent, what is admittedly a flawed document and what was, at the time, a flawed process. But the importance of saying yes to Quebec at this point in the history of this country is one that cannot be taken lightly.

With that said, Mr. Speaker, there are indeed very serious and genuine reservations that many, many individuals, groups, communities and indeed certain sections of the country, namely the North, and without attaching any secondary importance to it, namely the Native people, people who have very, very serious reservations about the implication of moving forward in a process that says yes to Quebec, but a process that does not include other groups.

MR. SPEAKER (Parsons):
Order, please!

This being Thursday and we have to read the questions for the Late Show. Question No. 1 says, "I am not satisfied with the answer given by the Minister for Environment and Lands (Mr. Russell) on this Summer's spray programme."

MR. LONG:
Who was that from?

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

MR. LONG:
Oh, I thought so.

MR. SPEAKER:
I took it for granted that he knew. Everyone else would know too.

Question No. 2 is a question to the Deputy Premier on the reinstatement of the contract with the French company, and that is from the hon. the member for Twillingate.

The third question says, "I am not satisfied with the answer given by the Minister of Fisheries on the cancellation of the contract with the French company," and that is from the member for Fogo.

Before I ask the hon. member for St. John's East to rise, I would like to welcome to the gallery Mrs. Hazel MacIssac, welcome. Mrs. MacIssac was a former member of this House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

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

MR. LONG:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I was beginning to address the many and very serious reservations that people across the country have expressed about the process of adopting a constitutional accord which says yes to Quebec, but which does not

at the time also say yes to the people of the North, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, the native peoples of this country and, indeed, the women of this country.

Mr. Speaker, there are some very serious flaws in the Meech Lake Accord. I must say at times I have had great difficulty. We have had protracted discussions in our own caucus, very lively and lengthy debate about our own response as Newfoundlanders to the adoption of this Accord. I must say that at times have been of mixed feelings on the question of whether we agree to vote in favour of the Meech Lake Accord, flawed as it is.

At times I believe there is no way at this point in time we should allow a process which says yes to Quebec to die, that the historic importance of bringing Quebec, a distinct society, as it is, one of two founding nations of the country, into the Constitution, is a fundamental step forward to making this country whole.

At other times, Mr. Speaker, I consider representations that have been made to our office by, among others, the Leader of the Government in the Yukon, who, of course, is the only remaining leader of the NDP government in the country at this time -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. LONG:

- Mr. Tony Penequet, who has been the government leader in the Yukon for, I believe, about three years now, and who is moving forward in a very, very progressive direction to bring New Democratic policies and programmes to the North, to

bring some thoughtful and creative initiatives to the people of the Yukon.

When Mr. Penequet says that the Meech Lake Accord is a betrayal to the peoples of the North, Mr. Speaker, especially when Mr. Penequet is a government leader of the same party that I am a member, I have to deal quite seriously with the concerns of the people from the Yukon, the concerns of the people from the Northwest Territories, and, indeed, Mr. Speaker, the voices of the people from the North, many of which are recorded in the report of the task force on Meech Lake Constitutional Accord and on the Yukon and Northwest Territories, from the Canadian Senate.

The report of the Senate Task Force on the Meech Lake Accord has in its pages some quite moving, eloquent, emotional and very real testimonies from the people of the North who believe that they have been treated in the Meech Lake process as second class citizens, that they have been denied their place as equal citizens of this country, and that, to them, while the Accord may have as an essential value, saying yes to Quebec, at the same time it gives a message that is, at least, Mr. Speaker, very discouraging to the people of the North.

Mr. Speaker, there is also no provision in the Accord for further constitutional discussions with respect to the position of the aboriginal peoples of this country. Mr. Speaker and all members of the House will know that the member for Menihek and myself have on numerous occasions - I am sure the member for Torngat will appreciate this - that we have continuously, time and again,

brought into this Chamber the concerns of the Native peoples of our Province, particularly the Native people of Labrador, the Innu and the Inuit. We have brought those concerns forward, Mr. Speaker, out of a recognition that is a fundamental principle of the New Democratic Party in this country and a very historic commitment to bring forward the voices of Native people in this country into the white-dominated chambers, into white political debates, into white society, and to try and bring forward a recognition that there is a legacy, Mr. Speaker, in this country that is not always one that we, as newcomers, that we as a people who have all, in one fashion or another, been immigrants to this land, a legacy we should not take lightly.

Mr. Speaker, our position and our actions, vis-à-vis the status of the aboriginal people of this country is a very, very important one, and we acknowledge that there are serious deficiencies with the Meech Lake Accord, inasmuch as it does not move forward the long, long process of redressing some of the fundamental injustices which have been played on the Native people of this country.

Mr. Speaker, these are some of our concerns. We will be bringing forward further amendments after we address the amendment as been put forward by the member for St. Barbe, and we will take further opportunity to expand on some of the concerns we have about the failings of the Meech Lake Accord.

In the couple of minutes I have remaining, I would like to come back and address the issue as it has been formulated in the amendment again, and that is the

issue of recognition of Newfoundland and Labrador as a distinct society, one to be equated with Quebec in the Constitution of the country.

I would like to address the amendment in terms of some of the debate which, particularly the Premier and the Leader of the Liberal Opposition (Mr. Wells) have been having in recent days, and indeed, since the Leader of the Opposition has taken his seat at the beginning of this session, and that is the debate concerning fisheries jurisdiction, and the issue of Northern cod stocks, surplus, non-surplus and the efforts by the Premier to define again and again and over and over a position that he says is the position of the Liberal Party. The Leader of the Liberal Party comes back, and there is an ongoing debate, Mr. Speaker, between the Premier and the Leader of the official Opposition concerning the very important issues of allocations of cod stocks and the boundary dispute with St. Pierre.

I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, at this point that in sitting and listening to the debate for some time, there are variations on the theme and it is expressed and manifested in different ways, depending on what the specific issue might be.

I have to say that I have been persuaded by the interventions made by the Premier in my own efforts to give serious review of what is in the Meech Lake Accord, and how the Premier has presented the opening, as he calls it, that Newfoundland has received in the section in which there is a promise to include the issue of fisheries jurisdiction in further

constitutional review.

Mr. Speaker, I concede that the Premier and the Government of this Province have, indeed, something in the Meech Lake Accord that is not without value.

We have heard commentators suggest that such a provision for further constitutional review does not amount to a whole lot, in fact, does not really have any meaning, but I think there is something to be said for this Province having won a recognition that is essentially a defacto appreciation of the special status that this Province has in Canada. I think the Premier won a concession to have written into the Meech Lake Accord a provision for special consideration of a very difficult issue involving provincial and federal jurisdiction, namely with respect to fisheries.

I must say that for at least one reason I believe that the inclusion of this - what amounts to a promise of constitutional review on fisheries jurisdiction - is a positive feature of the Meech Lake Accord because it says at least one thing to me, and that is that the Accord, as adopted at Meech Lake, has built into it a process of further review.

By way of concluding, Mr. Speaker, I would say that some of the issues I have raised, and we will be raising them again, some of the concerns that New Democrats and many others across the country have about the Meech Lake Accord, I, for one, believe that the issue of recognizing the importance of discussing under the Constitution the question of jurisdiction in the fisheries is an indication that the Meech Lake Accord is only the beginning of a process of

constitutional review and that it is not, by any means, the final word.

We can all, as Canadians, look forward to a further review, not only of the rights and position of Native people, Northerners, and women, but also of Newfoundlanders with respect to the issue of fisheries jurisdiction.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. FENWICK:
Hear, hear!

MR. GULLAGE:
Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. GULLAGE:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is a pleasure to be able to speak to the amendment as proposed by my colleague, the member for St. Barbe (Mr. Furey), on the recognition that Newfoundland and Labrador in fact does indeed constitute within Canada a distinct society.

The first point I would like to make, as was made in the last response to the amendment, Newfoundland was in fact very distinct prior to 1949 in that it was a nation with equal status to Canada and in that respect alone deserves distinct status. Quebec has never, ever had that status, even though it was one of the founding partners. French and English were the predominant languages and the predominant cultures at the time of

Confederation, but certainly Quebec could never argue that it was in fact a distinct nation as Newfoundland can certainly argue.

In the Meech Lake Accord the recognition that the existence of French-speaking Canadians centered in Quebec but also present elsewhere in Canada, and English-speaking Canadians concentrated outside Quebec but also present in Quebec, constitutes a fundamental characteristic of Canada and the recognition that Quebec constitutes within Canada a distinct society.

Mr. Speaker, we have had considerable discussion about the fishery and about the stand of this party, this caucus, this group of people, as far as the fishery is concerned. When we look at the federal presence in this Province, starting with patrol boats, fisheries research locations, offices in the White Hills, as an example, inspectors and scientists, subsidies from the federal government, the shared cost that we have to currently be part of, and the salaries for federal civil servants involved in the fishery, just salaries alone, Mr. Speaker, constitute \$32 million. Thirty-two million dollars in salaries alone can be faced off against federal fisheries, just for the employment of these individuals alone.

If we add to that all of the items I mentioned, all of the areas of vessels, research, buildings, the yearly cost of surveillance of the 200-mile limit, some \$30 million, plus the capital cost of the vessels I mentioned of some \$30 million to \$40 million, we are getting very, very close. Mr. Speaker, as a matter of fact, I

cannot say it is exact, but I have heard it quoted that the cost of federal fisheries jurisdiction in this Province, the amount expended by the federal government, including salaries, is just about equal to the total catch in this Province.

MR. DECKER:
Say that again.

MR. GULLAGE:
I said that the amount expended by the federal government in the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in all areas, including salaries, patrol boats, capital expenditures, surveillance of the 200-mile limit and buildings throughout the Province, that expenditure is close to the total fish landings of the Province. The total fish landings were last year \$257 million and the federal government is getting very close to that in expenditures currently, including salaries to their people, which constitutes only about 10 per cent of the total figure.

Considering that, Mr. Speaker, is it any wonder that our position is that we would like to see legislation put in place determining that a joint management board would be set up similar to the Offshore Petroleum Board which the government, in fact, endorses, and in that case did not have jurisdiction. Jurisdiction does not play a part. They have a part in the management of the offshore, but do not have jurisdiction. Our proposition is that a joint management board be set up to manage the fishery of this Province, manage surveillance, the ongoing fish quotas and all the other matters of fishery that we are currently playing a part in,

but do not have a say as far as a management board is concerned. Is it any wonder that that would be our position given the costs that we would have to be a major part of if we had legislative jurisdiction? Consider even 25 per cent jurisdiction put into legislation, faced off against \$257 million. We are suggesting that is not the way to go.

The way to go is a management board, similar to the Offshore Petroleum Board, that would be set up with provincial and federal representation and would be legislated in a similar way as the Offshore Petroleum Board. Is it any wonder that is our position, given the costs of operation of Federal Fisheries of \$257 million?

Mr. Speaker, we are distinct in many ways. Let us look at the Budget Highlights as they went through some weeks ago. Look at the massive cost of education in this Province, the cutbacks in health care, the cutbacks in our hospitals, and the cutbacks in funding to municipalities. Incidentally, they are cut back to the point that in 1982, and I am quoting now from a speech given by the Premier at that time, in the area of Municipal Capital Works, \$45.5 million was allocated. In this current year, we are, of course, only allocating \$25 million. Six years later, we are putting our municipalities in a position where their grants and their loan guarantees have been cut back by almost 50 per cent over a six-year period.

Is it any wonder we call ourselves a distinct society, a distinct Province? We are, indeed, distinct. We are distinctly poor. In comparison to the rest of Canada, there is no question

that we can make many cases for being very much distinct, the highest of everything bad and the lowest of everything good, as we have so often said.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. GULLAGE:

We can talk about a sales tax of 12 per cent; we can talk about our unemployment figures, which are dramatically out of whack with the rest of Canada, certainly by far the highest; we can talk about our economy, our failure to deliver adequate salaries for our people; the high cost of our social programmes, where all we hear and most of our debate in this House is how people are suffering, people are having problems with living on social service benefits which are totally inadequate because those incomes, whether they be incomes derived from the private sector, or benefits derived from the Province through Social Services, are totally inadequate, Mr. Speaker, when you consider the cost of living in this Province, the dramatic sales tax they have to pay, the cost of housing, the high taxes, whether it be the taxes that are the share of the federal income tax, whether it be municipal taxes, and you can go on and name every area of expenditure for any family, whether it be relying on government or relying on the public sector.

The spendable dollars are certainly far, far behind the rest of Canada, and puts the greatest percentage of our people very much in dire straits, as far as living in this Province is concerned. So we are distinct. As I said, we are distinctly poor.

Again, quoting from the Premier's speech of 1982, 'Newfoundland and Labrador is a Province that can least afford the impact of additional or economic destruction since, even in a normal economy, Newfoundland has to endure unfavourable economic conditions that are disproportionately far worse than those experienced throughout the rest of Canada.' Those are the Premier's own words.

So we are distinct, Mr. Speaker, very much distinct from an economic standpoint.

We are also very much isolated, and that isolation, Mr. Speaker, makes it very difficult for us to develop a secondary industry of any sort in this Province.

We continue to have to rely on our primary industries, the fishery, the forestry, in particular, mining, hopefully some day the offshore. Mr. Speaker, we have never been able to develop a secondary source of employment for our people, secondary industry because of our isolation. Being an Island, certainly the Island portion, being distinctly separated from the rest of Canada, that separation means, as will be proven with the Sprung project, we are simply too far away from the markets to compete.

That isolation down through history has made us very much distinct because we all know that that distance from the primary markets of the United States and, of course, the large markets of Ontario and Quebec, makes it very difficult for any industry of any sort to set up in Newfoundland, Mr. Speaker, and to do other than simply our own people. Trying to ship goods out of here to mainland markets and to compete with

industry and business that is closer to those markets has always been, and remains, very difficult.

In the area of municipal taxes, which I already mentioned, the fact that we are now down to \$25 million from \$42 million in 1982 in grants to municipalities, that burden, of course, on our municipalities, particularly in the rural areas where their tax base is not able to accommodate the demand for services, where we have more municipalities per capita than any other areas of Canada, and all those rural areas, those rural towns demanding water and sewer, demanding adequate roads, yet we have a government that continues to drop its grants programme, continues to drop its loan guarantees so that we are unable to see these communities grow in comparison to similar communities anywhere else in Canada. Mr. Speaker, this, as well, makes us distinctly unique.

I was reading a report a few weeks ago on infrastructure across Canada. It is identified that new infrastructure and the demand for it is the largest problem throughout Canada now with municipalities. As a matter of fact, it is the prime topic for the Federation of Municipalities in Halifax at a national convention in a few weeks time. They will be addressing, at that convention, the need for replacement of infrastructure across Canada in all the municipalities, particularly those that are of an age where the infrastructure now is in need of replacement. Whether it be water or sewer lines, or other infrastructure, the dollars are just not there and the cry will be to all provincial governments in Canada and to the federal

government to become involved in helping municipalities across the country by way of cost-sharing, not cutting back on services, not cutting back on grants to municipalities, but getting back into subsidizing the municipalities with their budgets because they cannot expand the municipal tax base any further.

That message, I am sure, will come out of that national convention. The message will be that we want cost-sharing whether it be 1/3, 1/3, 1/3, as proposed by John Turner and which is now a policy, I understand, of the federal Liberal Party, that we do get back into supporting municipalities once again on a cost-sharing arrangement equally shared between the three levels of government.

It is long overdue, Mr. Speaker, and we would hope that Mr. Turner, when he becomes Prime Minister, will see that as one of his first mandates.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. GULLAGE:
Mr. Speaker, since it is close to the time for the Late Show, I will adjourn debate for today and we will carry on at the next opportunity.

Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:
The debate is adjourned by the hon. the member for Waterford - Kennmount.

Debate on the Adjournment
[Late Show]

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):
The first question today is from the hon. the member for St. John's East (Mr. Long).

AN HON. MEMBER:
He is not here.

MR. SPEAKER:
We will move to the second question from the hon. the member for Twillingate who is not satisfied with the answer he got from the hon. Deputy Premier (Dr. Collins) on the reinstatement of the contract with the French company.

The hon. the member for Twillingate.

MR. W. CARTER:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, about ten days ago, I believe it was May 6, we had a full debate in this House on a resolution that was an all-party resolution calling upon the Government of Canada to take certain action, Mr. Speaker, in light of the actions of the French authorities in arresting a Newfoundland fishing vessel.

Mr. Speaker, during the course of that debate, we heard some very passionate, fiery speeches by the Premier (Mr. Peckford), by the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Rideout), and, of course, by the Minister of Development (Mr. Barrett), great, highfalutin sounding speeches, Mr. Speaker.

In fact, the Minister of Development in his speech offered to recommend to the Cabinet that he said was meeting later that day that Newfoundland join forces with Ottawa in imposing certain economic sanctions against France because of their actions the day

before.

Mr. Speaker, all of us listened with interest to the speeches and to the content of the resolution feeling pretty good about it, feeling that maybe the resolution would have some effect on our national government. Of course, we felt even better when the government agreed to accept our recommendation that the House would recommend to the provincial government and to all of its agencies that they cease forthwith the conduct of business with companies of French registry for as long as the St. Pierre fishery and boundary dispute remained unsettled.

Mr. Speaker, shortly after that resolution was passed, the Minister of Development announced that the Cabinet, at meeting, I believe, on Friday afternoon, had agreed that the Government of Newfoundland would cancel forthwith the contract entered into with a company that was partly owned by a French registered company.

Lo and behold, Mr. Speaker, a few days later the minister announced that they were not serious. They were now prepared to reconsider and, for a lot of reasons, none of which made any real sense, they withdrew that condition from the resolution, and, thereby, in my opinion, breaking faith with the member of this House and with the people of this Province.

The answers given today to my question to the Deputy Premier, Mr. Speaker, were anything but satisfactory. I must say that the hon. gentleman tried very hard to dance around the question. He tried to make light of it and tried to say the minister could

not be expected to give too many details in the House on the contract.

Mr. Speaker, let me remind the Deputy Premier that in his reply to me on April 21, when I questioned him about the wisdom of Newfoundland entering into that contract, in light of the problems that we are having with the French, and in light of the position that he had taken with respect to having the federal government impose sanctions, his reply to me was quite specific. In fact, he said that \$178,000 of that \$900,000 contract would flow into the hands of the French company. Now, in the House yesterday and again this morning on radio, the minister took an entirely different approach from that taken by him on the 21 April in the House. I might add, Mr. Speaker, subsequent to my questioning of the minister in the House, we questioned him in the Resource Estimates Committee. He repeated what he said in the House that certainly, while a large part of the revenue generated under the contract would go into the hands of Newfoundland companies, but he did repeat what he said, that a large part of it would go into the hands of the French company.

Mr. Speaker, that is a typical example, in my view, and I think most Newfoundlanders now are seeing through the posturing of this government and this Premier, the posturing, the grandstanding, the two-facedness, I suppose, that may be a better word, where in one breath and when it suits their purpose, they get up and they talk about doing certain things, taking on all comers, defending the rights of Newfoundlanders, especially the Newfoundland fishermen and -

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

MR. W. CARTER:
— when the crunch is on, Mr. Speaker, they quietly back away from what they are doing and act like a bunch of pussy cats.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

The hon. the member's time is elapsed.

The hon. the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:
Mr. Speaker, I think we should remember what all of this is about. In a capsule form, there were fishermen on the bottom of the Burin Peninsula who fished for years and years in waters between the Burin Peninsula and the two French islands, and there were French fishermen from the two French islands who fished for years and years in the same waters almost up to the coast of Newfoundland.

That went on, despite all the controversy that was in place between Canada and the France over the boundary issue and over the fishery quota issue. There was no animosity there. There was no interference with operations and there was not even a perception that amicable and mutually beneficial and friendly, I remember it was quite friendly, joint fishing effort went on down there. So friendly that there was quite a bit of intermarriage between the Newfoundland community and the French community on the islands. There was no perception that this would be ever anything other than thus.

Suddenly, the French government

decides, quite out of the blue, to unconsciously and callously interfere with this arrangement. We were presented with that in almost a headline fashion one day a short time ago. So, what was the reaction of the Newfoundland government?

The Newfoundland government said, 'We have got to do something immediately to bring this outlandish action to the attention of our people, to the attention of the people of Canada, to the attention of the people of France, and indeed, to the attention of any reasonable people who are interested in this sort of conduct of international affairs. We have got to do something dramatic, and we have to do something immediate.'

I do not have to tell members of this House that our economy does not relate very strongly to the French economy. We have a very small trade relationship with France. We do not have large levers, but one of the levers that we did have was this particular contract. So we said, 'We have to act immediately, we have to act sharply, and we have to react loudly, and vocally.' So this particular contract was given quick consideration, advice was taken from people who had been involved in okaying the contract and it seemed we could move on this particular issue. So, an announcement was made. But I think that when the announcement was made, and I do not have the words in front of me, but my memory is that we would have to review the impact of this, and the implications of this.

Of course, this was not just a reaction out of, shall we say spite, or anything like that. Our

reaction was aimed at doing something that the French government would notice and would sit up and realize that what they done was not acceptable.

There was not much point doing something if it did no harm to the French. The objective, even though we knew we had limited means, was to somehow or other, wrap the French on the knuckles.

When the contract was looked into, we found that it was not as effective as we had initially thought. As a matter of fact, it turned out to be not effective at all, because all it was going to do was hurt Newfoundland companies and Newfoundland employees. As the hon. Minister of Fisheries said earlier today, not only that, but it also would cost us a lot of money and it would really money down the drain because we were getting no return from it.

So quite sensibly we decided not to proceed with that. The announcement was made in the House, and the hon. Minister of Development corrected some of the information that he had in good faith at the time, out of the information that he had available to him, he corrected some of these statements he made in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I have only got a minute or so, and I just want to point out that this government, not only did it get some benefit from that action - I mean, we got the best of both worlds in some respects because it did catch a lot of attention - but now, having reversed the decision, because we feel the action is really not going to be effective for a long period of time, we have not really lost anything.

I think we get some benefit by taking this action, and the fact that we have now had to reverse it I do not think will take away from the benefit we received.

The thing does not stop there. This government will continue to fight for the rights of Newfoundland fishermen.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

There is just one item that I would like to clear up before calling the next hon. member. Originally the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. Long) was not here when his question was called, so he has forfeited any right to raise it after this particular one but, by leave, he can do so.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
By leave!

MR. SPEAKER:
There was a fourth question here by the hon. member for Port de Grave (Mr. Efford), but I do not think it would be fair at all to call that one. The hon. minister concerned does not know about it and has not had an opportunity to anticipate an answer to it, and I do not think it would be right at all under the circumstances.

MR. TULK:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. TULK:
Mr. Speaker, there is no problem with giving the hon. gentleman leave as long as the time that is taken up with this does not come out of our questions. We would like to remind him that when things are called, he should be in

his seat. I suppose, if we had agreement in this House, we could call the member for Port de Grave's resolution, but we are not going to embark on that. We will forgive the hon. gentleman for once and give him leave, but he should stay in his seat.

MR. SPEAKER:

I would like to point out to the hon. member for Fogo that in our Standing Orders here that not later than five o'clock on any Thursday, the Speaker shall indicate the matters or matters to be raised, and that particular one has not been raised, and I do not think it would be fair.

I will now recognize the second speaker, the hon. the member for Fogo.

MR. TULK:

I will still get my five minutes, I hope.

MR. BUTT:

You do not need five minutes to ask a question, do you?

MR. TULK:

This is not Question Period, this is debate, I tell the hon. gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, this afternoon in Question Period the member for Twillingate and myself raised a number of questions pertaining to the Canada - France agreement and pertaining to the resolution that was passed here, I think it was on May 6, when the Premier came into this House and all parties in this House agreed that there should be trade sanctions levied by the Government of Canada and any economic sanctions that they had should be levied against the Government of France. Indeed, if we were going to ask Canada to do

that, we should, ourselves, set the example. We should, ourselves, take the same kind of action.

That resolution was unanimously passed in this Legislature, and before the Legislature closed, the hon. gentleman, who is the Minister of Development (Mr. Barrett), rose in his place and said that he was going to recommend to Cabinet that there would be a cancellation, not a suspension, not a review, a cancellation of all contracts with companies of French registry.

Mr. Speaker, the company in question this afternoon is registered in Paris. It has its head office in Paris. The House should know that.

MR. DINN:

It is registered here too.

MR. TULK:

And Paris, I say to the member for Pleasantville (Mr. Dinn), is in France. So therefore the company has French registry, so they cannot beg out on that one. I think this is the truth.

The Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Rideout) stood in his place this evening and told us, even after the government had had a Cabinet meeting on this issue, they rushed out of the House at one o'clock on Friday and had a Cabinet meeting, even after a Cabinet meeting, they still were not aware of the fact that certain contracts had been let in regards to this, even after eight or nine months since this contract has been let, they were not even aware of the fact that there has been an expenditure of money.

Mr. Speaker, at worst the

government is covering up; at best the government is incompetent, the whole Cabinet. The Minister of Development should have known before he stood in this House, and before he went to Cabinet and before he made the recommendation to Cabinet, and the whole Cabinet should have known that there had been funds already expended.

Mr. Speaker, for the Minister of Fisheries to stand in his place this afternoon and tell us that they had to put this contract back in place because there had been money spent - and not only that, the member for Twillingate (Mr. W. Carter) some two weeks ago raised the issue with the Minister of Development in this House. That gave him all kinds of opportunities to look and see what was going on in regards to that development.

Mr. Speaker, totally incompetent at best, or posturing at worst in this Legislature. We know how famous this government is for posturing. It is the Premier's word. It was the Premier's word on the Newfoundland Railway after some eight or nine years of this administration telling the people of this Province that Newfoundland should have a railway. The Premier broke down a couple of years ago and said, "Oh, I was only posturing on that, I was only posturing".

I say to this government that its credibility is shaken bad enough now, and Newfoundland's credibility is shaken bad enough with the kind of administration that they have run up to this point. But how bad, how bad, I say to the Minister of Labour (Mr. Blanchard) in all sincerity, how shaken must the credibility of this government be with the

Government of Canada, with the Government of France, and indeed with the people of Newfoundland, the fishermen of this Province?

What kind of credibility must they now have for the Minister of Fisheries to stand in this legislature and say that we went through all this for eight or nine months, we agreed in this House that all the contracts should be cancelled, we then went to Cabinet, I say to the whole twenty-six or twenty-seven of them over there, however many in Cabinet, and nobody, we are told this afternoon, bothered to ask the question, 'Can we cancel this contract?'

Mr. Speaker, my time is up. Surely the Minister of Fisheries, and certainly the Minister of Development, if he is to bring back any credibility to this government, should apologize to the people of Newfoundland, the whole Cabinet.

The Minister of Development, I am tempted to say, and I believe he should, should tender his resignation immediately. Absolutely! Because the credibility of the hon. gentleman has been shaken so severely and the credibility of this Province, indeed, of this country, and this Legislature, that we have placed in jeopardy our whole position in those negotiations.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, just to continue a few remarks on this matter. I think we have to remember that the

hon. members opposite were urging us the whole time to do something that would bring the French to their senses. I do not know but they urged us, a number of times -- I apologize to the hon. member for Bonavista North (Mr. Lush) if I use the word 'urge', but in this particular case I am just reporting what actually happened -- they urged us any number of times to do something that would bring the French to their senses and I think they urged us to actually cancel this particular contract. I think they objected to this contract that we had in place because there was a French partner in the consortium. They said we should not carry on with it. It was either the official Opposition or the NDP. I do not know which, but I think that certainly Opposition members were very much against this contract that we had in place.

When the hon. Minister of Development announced this particular contract, there was a great outcry from the benches opposite. So they are now, themselves, saying, 'What we were advising you to do was a mistake.' Because we did it, they are now saying, 'You should not have done it.'

Mr. Speaker, they are also saying that this was a bit of flip-flop on our part, even though to continue with it would not have hurt the French, it would have hurt Newfoundlanders. They are saying, 'You should have continued with it,' and to do otherwise was a flip-flop.

I cannot quarrel with the knowledge of the Opposition in terms of flip-flops. They are very well used to flip-flops.

For instance, I seem to remember when the official Opposition members had finished kniving their former leader in the back, when he was lying prostrate on the floor with all the knives sticking in his back, the present Leader of the Opposition was asked, 'Are you going to go for the job,' and he said, 'I would not touch that job with a barge pole.' I think those are his exact remarks, 'I would not touch that job with a barge pole.' And here he is! So I mean that is the flip-flop of all time! They may know more about flip-flops than we do.

In any case, if we helped the people of Newfoundland with a flip-flop, we will flip-flop all day long.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. LONG:

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the House Leader of the Liberal Opposition and the Government House Leader by agreeing to give me leave to come back to my question. I just want to take the opportunity to explain my absence.

I was called to the Hansard Office to transcribe the words I had spoken in French and I simply did not have my eye on the clock, Mr. Speaker. So I was doing House business and I make a commitment to do everything I can to not allow such a situation to happen again because members should be in their seats, I agree.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. LONG:

Mr. Speaker, to the question I

wanted to put to the Minister of the Environment and Lands (Mr. Russell) which I was asking yesterday, the issue of the spray programme that the Minister for Forest Resources (Mr. Aylward) announced on Monday, and then yesterday I asked the minister responsible for the protection of the Environment, as I like to say, whether he had received a report from the Pesticide Advisory Board that would have allowed for the Minister of Forest Resources to go ahead and make an announcement about the proportion of fenitrothion to Bt in this Summer's spray.

I must say to the minister, although I did not get an opportunity to have an extended supplementary, I was quite surprised when the minister told me that he had not received a report from the Pesticide Advisory Board. I was aware that they were meeting on Monday and, I believe, they may have even been cluing up on Tuesday.

AN HON. MEMBER:
They met Tuesday.

MR. LONG:
Just Tuesday? I understood they were meeting on Monday but the minister says, no. The minister said it was impossible for him to have received recommendations, or a report, from the Advisory Board before the minister made his announcement on Monday afternoon.

Today, Mr. Speaker, in saying that I am not satisfied with that answer, I would like to put a challenge to the minister and I look forward to a frank response to this issue. I think what we have seen is a very serious issue of the integrity of the environmental review process being

put in question.

I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the integrity of the whole Department of the Environment has been put in question.

I know that the Pesticide Advisory Board does not have full authority to regulate actions of government. It is an advisory board. I think in a real sense we can say it is an agency of government and the Minister for Environment and his department are responsible for the operations of this advisory board. I understand it is a very broadly representative group with individuals from the public, various regions of the Province, a number of specialists and scientists in on the board, and a number of government officials, provincial and federal.

So, Mr. Speaker, given the debate that we have had in the House in the last couple of weeks, even months, on the proposed spray programme for the Summer, the point at which the Pesticide Advisory Board enters the debate within the internal operations of the Department of Environment is obviously a very critical stage in the preparation of the spray programme.

What we have seen is the Minister for Forestry on Monday, late in the day, one can only presume in full anticipation of recommendations to be made by the Pesticide Advisory Board, jumping the gun, pre-empting any public notice of a report or recommendations, and eclipsing, in effect, the environmental review process.

Mr. Speaker, I take this development this week very

seriously. I do not want to try and score political points. I did not, yesterday during Question Period, make any suggestion as to what might be in the report of the Pesticide Advisory Board. There are other suggestions that have been made public about exactly what recommendations were being given to the minister, and the minister said he had not received them. So he was surprised to hear of that.

I would genuinely like to put to the minister that today he is in a position to maintain and protect the integrity of his department, the integrity of this particular board, the Pesticide Advisory Board, all the individuals associated with it, and perhaps, most importantly, Mr. Speaker, the integrity of the environmental review process that this government on occasion is quite proud to speak to in a positive fashion and this minister, in particular, is proud to be responsible for.

I would say to the minister that he must now clarify the position that exists and tell us whether he still maintains the right to reject the issuing of any licences for the spray programme until a full review of the advisory board's report is allowed.

MR. FENWICK:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Environment and Lands.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. RUSSELL:

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that five minutes is not adequate time to

deal with the controversy surrounding the spray programme.

Mr. Speaker, there is a Pesticide Advisory Board which reports to me as the minister. As the hon. member indicated, they do make recommendations. They did meet on Tuesday. There is an issue here that, I think I am compelled to mention. It is not one of whether there should be a spray programme or whether there should a 75 per cent - 25 per cent mix, if you will, but one which concerns me very much is the fact that the Pesticide Advisory Board met on Tuesday and concluded its deliberations late Tuesday afternoon. Wednesday morning, as most of us do, I think, I had a caucus meeting. I happened to get back to the office, I think, about elevenish or eleven thirty, and lo and behold, there was a message there for me to call somebody in the media. I did and I was asked about certain information or recommendations that the Board had made or they alleged that the Board had made in their meeting on Tuesday. The questions were subsequently asked by members of the Opposition. I have no quarrel with that. They can do that. I have no quarrel with that.

But this Board, Mr. Speaker, was appointed in confidence to make recommendations to the minister on this issue and others. Somehow or other some of the information, and the information was correct, by the way. There was a recommendation made that a certain mix be made this year with Bt and fenitrothion. One of their suggestions was that a fifty - fifty mix, as the hon. member mentioned yesterday.

I have some concern though, Mr. Speaker, about that kind of

information somehow or other getting to the media within less than twenty-four hours before it gets on a minister's desk, whether it is my desk or anybody else's desk. I am not quarrelling with the Opposition for asking questions. If they have certain information, that is up to them.

However, Mr. Speaker, I would like to also say that while they do give advice and make recommendations, other pieces of advice have to be sought and other pieces of advice from officials in my department, from officials within the Department of Forest Resources, as it pertains to the spray programme, and one has to weigh, in the end, all the information that one has in order to issue a license or to make a final decision.

Mr. Speaker, whether the mix with fenitrothion or Bt is seventy-five/twenty-five or fifty/fifty is not really the matter, because the license does not specify what the mix will be.

All the license specifies, with sixteen other stipulations, Mr. Speaker, is that the spray blocks to receive Bt treatment only will be identified at a later date through consultations between the Pesticides Control Branch and the Department of Forest Resources. So there is no regulation in the license which gives specifics as to what the mix has to be.

Weighing all the evidence, Mr. Speaker, and with all the information that we had, a license has been issued for a spray programme.

It may be physically impossible this year, as much as we would like, and, I am sure, every member

in this Legislature would like, to increase the percentage, if you will, of Bt.

However, I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that every effort will be made next year and even this year, if we can, to increase the percentage of Bt used in the spray programme.

Thank you.

On motion the House at its rising adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, at 10:00 a.m.

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Answers to Questions

tabled

May 19, 1988

Hanson

8/4
Tabled by Hon. Minister
of P.W. & S. 19 May '85

**Answers to Questions
from the
House of Assembly Order Paper**

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

- a) How much did it cost to move the current Minister of Finance from his former office in Treasury Board to his new office?
- b) How much did it cost for renovations and repairs?
- c) How much did it cost to move his staff?
- d) How many Order-in-Council appointed staff does he have and how much did it cost to move these staff?

36 (a) The current Minister of Finance moved from his former office in Treasury Board which was then located on the 4th floor West Wing of the East Block to the 2nd floor, North Wing. The furniture for these areas was not relocated and only personal files and papers, etc., were moved to the North Wing. This small move was performed by the Department of Public Works & Services maintenance staff and their time involvement would be the only cost. In the near future, the Department of Finance will be relocated to their permanent quarters on the 2nd floor, West Wing and the 3rd floor, East and West Wings.

36 (b) There were no renovation or repair costs associated with the move of the Minister of Finance to the North Wing. Prior to the Minister's moving to his permanent quarters on the 2nd floor, West Wing, it will be necessary to construct two offices for additional staff and make some minor rearrangements. The estimated cost of this work is \$26,000.

36 (c) This question was answered under 36(a). Because the Minister and personal staff did not move their furniture, only personal files, etc., the cost of the move was therefore negligible.

36 (d) As was stated in 36(a) and 36(c), the cost to move the Minister and his personal staff was negligible. As to the numbers of staff that the Minister of Finance has that were appointed under Order-in-Council, this question should more appropriately be addressed to the Minister of Finance.

37. - 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:

- a) How much did it cost to move the current President of Treasury Board from his former office in Forest Resources and Lands to his new office?
- b) How much did it cost for renovations and repairs?
- c) How much did it cost to move his staff?
- d) How many Order-in-Council appointed staff does he have and how much did it cost to move these staff?

- 37 (a) The current President of Treasury Board and his personal staff were initially relocated from the 5th floor, West Block, to the Treasury Board area on the 4th floor, West Wing of the East Block. As furniture was not relocated, the only moves were of personal files, papers, etc. This was performed by the Department of Public Works and Services maintenance staff and the cost was negligible. The cost to move the President of Treasury Board and his personal staff to their permanent quarters located on the 2nd floor, East Wing, is included in the overall cost to move Treasury Board Staff. This cost was \$5,126.75 and it was undertaken by a commercial moving firm.
- 37 (b) There were no renovation or repair costs associated with the initial move of the President of Treasury Board to the 4th floor, West Wing. There were some minor changes involved to the permanent quarters on the 2nd floor, East Wing, to accommodate additional staff members. This work was undertaken at an additional cost of \$5,100.
- 37 (c) This question has been answered in the reply under 37(a).
- 37 (d) As was stated under 37(a), this cost was included in the overall cost of the move for all of the Treasury Board Staff. As to the numbers of staff that the President of Treasury Board has who were appointed under an Order-in-Council, this question should be more appropriately addressed to the President of Treasury Board.

40. - 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:

- a) When the West Block was designed, why was soundproofing not taken into account?
- b) How much will it now cost to soundproof Ministers' offices and other offices which need soundproofing in the West Block?
- c) Will the architects, design consultants or the Government bear the cost of this soundproofing?
- d) Have tenders been called for soundproofing the West Block and, if so, please table the names of those companies that tendered and the amounts of the bids supplied in the tender.

40 (a) The West Block was originally designed and constructed as an open office shell, without specific partition layouts for each department. The emphasis in the design of a partitioning system was to provide for rapid change, while at the same time, reusing the system over and over again. Most modern office buildings are now utilizing such systems.

In the East Block, fixed partitions are used and the partitioning material is destroyed each time a change is made, thereby making the construction process costly and time consuming. During the twenty-eight years since the East Block was opened, very large sums of money have been expended on office renovations; much of this expenditure was for non-reuseable material.

In the West Block, it was considered essential to have a partitioning system that could be modified quickly and efficiently as the need arises. A good example of this capacity for change was the rapid accommodation of the Department of Career Development and Advanced Studies which was created after the partition system was well advanced. These changes were made relatively quickly and efficiently. Since the occupancy of the building some two years ago, many changes have been accommodated with similar efficiency.

The flexible partitioning systems have one drawback in that they cannot be made as resistant to sound transmission as a fixed full-height insulated drywall or concrete block partitions which extend from the floor to the ceiling above.

The specifications for the flexible full-height partitions in the West Block called for a STC (Sound Transmission Criteria) rating of 38. This rating did not provide for the degree of speech privacy required in the executive suites and conference rooms. Subsequently, additional work was required above the ceilings to seal some of the paths for sound transmission. This will provide the speech privacy required in these areas.

- 40 (b) It is estimated that to upgrade the sound privacy of the executive offices and conference rooms of each department in the West Block will be \$250,000.00.
- 40 (c) The Government will bear the cost of this additional sound treatment as this work was not intended to be designed or constructed in the original building until all of the systems had been operational and the locations of the suites and conference rooms fixed.
- 40 (d) The work for sound transmission improvements above the ceiling in the West Block is being carried out by the Department of Public Works and Services Maintenance Staff.

Hansard

Tabled by Min. J.
P. W. & S. 19 May '88

ANSWER TO QUESTION ASKED IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTION #85 - Mr. Gilbert (Burgeon-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:

- (a) How many people currently work on the Minister's staff?
- (b) How many of these persons were appointed by Order-in-Council?
- (c) List each title and salary applied to that title.
- (d) Table a job description for each Order-in-Council appointment.
- (e) Were any of these jobs advertised in order to give the unemployed the chance of applying?

ANSWER:

- (a) Two - Secretary to Minister
- Special Assistant to Minister
- (b) Both appointments were by Order-in-Council
- (c) Secretary to Minister - \$25,785 per annum
Special Assistant to Minister - \$36,354 per annum.
- (d) Job description for Secretary to Minister attached.
There is no formal job description for Special Assistant to Minister.
- (e) These positions were filled at the discretion of the Minister and approved by Orders-in-Council.

PROVINCE OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION: Secretary to Minister (HL 12)
INCUMBENT: Veronica Whittle
DEPARTMENT: Public Works and Services
DIVISION: Administrative
LOCATION: Confederation Building
DATE: September 23, 1985

GENERAL ACCOUNTABILITY

This position is responsible for providing a broad range of secretarial services to the Minister, both with regard to the Department of Public Works and Services and to his District.(Exploits).

STRUCTURE

Reports directly to the Minister and, as a secretarial position, has no reporting staff nor line responsibility.

NATURE AND SCOPE

The Department of Public Works and Services has three main responsibilities -

- (1) it is the building and construction agent of Government;
- (2) it is the purchasing and supply agent for all Government departments;
- (3) it supplies services to other Departments.

There are approximately 600 permanent staff and well in excess of that number during peak periods of the year (construction season).

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- (a) Stenographic service to the Minister, including filing of confidential papers with relation to departmental matters, District matters and, of a highly confidential nature, Cabinet Documents.
- (b) continuous interaction between the Minister, Executive Staff and Senior Management Staff. in that it is often necessary to convey the Minister's wishes on certain activities or functions of the Department. Often necessary to communicate with District Offices of both the Provincial and Federal Governments on matters relating to the Minister's District. The job also requires interaction with other senior secretaries and senior members of Government and staff of the Government Members' Office.
- (c) With regard to the general public, I receive requests for meetings and make judgements about the importance and urgency of these requests and, where required, arrange appointments for these individuals to see the Minister or the appropriate official either within the Department or the responsible Department. In this connection tact and good judgement are required.
- (d) When seasonal employees are assigned to the Minister's Office, I give direction and supervise in the performance of their duties.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES (cont'd)

(e) Apart from the routine aspects of the job, there are quite often, a number of informal duties - such as, the discreet handling of enquiries from the media and inquisitive enquiries from staff members, etc., with regard to matters of a confidential nature. This applies not only to Departmental matters but to Cabinet and District matters as well. Keeping highly confidential documents protected by filing in secure places (Cabinet Documents, etc.)

A special responsibility of this position is to co-operate with the Deputy Minister's Secretary, who works in close physical proximity to me, and to facilitate the unique and dynamic interaction between the Minister's and Deputy Minister's offices.

(f) The challenges of the job are to learn just what the Minister requires with regard to his office and District - the needs and expectations of his District - the needs and expectations of his constituents - and to be able to handle such matters in a tactful and satisfactory manner.

(g) In addition, my job requires that I compose replies to enquiries, etc. on behalf of the Special Assistant to the Minister.

DIMENSIONS

A large percentage of the correspondence handled is of a confidential and sensitive nature. My job requires that I compose routine replies to correspondence for the Minister's signature, particularly with regard to District matters (no dictation usually). This requires considerable knowledge of Federal and Provincial Government Programs, particularly Social Programs, about which a large number of enquiries are received from constituents.

My job also requires that I deal with offices of Ministers and with executive personnel of their Departments. (Arranging meetings - communicating decisions or information in connection with District matters, etc.)

Considerable interaction between Members of the House of Assembly and their office staff is a continual aspect of my job.

SPECIFIC ACCOUNTABILITIES (Special Skills Requires)

The ability to be discreet and to handle all matters connected with the Minister's office in a confidential way.

The ability to treat people with respect and courtesy.

The ability to organize - (e.g. travel plans for Minister and often travel arrangements for those travelling with him. Meetings with Councils, groups and individuals in his District).

To be familiar with the subject matter of the Department (this comes through experience) and to be able to recognize matters of an urgent nature as they arise.

To be able to pass on the Minister's instructions and wishes with regard to Departmental matters without appearing to be overbearing or demanding. This also comes with experience.

Must from day to day relate to the elected Members of the House of Assembly as well as senior Members of Government Departments, Boards and the General Public.

INCUMBENT _____

DATE _____

SUPERVISOR _____

DATE _____

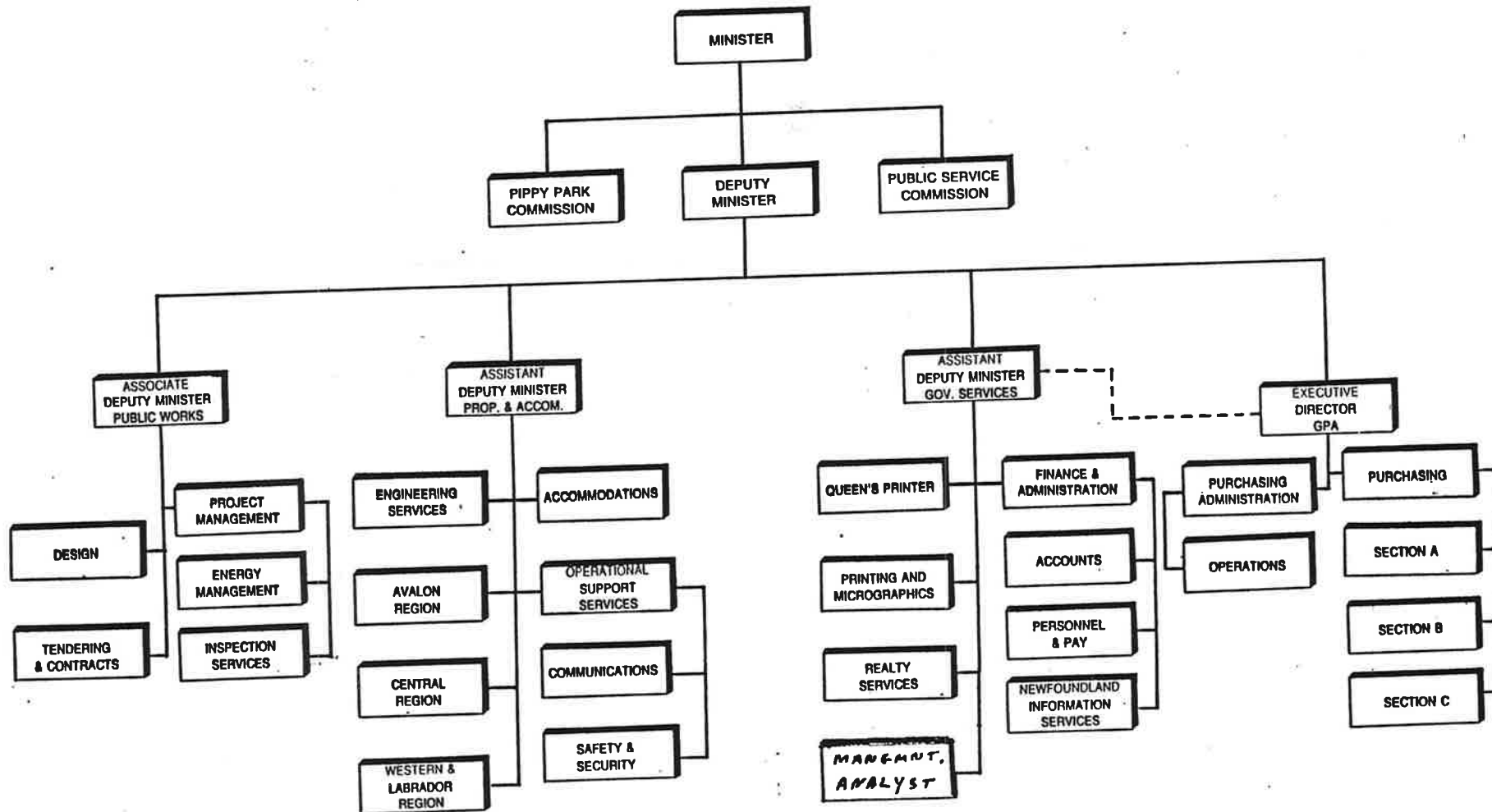
Deputy
Minister or _____

DATE _____

Chief Executive
Officer

Organizational Chart

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SERVICES



Answered Tabled by Mr. J.P. W.S.
19 May '55

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ASKED AT THE ESTIMATES' COMMITTEE:

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SERVICES:

Mr. Gilbert (Burgeon-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. A listing of Agencies required to report under the Public Tender Act.
2. A listing of those Agencies which should have reported but did not.

ANSWER: 1.

Municipalities -

- Cities	2	
- St. John's Metro Board	1	
- Towns	169	
- Local Service Districts	142	
- Communities	<u>141</u>	455
School Boards		35
Post Secondary Educational Institutions		
Universities	1	
Institutes	3	
Community Colleges	<u>5</u>	9
- Non-Government Hospitals		34
- Government Operated Hospitals		6
- Nursing Homes		2
- Government Departments		23
- Government-funded Bodies and Agencies		<u>32</u>
TOTAL: All Groups		<u>596</u>

ANSWER: 2

It is the responsibility of each of the agencies to report only exceptions.

Those agencies which reported exceptions have already been included in the exception reports presented to the House.

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