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Speaker: Honourable P.J. McNicholas

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The House met at 2:00 p.m.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):
Order, please!

Before calling for Statements by Ministers, I promised last week that I would look into the point of order raised by the hon. member for Fogo, and I have done so. I am not satisfied with the research that has been done so far. None of us are satisfied with it. So I am having that matter explored further today, and I hope to have an answer to that matter tomorrow.

I just want to take this opportunity to say to the House that I attended a meeting in Ottawa yesterday at the invitation of the Speaker of the House of Commons. Speakers from all across Canada attended and also federal and provincial members, including the hon. member for St. Barbe (Mr. Furey). Also present were representatives of municipalities from across Canada.

It was the Parliamentary Forum on the Status of Disabled Persons.

It was a really worthwhile meeting. The participants were experts in many fields associated with the handicapped - education, business, transportation, government and many other fields, plus handicapped people themselves who were very vocal and knowledgeable in the deficiencies that exist.

We met at 7:30 in the morning and the meeting went on all day. The message I got was that handicapped people were at the lower end of the economic scale because of a lower level of education and the fault for this was ours, that we are not educating our young handicapped to their full

potential, either because the facilities are not there or they are not sufficiently accessible because of difficulties in getting into buildings, getting proper transport and getting sufficient help.

We were left with no doubt that the living expenses of the handicapped were higher because of their handicap, that they were like you and me except for their handicap which, in some cases, can happen to any of us at any time.

We heard from many well-informed handicapped people on the panel; for example, one, a lawyer from Toronto completely blind, but he got a law degree from Harvard and Osgoode Hall although he was blind beforehand, and another, a Cherokee Indian lady in a wheelchair, who is the administrator of a hospital. We were entertained at the arts centre the night before at a gala performance and most of the entertainers - comedians, singers, musicians were handicapped - all professionals who can more than compete with anyone. Lastly, we had a really moving address at lunch time yesterday from Rick Hansen who spoke to us about his journey around the world in a wheelchair.

It was a really rewarding meeting.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

Statements by Ministers

MR. MATTHEWS:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Minister of Career

Development and Advanced Studies.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Today I am announcing the approval of 311 projects under the Government's Private Sector Employment Programme. These projects, Mr. Speaker, involve a provincial contribution of \$1,688,167 employing 516 regular employees and an additional \$267,406 employing 207 students.

Mr. Speaker, the total funds allocated to date, under The Private Sector Employment Programme, amount to approximately \$4.6 million. Through this funding 1,769 jobs have been created, 403 of which are student positions.

Mr. Speaker, the response to this programme has been excellent. My department has received numerous applications both from businesses who participated in the programme last year as well as new businesses wishing to take part in this 50 per cent wage subsidy programme.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. DECKER:

Mr. Speaker,

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. DECKER:

Mr. Speaker, again the minister is announcing his government's answer to this wrecked economy, this economy which they have brought to its knees. This is their answer to it. They only have 28,000 more jobs to go and then they will have accomplished it.

MR. SIMMS:

What is your answer to it?

MR. DECKER:

Mr. Speaker, as I understand this programme -

MR. BARRETT:

You do not understand it at all.

MR. DECKER:

- the money is supposed to be made available to companies to employ people over and above what they would normally employ. I look at Mount Pearl Confectionery, Mr. Speaker, which has been given 17 people. To me, that seems to be a lot of people for Mount Pearl Confectionery -

MR. BARRETT:

You do not know what you are doing.

MR. DECKER:

- so I wonder if they are surplus to what they would normally hire.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. DECKER:

I look at the company out in Gander, which came up in last week's statement, Weston's Confectionery, who hired 25 people, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER:

All new people.

MR. DECKER:

All new jobs, Mr. Speaker, which is not over and above the -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. DECKER:

I wish those silly interruptions

were not deducted from my time,
Mr. Speaker.

The Motel Mortier, Mr. Speaker,
down in the Minister of Social
Services' district (Mr. Tobin),
have taken on ten people.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. DECKER:
Now, has that motel increased in
size to the extent that they have
to take on ten extra people, Mr.
Speaker?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

The hon. member's time is elapsed.

MR. DECKER:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They
cannot take the heat, can they?

AN HON. MEMBER:
And you cannot take the jobs.

MR. SIMMS:
Nor the heat.

MR. LONG:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. LONG:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We also thank the minister for his
running update on the progress of
the project. I would just ask if
at some point in the next couple
of weeks the minister could come
in with some kind of status report
in terms of the kinds of jobs,
some of the questions we have

addressed in response to the
statements, kinds of training
elements, kinds of student
positions; just bring forward some
more information than the Table
has provided. Although I do
appreciate the minister's efforts
in giving us continuous
information by these tables, we
have many more questions and we
would like it if the minister
could give us a more comprehensive
update within the next couple of
weeks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. DOYLE:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. DOYLE:
Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to
announce to the hon. House today
an additional list of projects
valued at \$11.9 million dollars to
be publicly tendered --

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. DINN:
What a man, \$11.9 million!

MR. DOYLE:
-- by my department over the next
few weeks for highway paving and
improvements. Mr. Speaker, these
transportation improvement
projects will be carried out
during the 1988 construction
season. They will be funded
entirely by the Province under my
department's road and bridge
rehabilitation, improvement
programme.

The projects to be tendered are as
follows:

Baie Verte - White Bay: Paving 4
kilometres of Westport road and 4

kilometres of Burlington road.

Bellevue: Continuation of paving between Long Cove and Thornlea; paving approximately 3 kilometres of Route 204 from Little Hearts Ease to Southport.

Bonavista North: Upgrading 2 kilometre section of Greenspond road.

Burgeo-Bay D'Espoir: Upgrading of walkways through the Town of McCallum.

Burin-Placentia West: Paving 5.1 kilometres of Route 221-15 from Salmonier to Mortier; paving approximately 3 kilometres of the Salt Pond to Winterland road and 1 kilometre of local road in Jean d'Baie.

Carbonear: Paving approximately 5.3 kilometres of roads in the communities of Lower Island Cove, Gull Island, Northern Bay, Ochre Pit Cove, Western Bay and Kingston.

Conception Bay South: Four-laning of Topsail Road from Donovans Overpass towards Paradise.

Grand Bank: Resurfacing of approximately 8 kilometres of Route 210 between Grand Bank and Fortune and from end of previous resurfacing near Fortune towards Point May.

Harbour Grace: Resurfacing of 1.6 kilometres of Bryants Cove road and 2.0 kilometres of Cranes road, Upper Island Cove and miscellaneous resurfacing on Bishops Cove Road.

Humber East: Upgrading and paving of Massey Drive.

LaPoile: Resurfacing approximately 8 kilometres of

Route 70 from the end of present resurfacing near Rose Blanche towards Burnt Islands and Diamond Cove Road.

Lewisporte: Complete paving of Norris Arm North Access road approximately 5.5 kilometres.

Mt. Scio-Bell Island: Resurfacing 3.4 kilometres of Davidson Avenue, Ten Commandments Range, No. 2 road and Memorial Drive on Bell Island.

Naskaupi: Repairs to washouts and grading of the Freedom road between Goose Bay and Churchill Falls.

Placentia: Resurfacing approximately 5.1 kilometres of the Access road to Southern Harbour from the TCH; upgrading and paving approximately 3 kilometres of Fairhaven road.

St. George's: Resurfacing approximately 4.3 kilometres of Route 407 in the Codroy area; resurfacing approximately 2.0 kilometres of Route 405-11 from the end of present resurfacing near St. Fintan's towards St. David's; resurfacing approximately 2.0 kilometres of Route 461 through Barachois Brook and Resurfacing 4.2 kilometres St. Theresa's and 0.8 kilometres Flat Bay Roads.

Terra Nova: Paving 4.7 kilometres of road from Bunyan's Cove towards Musgravetown, paving 9.5 kilometres of road from Lethbridge to Jamestown and 1.4 kilometres of Cannings Cove Road; paving 2.5 kilometres of road from Traytown to Cull's Harbour.

Trinity - Bay de Verde: Upgrading and paving of approximately 3.8 kilometres of Route 80 from Hant's Harbour toward New Chelsea and

upgrading three local roads.

Trinity North: Paving 5 kilometres of road from Bonaventure towards Trouty.

Mr. Speaker, the above named projects represent approximately 30 per cent of my department's provincially funded roads programme. This, combined with my earlier statement to the House, will result in expenditures of some \$26.25 million which represent approximately 65 per cent of our \$40 million roads programme.

Mr. Speaker, the process of tendering transportation construction projects as early as possible has worked very well, resulting in most projects being completed within the construction season. This procedure permits the construction industry lead time to make plans for the upcoming construction season.

I would like to remind the hon. House that it is most difficult to address all of our transportation requirements on an immediate basis, but I feel much progress is being made. Many significant improvements have been made to the transportation infrastructure in practically every region of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The \$11.9 million in improvement projects I have announced today combined with my earlier announcement of \$14.3 million and the \$29.4 million worth of projects announced under the federal/provincial ERDA agreement will address several of the problem areas in the Province's transportation network. These construction projects will allow us to continue the steady progress we have made in creating a safer

and a more efficient highway transportation system in the Province.

Mr. Speaker, next week we will be announcing some additional projects which will be the final amount of the \$40 million package.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. GILBERT:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. GILBERT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The minister, by reading out the statement, once again confirmed what the Auditor General said initially, that the department did not have any guidelines or procedures in place for dispensing this \$40 million government spends every year. Just to give you a little example: I think a very quick random count said there were 89 kilometres of road in total in this out of which 7.4 kilometres are in Liberal districts. So there would seem to be something a little bit out of whack with the overall agreement as far as roads are concerned in this Province.

I can assure you there are roads in Liberal districts as much in need of paving as those in government districts, but it just does not seem to be done that way. I have pointed out from time to time in this House what the situation is, and it is a situation I think the people of Newfoundland are aware of. They know they cannot be bought with this sort of bribe, with this sort of operation that is going on here. It is a disgrace to have to stand up and talk about this and say this to the people of Newfoundland who are subjected to

this form of government. To me it is ridiculous that we have a programme handled this way.

We are looking forward to the other \$11 million the minister will no doubt announce within the next few days, and I would imagine that it will have the same sense of fairness to it that the other two announcements he made had.

Mr. Speaker, it is ridiculous to think that they would have the face to stand in this House and say they are treating the people of Newfoundland equally; the tax dollars being collected in Newfoundland are certainly not distributed on a fair and equal basis.

MR. FENWICK:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. FENWICK:
We would appreciate in future if the Minister of Transportation would remember us when he is handing out Ministerial Statements; we just managed to get a copy when it was being generally delivered.

We really do not have any comments to make, because we would like to see 100 per cent of the allocations before we make any judgements on it. Of course, if it is consistent with what has been done in previous years, it is usually badly biased anyway. But we will wait until we see the total allocations before we make any judgements on it.

MR. BUTT:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. BUTT:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As Minister responsible for Amateur Sport, it is my great pleasure to extend congratulations on behalf of the government and people of Newfoundland and Labrador to Mrs. Barbara Ryan of Manuels, Conception Bay South, a gracious lady and a superb volunteer, the new President of the Canadian Figure Skating Association.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. BUTT:
A dear friend of mine, I might add. Barbara was elected to the position by acclamation at the Association's annual meeting in Penticton, British Columbia, May 28, 1988.

Barbara is the first Newfoundlander to occupy the Presidency of the Canadian Figure Skating Association.

Her background in the sport is long and impressive, from her involvement with the Prince of Wales Figure Skating Club in St. John's to her position as team leader of the Canadian Figure Skating contingent at the 1988 World Championships in Budapest, Hungary. Barbara has figured in numerous provincial, national and international figure skating events, including the 1984 World Winter Olympics in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia and always at the volunteer level.

Mr. Speaker, her goals are to work with volunteers and staff of the Association to make figure skating

Canada's premier recreation athletic activity, to continue to attract volunteers to see the creation of a National Figure Skating Museum. I have no doubt that Barbara Ryan will succeed in accomplishing her objectives.

Barbara Ryan is to be commended for her outstanding accomplishments over the years, and her election to the Presidency of the Canadian Figure Skating Association will, undoubtedly, have a positive impact on figure skating in our Province, Mr. Speaker, and, indeed, our entire country.

I am sure all hon. members of the House will join with me in a joint message of congratulations to be sent to Barbara Ryan, President of the Canadian Amateur Figure Skating Association. Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. HISCOCK:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Eagle River.

MR. HISCOCK:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We, on this side of the House, would like to join with the government in congratulating Barbara Ryan of Manuels on being elected, by acclamation, President of the Canadian Figure Skating Association. The President, Barbara Ryan, has done a lot in the Province already, as was pointed out, and I am sure she will continue to contribute on a national basis.

The member for Stephenville (Mr.

K. Aylward) informs me that Dwayne Power, of Stephenville, is now training with the national figure skating team because of the many volunteers like Barbara Ryan, I am sure. Figure skating is a great expense to parents I might say to this hon. House. On behalf of the volunteers and the people of this Province, we do congratulate her. We are not surprised that Newfoundlanders and Labradorians rise to this status in Canada, and we look forward to seeing young men and women achieve national standard and then go on to the olympics. We ask that government continue to support them financially as well as morally helping them, not only in figure skating but in other amateur sports in this Province. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. LONG:

The minister is right. We are pleased to join all hon. members, all parties together, to send a message of congratulations.

MR. SPEAKER:

At this stage I would like to welcome to the galleries twelve students from Grade V to Level I with their teachers, Judy and Kenneth Dwyer, from the all grade school in Grand Bruit.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

Oral Questions

MR. WELLS:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. WELLS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the hon. the Premier. I would like to ask him if he would advise the House whether or not the government is considering conducting a plebiscite in this Province as to the acceptability of the government's proposal for the discontinuance of the railway in Newfoundland?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

Mr. Speaker, the answer is no.

MR. WELLS:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. WELLS:

Has the government had any discussions with the federal government about the conduct of such a plebiscite or the terms and conditions under which the railway might be discontinued?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

The answer to the first part of the question is no. I do not know about the other discussions we had. We talked years ago about the whole question of the Terms of Union of where that fitted into the situation, but our legal advisors and others,

constitutional advisors, tell us that we do not have a very strong constitutional or legal position as it relates to it, as a result of the Terms of Union which only said that CN at the time would take over the railway, and did not say anything about how long they would have to maintain it. Of course, Terra Nova Tel is in the same boat.

MR. BAKER:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Gander.

MR. BAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

A question to the Premier: For months now the Premier has been the sole spokesman for the Sprung greenhouse, all information and disinformation that has come out about this project. He has been the cucumber supersalesman, no doubt about it. Yesterday we witnessed the embarrassing spectacle of the Premier running for cover, refusing to answer questions -

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

The hon. member should pose his question.

MR. BAKER:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. I understand. I am laying a good groundwork here.

Would the Premier -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

You are out of order!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. BAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Is the Premier trying to disassociate and distance himself from this project because he realizes what an unmitigated political disaster it has become, or can he not take the heat any more?

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:
Mr. Speaker, the answer to that question is, yes, I can take the heat some more.

MR. BAKER:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
A supplementary.

MR. BAKER:
Does the Premier realize the fact that since we are a 50 per cent owner in the project, his refusal to answer questions shows complete disdain for this House? Does he realize that now is the time to tell the truth about this project? When is he going to answer some questions?

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:
There are two or three questions there. One is no, another is maybe, and the third answer is we support research, development and innovation in our Province and will continue to do so.

MR. BAKER:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
A final supplementary.

MR. BAKER:

Will the Premier undertake to have answers provided to this list of very important questions which I now table?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Table Clyde's salary!

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

MR. GILBERT:
Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Doyle). I wonder is the minister aware that the Ramea, Burgeo, Grey River Ferry Commission has lost its three members from the Ramea area?

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

MR. DOYLE:
Yes, Mr. Speaker. I was made aware of that just a couple of days ago, as a matter of fact, when a letter came to my office advising that the ferry committee had resigned. We had not received any prior notice from the committee that they had intended to do this, but we did receive a letter a couple of days ago informing us of that move.

MR. GILBERT:
A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. GILBERT:
It is all very well for the members to laugh! Does the minister know what caused these three members to resign?

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Minister of

Transportation.

MR. DOYLE:

Mr. Speaker, the committee outlined personal reasons for tendering their resignation. They felt that they did not want to continue in that capacity anymore. I instructed my officials to contact them a couple of days ago, and to ask them to come in for a meeting. I think that is in progress, Mr. Speaker.

MR. GILBERT:

A final supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER:

A final supplementary.

MR. GILBERT:

What does the minister do to replace those members who have resigned?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Transportation.

MR. DOYLE:

Mr. Speaker, this is a ferry committee that was put in place to monitor the activities of the transportation system in the area. I would assume that the community will take steps to put in place another ferry committee to do what the previous committee had been doing, and hopefully that will be done.

MR. LUSH:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Bonavista North.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. LUSH:

I thank hon. members, Mr. Speaker.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

A point of order, the hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:

We would just like it acknowledged that our pressure on the Leader of the Opposition has made it possible for the member for Bonavista North to get a question in.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

There is no point of order.

The hon. the member for Bonavista North.

MR. LUSH:

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Brett). It is prompted by the smattering of announcements we have been hearing in the last couple of days, re: capital works projects for municipalities throughout the Province, the latest one being an announcement today by the media of \$3 million, one-eighth of the budget, for the town of Conception Bay South.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. LUSH:

My question, therefore, to the minister is: Can he indicate to this House and to the public of Newfoundland what is the status of the capital works projects of his department? What is the present status? Have members opposite being notified? Are they public for them and not public for the

rest of the people of this Province?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. BRETT:

Mr. Speaker, the capital works projects for the department will be tabled on Thursday or Friday, and hon. members on both sides of the House will be notified, and everybody else will be notified by that time.

MR. LUSH:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. LUSH:

Mr. Speaker, my supplementary to the minister is this: Is he not allowing his authority to be eroded by allowing Cabinet ministers and backbenchers to announce outside of this House, thus doing a great discourtesy to the members of this House and a great discourtesy to the public of this Province? Would he not admit that his authority and influence are being eroded?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

MR. BRETT:

No, Mr. Speaker. The answer is no.

MR. FENWICK:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Menihek.

MR. FENWICK:

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries (Mr.

Rideout). It has to do with comments made by the Chairman of FPI yesterday when he indicated that FPI was expanding into the Northern Pacific to catch Alaskan pollack and going into the Gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi Delta in order to expand its fishing enterprises.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. FENWICK:

My question, Mr. Speaker, is: Since we now have three or four of our own plants which FPI sloughed off several years ago, despite our objections, going begging, what plans does the minister have to make sure that FPI, which was heavily subsidized in the past by our efforts and by our funds, clean up the mess they created in our own Province before they go trying to set up new centers to make profits with the money they have already made in this Province?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Mr. Speaker, that is about what you would expect from the Socialists -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:

who want to make sure, Mr. Speaker, that no business, whatever its size, of any magnitude, survives ever in this Province. That is the Socialist philosophy, Mr. Speaker.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let me also say to the hon. gentlemen that the

expansion of FPI into Alaskan pollack, or other fisheries of the world, Mr. Speaker, has nothing to do with a plant in St. Lawrence or a plant in Port aux Basques. Nothing! Absolutely nothing! That is new fisheries, new development of underutilized species in other parts of the world that this company, or any other company may wish, at some point in the future, to take advantage of. And the mess, Mr. Speaker, that the hon. gentleman's talks about is a mess that has created 8,600 jobs in this Province, 8,600 well-paying jobs in this Province, that has seen, Mr. Speaker, plants in Grand Bank, Ramea, Burin and Gaultois that were suppose to be shut down saved. That is the mess, Mr. Speaker, that has been created!

MR. FENWICK:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. the member for Menihek.

MR. FENWICK:

Mr. Speaker, my supplementary to the Minister of Fisheries is this: Would the minister not admit that the \$80 million or so in profits that FPI has picked up over the last couple of years are actually being used now to develop fisheries in other parts of the country and in other parts of the world at the expense of the plants that they have dropped in St. Lawrence? And what is he going to tell to the people of St. Lawrence, the people of Lawn, the people of Port aux Basques and other parts of the Province who have been left in a lurch as the result of the irresponsible actions of this private company?

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Mr. Speaker, the \$80-something million that FPI has legitimately earned by good business practices in the marketplace over the last several years are being reinvested into new trawlers built in Marystown, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:

It has been, Mr. Speaker, reinvested in expansions to new plants, the plant out in Bonavista, for example, several millions of dollars. It is reinvested in the secondary processing plant in Burin. It is reinvested in the plant out in Triton and the plant up in Port au Choix. That is what is happening with FPI, Mr. Speaker. Dynamic, progressive, a Newfoundland success story that the Socialists cannot stand, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. FENWICK:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A final supplementary.

MR. FENWICK:

A final supplementary from the Socialists in this corner, Mr. Speaker. The final supplementary is this: Will the minister tell us what levers he has left to force FPI to live up to its responsibility with regard to the

four plants that he disposed of to operations that have obviously not been successful and have now put them back up for sale? Does he have any levers left in order to force them to live up to their obligations?

MR. RIDEOUT:
Mr. Speaker,

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

MR. RIDEOUT:
Mr. Speaker, what a foolish Socialistic question! What levers, Mr. Speaker, does the Minister of Fisheries have left to deal with the plant disposed out in Twillingate? What levers does the Minister of Fisheries have to deal with plants in Bide Arm, Englee or Flowers Cove? Too foolish a question, Mr. Speaker, to even try to respond to.

MR. TULK:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. TULK:
Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries.

The minister said yesterday that the provincial government is sympathetic to the efforts of the Fish Aid Development Agency to get funds, but he also said they cannot carry the organization alone. I would like to ask the minister what representation has the government made to the federal government to get funds from the federal government, as he indicated yesterday that they had, and why is the federal government refusing that aid?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. RIDEOUT:
Mr. Speaker, on the second part of that question I have no idea why the federal government, through CEIC or some other presently existing programme, is refusing to fund FADA. I have no idea. That is their decision. I have heard rumors, I have heard gossip, but I do not know what the final thinking is.

On the first part of the question, Mr. Speaker, we have made numerous representations over the last several months. There has been representation in writing, there has been representation verbally. We have done it in the presence of some of the officers of FADA and we have done it on our own besides that. So there have been numerous representations made by us on behalf of FADA to the government of Canada supporting their request for funding.

MR. TULK:
A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. TULK:
Mr. Speaker, I wonder would the Minister of Fisheries table any correspondence that he might have had or any results of meetings that he might have had? I also ask him if he is aware that there might be some group, whether it is a Cabinet minister from Newfoundland, whether it is a MP from Newfoundland that might be opposed to this funding of this organization? And would he also perhaps tell us what their rationale might be? As the Minister of Fisheries I would expect him, obviously, to know.

MR. RIDEOUT:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. RIDEOUT:
Mr. Speaker, I have just finished telling the hon. gentleman that I have no idea why funding has been rejected by Ottawa. I can say to this House, and can say without fear of contradiction anywhere in this Province, that we as a government have supported the agency. We have supported it in writing and verbally in its attempts to get funding out of Ottawa. And not only that, Mr. Speaker, but when they had no other funding so far, to this day, it has been the government of this Province that has carried the organization financially.

MR. TULK:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. TULK:
Mr. Speaker, I am not quarrelling with the provincial government's input into that organization at all; of course, if they can put more in then I would expect them to put more in. I am not quarelling with the hon. gentleman at all in that regard, but I would like to ask him, as the Minister of Fisheries responsible for Newfoundland, would he attempt to find out from the federal government who or what organization or what Cabinet minister, in Ottawa or wherever, is trying to subvert his attempts to get funding from the federal government for this organization? I have no quarrel with the hon. gentleman's work as a provincial

minister, but I am asking him to go to his federal counterpart and find out what is happening up there.

MR. RIDEOUT:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. RIDEOUT:
Mr. Speaker, first of all, of course, I never take as gospel truth any allegations or assertions that the hon. gentleman makes from time to time in the House. But if the hon. gentleman would like an answer to that question, then I would assume that Mr. Foley is very approachable.

MR. EFFORD:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. EFFORD:
Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health (Dr. Collins) and is, again, in relation to the desperate situation in our hospitals across the Province. The minister finally admitted that one of the solutions that could be taken in relation to curing the problem at the hospitals is the number of acute beds occupied by long-term patients. The minister said that in a recent statement, just on the weekend.

I would ask the Minister of Health: Now that he has stated publicly that increasing the number of beds is a way of curing the problem, is his government now going to provide money to build more senior citizens' homes to take care of long-term patients who are presently occupying beds

in hospitals?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, we are doing that on a progressive basis. I think at the present time there are something like 2,000 beds for level 2 and level 3 residents who need nursing care in the Province. In the last year or so we have added, I think, another 248. We are continuing that planning exercise.

In addition to that - and I think that this is an area that we have to develop more and more - we are in a very active planning mode in regard to improving home care services and community care services. I think in our visitations around the Province, the operators of the various nursing homes agreed with us - we did not sort of get this out of them in any sort of argumentative way; they volunteered it in many respects - that some of the residents admitted could really have been kept home if there had been adequate development of home care and community services around the Province. We are actively working towards that end.

MR. EFFORD:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. the member for Port de Grave.

MR. EFFORD:

Mr. Speaker, it is quite obvious that the Minister of Health does not understand that what he has been doing in the past is not working and he is going to have to escalate it to make it work in the future.

In light of another statement that the minister made concerning small hospitals around the Island, that there are too many beds opening in our small hospitals, is he telling us, for example, on the Burin Peninsula, where there are three hospitals, that the beds are going to be closed, or that two of those hospitals are going to be closed and just one used on the Burin Peninsula, and the same with other places on the Island? Is that what the minister is saying?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, government's policy on that is absolutely crystal clear and it has been stated about a dozen times. We have decided to put on the Burin Peninsula an up-to-date, efficient, effective, well-equipped, regional hospital. That will be opened on a progressive basis over the next number of months.

Now, prior to that, there were smaller hospitals there that date back thirty and forty years, and time has passed on since that time. So what we have said is that we are going to offer the people down there modern day hospital care, and we are going to leave it up to the people - which is the proper thing to do, and it is done in every part of the Province - to use that facility to the extent that they wish to use if for their own needs. I think that everyone will agree with that, and the people on the Burin Peninsula have indicated, without any shadow of a doubt, they are most pleased to have this modern facility made available to them. The only other equivalent facility of that nature available to them, up until very recently, was here in St.

John's. In the last few years they could also go to Clarendville, which is a newly opened hospital, which we have provided for that area also.

But they are most pleased to have this extra, up-to-date facility available to them. No one is going to force them to use it but everyone expects, because of the attitude they are taking toward it, that it will be progressively used by the people on the Peninsula. What happens to the smaller institutions that are there now is for government to decide. We will not waste those resources. They are still valuable assets to this Province and we will not waste those assets and not waste the expertise and the dedication of the people who are working in those present facilities.

MR. EFFORD:

A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A final supplementary.

MR. EFFORD:

The MHA for the area says the hospitals are not going to close but the minister says they are going to close.

MR. SIMMS:

He did not say they were going to close.

MR. DINN:

Why do you not open your ears, boy?

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. EFFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I had milk for lunch. I wonder if the members on the other side drank apple juice? They seem to be very hyper this

afternoon.

I ask does the minister agree with the statement Dr. Young made that the reason beds close during the Summer months are because of budget cuts and not what the minister has been saying, that it is because people do not go into hospital in Summer? Is Dr. Young correct, or is the minister still saying what he has been saying is correct, that they close because people do not go into hospital?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, I wish that these words would not be bandied about. There are no cuts in the funding to hospital operations in this Province. I spoke to the NMA at the weekend, and there was no question of their not accepting my word on it because they fully agreed on it and I pointed out to them that over the last ten years there are between 2 1/2 to 3 times the amount of funding going into MCP and our hospitals, -- and this is the area where doctors work, in MCP and hospitals -- as there has been of a general increase in our current accounts. In other words, we are putting 2 1/2 to 3 times the funding in there as there is a general increase in our current accounts. In other words we are putting 2 1/2 to 3 times the amount of money in those two vital areas for medical services than we are doing on the general basis for all government services. Now, what Dr. Young says I am not responsible for. I think you could probably pick sentences out of any speech and say that this is the main message in that speech. Dr. Young is a very reasonable and very responsible physician, and he will say a number of things but he

does not take a single narrow view of things. Sure, he says we would like to have more money in the health care system, but he also says that we have a lot of new technology, we have a lot of development that we have done and more we have to do, that we have certain difficulties in getting nursing staff at certain times of the year, but Dr. Young has taken a very broad and a very sensible view of this whole situation.

MR. EFFORD:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. DECKER:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
I understood that was a final supplementary.

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

MR. DECKER:
Mr. Speaker, my question is to the hon. the Minister of Education.

The minister will know about the incident where some education experts resigned from a provincial advisory committee because the choice of a new math course was in their words, not based on 'rational reasons'. Will the minister tell the House what terms of reference were used, when he decided which math course to accept, if the decision was not a rational decision, as those educators say?

MR. LONG:
He read *The Sunday Express*.

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

MR. HEARN:
Mr. Speaker, let me say two

things: Firstly, perhaps the hon. the member for St. John's East (Mr. Long) should have stayed in his wheelchair and he would have gotten more sympathy. Secondly, it seems, listening to the first question today from the hon. the Leader of the Opposition and now this one, that the members opposite got *The Sunday Express* a day late, because these were questions we usually get on Monday, since both topics were covered in the paper.

MR. BAKER:
Answer the question.

MR. HEARN:
The answer to the question -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Oh, oh!

MR. TOBIN:
Listen to Harry's young fellow.

MR. HEARN:
It is very simple. The members of a primary-elementary curriculum committee resigned, not an advisory committee to the minister or any such thing, although we have a general advisory committee made up of representatives from the different agencies. This was a committee on mathematics selecting a new course. There was a tied vote on the decision of two different companies. The Curriculum Consultant, who cast a tying vote actually, was in favour of the new text, *The Math Quest*, that many educators in the field favour. So to make sure that the correct text was selected for the people who use it and the students in the field, we surveyed a number of math co-ordinators and teachers in the field, and the decision was practically unanimous. I understand unanimous from the field, that the Addison Wesley

text, the one selected, was by far the better text. In fact I heard an educator yesterday morning being interviewed on CBC radio and he referred to it as an exceptionally good text.

So when there was a tied decision, we took our guidance from the field, the people who use it and the people who will benefit from it. Certainly I could list, but I will not take the time of the House to do it, about ten reasons given why it is a far superior text than the ones that some of the other members of the committee thought might be the one that we should use.

MR. DECKER:
A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. DECKER:
It is too bad the minister did not read The Sunday Express article himself. He would have known it was unanimous when the final report came in.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Oh, oh!

MR. TOBIN:
Mr. Speaker, he is some boring.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Speak up! Speak up!

MR. DECKER:
I am not blessed with a strong voice, Mr. Speaker. So if the hon. people want to hear me they are just going to have to be still, because I do not have the strength to yell.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. DECKER:
Has the minister met with the two educational experts to ascertain what the problems were, to see whether or not there is a genuine reason? Because this is a serious matter. It might just be a squabble, sure. But when we are dealing with the education of our children, I think --

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

MR. DECKER:
I ask the minister: Has the minister met with those educational experts to see if it is not just a squabble, or if there was a legitimate reason for their actions?

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

MR. HEARN:
Mr. Speaker, we have in our department a number of curriculum committees, committees made up of the curriculum consultants in the various areas and also teachers from the field, some people who work, perhaps, at the board level, many of them classroom teachers, who are selected in their field of expertise to make up the committees, to make selections, to recommend texts, and, in some cases, to develop curriculum material. When there is a dispute as to which text is better, then they themselves decide, or we try to find some other method of ascertaining which is the correct one.

In this case, some of the reasons given by the people in the field, the people who will use this text ultimately for the children are: The geometry and measurement are

superior; the scope and sequence of whole numbers and decimals are more appropriate; concept development is superior; emphasis on computation reflects current trends; estimation is superior; there is a parallel translation in French for French immersion, which was not there with the other one; the design and physical aspects of the text is superior; teachers addition provides a wide range of ideas; and the attitude of the students towards mathematics was more positive in the math quest pilot schools.

The evaluation techniques that were used from the field were written reports, rating instruments, teleconferences, and visitation by the mathematics consultants. Twenty schools were piloted with both those texts, approximately 275 teachers, K to VI, approximately 6,000 students, and they were the ones who suggested the math quest pilot series was by far superior to the other ones.

To answer the other part of the question, have I met with them, we have curriculum committees that deal with our consultants. I have not been asked to meet with them. It was handled by the curriculum division, as it should. They made the decision as they are supposed to do.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

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

MR. SPEAKER:
A final supplementary, the hon. the member for the Strait of Belle Isle.

MR. DECKER:

Mr. Speaker, it is not necessary for the minister to read The Education Act.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

MR. DECKER:
I ask the minister: Is he absolutely satisfied that there is no problem here, that the parents of this Province can relax, there is no concern, there is no problem? "Everything is under control," as Gen. Haig said, as he was in charge when the President was shot.

Is the minister satisfied that he is in control, there is nothing to worry about, everything is perfect? Can the people of Newfoundland rest assured that the minister is satisfied with what happened with this math problem?

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

MR. HEARN:
Mr. Speaker, if I were taking the word of, say, two people against two people who were tied up in this dispute here, I would have some concern, you know, all of them being very, very intelligent people, people who have a lot of experience in this field and consequently it might be hard to decide or determine which group would have the correct choice made. What helped us make our choice, and why I feel quite certain that everything is aboveboard and reasonable and proper, is the fact that the ultimate test was by the people in the field who use the text, the students and the teachers, and their choice is clear-cut. Consequently, we fully accept that because it is also the choice of our own professional people who

are responsible for developing such curriculum.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

The time for oral questions has elapsed.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

I would like at this stage to welcome to the galleries forty-four Grade VII students with their teachers, Melvin Moulton and Gilbert Tulk, from Glovertown Regional High School.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

Notices of Motion

PREMIER PECKFORD:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD:
Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Consumer Affairs and Communications I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill entitled, "An Act To Revise And Consolidate The Law Respecting Tenancies Of Residential Premises."

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMS:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Minister of Finance I give notice that I will on tomorrow move that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider certain resolutions relating to the raising of loans by the Province, and I give a further notice that I will on tomorrow move that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole on Supply to consider certain resolutions for the granting of Supplementary Supply to Her Majesty.

Answers to Questions for which Notice has been Given

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

MR. MATTHEWS:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would just like to inform hon. members, as a result of a question by the member for Bonavista North yesterday, that I have been checking into the concern - I do not want to bring forward the name of the particular student. I thought at the time, with the question asked by the hon. member, that there were problems directly related to the bankruptcy of Harbinger School. But, upon checking, I found that the student, in essence, withdrew twelve weeks after entering the programme for personal reasons. Indeed, the student did have a student loan of \$5,250. The student paid \$3,350 in tuition fees to Harbinger. Since she only completed twelve weeks of the course, the tuition fee directly owed amounted to \$1,603.53. From what we can determine, Harbinger should have refunded \$1,746.47 to

the student. However, it is our understanding this amount was never refunded, even though the year end report of the school indicated to our department that the amount had been paid. The student, as well, is entitled to \$840.00 in deferred provincial grants which can be applied and will be applied to reduce the amount of the Canada Student Loan from \$5,250 to \$4,410.

So the status is, yes, the student did receive a Canada Student Loan for \$5,250, paid \$3,350 to Harbinger School of Business, received training valued at \$1,603.53, and had \$1,900 for personal expenses while a student.

By the way, she did receive that. There was some question yesterday as to whether or not the student actually did get her hands on any money at all, but there was \$1,900 that she did actually receive. She is eligible to have that loan reduced by \$840 under the deferred grant through student aid, and, I guess, is considered to be in credit or owed \$1,746.47 by Harbinger School of Business. That is the situation now. I am pursuing it a bit further about her particular case, but as well to try to determine how many others there are who might be in the same boat.

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

MR. HEARN:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have the answer to a question from the hon. the member for the Strait of Belle Isle (Mr. Decker). How many people are currently working in my office and so on? The answer is three, two secretaries, and an executive

assistant. One was appointed by Order-in-Council, the executive assistant. Both secretaries are career public servants with eighteen years and thirteen years respectively. They were there long before I came and undoubtedly will be there long after I exit.

MR. R. AYLWARD:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Minister of Forest Resources.

MR. R. AYLWARD:
Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. the member for the Strait of Belle Isle asked me a question on the hiring of forest fires in the Roddickton area. I have a few notes here, just to inform the hon. member. Each region decides when the forest fires are to be hired on. It depends entirely on the weather conditions in that area.

AN HON. MEMBER:
Firefighters.

MR. R. AYLWARD:
Forest firefighters? What did I say?

AN HON. MEMBER:
Forest fires.

MR. R. AYLWARD:
I am sorry about that.

The date they are hired, Mr. Speaker, depends on the weather conditions in the area. We have some indications there is still snow in some of the woods around Roddickton. So it is not critical we hire them on now. We want to make sure we have enough time at the end of the season because in the Northern section of our Province, around September and

Labour Day Weekend, we often have what we consider a fire hazard area.

It was mentioned there was a fire in 1986 before we had our people hired on and that is correct, Mr. Speaker. But the day the fire occurred, our permanent staff and people we hired that day put the fire out. The fire occurred from the operations of a sawmill at the time which was burning sawdust and it got into a small cutover. When it hit the snow in the woods, Mr. Speaker, it went out fairly quickly.

In the history of hiring in that area, Mr. Speaker, in 1984, June 18; 1985, June 26; 1986, May 28; and 1987, May 27. Mr. Speaker, this year we will have them on at least by June 15, and if necessary, before that.

Petitions

MR. GILBERT:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. GILBERT:
Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from 140 residents of Burgeo, Ramea, Grey River and Francois and it is concerning the Burgeo Road. I would like to read the petition now.

"To the Hon. House of Assembly in Parliament Assembled:

"The petition of the undersigned residents of Canada who now avail themselves of their ancient and undoubted right thus to present a grievance common to your

petitioners in the certain assurance that your Honourable House will therefore provide a remedy."

The prayer is this:

"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 asked only to be treated fairly and with respect and dignity."

Mr. Speaker, this is a petition I just happened to have received and it is very fitting today I should present this in view of the fact

we have just gotten another toast to the pork barrelling handed out by the Department of Transportation. We are now down to the point where the minister has given out approximately \$29 million of the provincial road money for this year. So there is about another \$11 million left to be dispensed in the system the minister has become so expert in.

Out of this provincial money, I would say, for the last three years there has not been one cent out of the \$120 million spent in the last three years - this is the fourth year now - not one cent of this provincial money has been spent on the Burgeo Road.

As the people from Burgeo and Ramea told the minister when they had the meeting with him in Deer Lake, they really did not expect him to take every cent of the \$40 million and put it on the Burgeo Road, or 80 percent of it.

They said a reasonable figure would be something like 5 percent of it on an annual basis, which would pave four or five kilometres a year. Eventually, when the secondary roads agreement was signed with the federal government, they would then be in a position to have the road finished in a very short time.

What has happened now is we have had this famine for the last four years when it comes to paving on the Burgeo Road. With the \$11 million left, I think it would be only fitting now if the minister decided he would do the right and honourable thing and the fair thing and say to the people of Burgeo, if they had gotten their rights, they would have had at least \$8 million spent on their road over the last four years.

Out of this next \$11 million coming, I would expect it to be a very short list with \$8 million being put into the Burgeo Road. That would be fair and would ensure this road is looked after.

As the minister is aware, I am sure, it is the longest continuous gravel road in the Newfoundland, and the contribution made by the 6,000 taxpayers who live in Burgeo, Ramea, Grey River and Francois is significant as far as this Province is concerned. It is only fair they get a return for the tax dollars they are contributing to improving the economy of this Province through their working in the fish plant, catching fish and processing it.

I was in Francois over the weekend and one of the main concerns of the people in Francois, who are not directly hooked up to the road, but the question they ask you all the time is: How come there has not been any money spent on the Burgeo Road when we have a government that can spend \$22.5 million on a light in the sky, not a pie in the sky, a light in the sky in Mount Pearl while we, here in Francois, Grey River, Ramea or Burgeo, have not got a decent road to drive over? If this is priority of government and they could spend \$22 million this way, why, for the last four years, has the government not seen fit to put one cent into paving the Burgeo Road?

For that reason, Mr. Speaker, they feel they are not being fairly treated, and they feel this is the time for the government members opposite to pay attention to the plea of the petition. Those people are dreadfully concerned.

Their very lives are in danger

when they have to go on this road. For that reason, Mr. Speaker, they are asking the minister to now make some of the provincial funding available to go to the Burgeo Road this year, rather than wait and get up and talk about an illusionary secondary roads agreement, which seems to be drifting farther and farther off because they cannot get a deal in place to sell the railway. For this reason they are asking the minister to now have a serious look at putting money into funding the Burgeo road.

To conclude, Mr. Speaker, I only say, as the people of Burgeo say at the end of this petition, they only ask to be "treated fairly and with respect and dignity."

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. LUSH:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. LUSH:
Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege and a great honour to fully endorse and wholeheartedly support the petition presented by my friend and colleague, the member for Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir (Mr. Gilbert), a petition presented on behalf of constituents from his district requesting corrective and remedial action be taken on the Burgeo Road. I suppose, Mr. Speaker, there is not a road in the Province which has so many superlatives attached to it as the Burgeo Road. It is certainly one of the most publicized roads in the Province, and that is certainly a tribute to the member,

publicizing the condition of that road.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. LUSH:
It has had the most representation probably ever made by any single member in this House for the Burgeo Road. Mr. Speaker, it is certainly a road that has had, I would say, more petitions presented in one single session than any other section of road in the Province.

Mr. Speaker, if the government take no action in terms of acquiescing to the request of the people from that district, the people from Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir, it will certainly be no reflection on the member.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. LUSH:
It will certainly be no reflection on the member but it will be a serious reflection on the neglect of the provincial government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. LUSH:
Mr. Speaker, over the years in requesting government to provide the criteria they use for upgrading and paving of roads, invariably they talk about resources. Mr. Speaker, again, if we are talking about resources, there is not a road in the Province that meets the requirements for that particular area more than Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir, that prosperous fishing area, Mr. Speaker. There is no reason why the road should be neglected any longer.

It has been three years, Mr. Speaker, since there has been a plug nickle spent on that road and that is too, too long. What is happening, Mr. Speaker, is the road is continuously deteriorating. Monies that could have been spent in a cost efficient manner back three years ago does not apply today because the road is consistently and constantly deteriorating more and more. The cost to do work on that road this year is more expensive than it was last year and it is going to be more expensive next year that it would have been this year, and so on.

Mr. Speaker, if the government is intent on spending money wisely, they would be very prudent to act upon that road immediately, to meet the reasonable request and the reasonable demands of these industrious, hardworking people, people, Mr. Speaker, who make their living basically from prosecuting the fishing industry of this Province. Mr. Speaker, it is most important the road be paved and upgraded, or upgraded and ready for paving as quickly as possible.

It is unfortunate, and I feel sorry for the member and I feel sorry for the residents of Burgeo - Bay d'Espeir to see no allocation of funds to this point in time for one bit of grading or one inch of upgrading on the road.

Mr. Speaker, the minister certainly is aware of the situation and I hope when the minister stands in his place to speak to this petition he will be able to say something which will give some hope to the residents, to the taxpayers, the hard workers, of Burgeo - Bay d'Espeir.

Mr. Speaker, I was impressed with a phrase in that petition, and I suppose it is more than a phrase, it is a sentence. They asked to be treated with dignity and respect. Mr. Speaker, that is not asking very much, to be treated with dignity and respect.

I, too, plead with the minister to ensure that that is done, to ensure that the people of Burgeo - Bay d'Espeir and the petitioners, Mr. Speaker, today, are indeed treated with dignity and respect, and the minister would today announce his concern by stating to the member he intends to take some action on the road in this fiscal year.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. DOYLE:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Transportation.

MR. DOYLE:

My remarks will be quite brief on this petition, because I have responded to that same petition on at least three or maybe four different occasions over the last couple of months during which I have been Minister of Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated to the hon. member on a number of different occasions, we, as a department, are very concerned about the Burgeo Road. I indicated to him before the reason no work has been undertaken on the Burgeo Road in the last couple of years is we did not have in place a secondary roads agreement. We will, however, as I have told the member before, and again and again

and again - speaking to the member is something like trying to pick up Mercury with a fork, it is very, very difficult indeed to get through to him - we will keep pushing for a greater level of federal involvement in capital funding so these large projects, like the Burgeo Road, can be completed.

There is absolutely no way, as I have again indicated to the member on a number of different occasions, no way the provincial government can undertake an expenditure that large. It is going to cost approximately \$30 to \$35 million to complete the road. Our provincial capital programme is in the area of \$40 million. So it makes it very, very difficult indeed to finish off a project like the Burgeo Road without any federal involvement. So we will continue, Mr. Speaker, to push for a secondary roads agreement.

I am astounded sometimes when I hear members opposite stand up and talk about their districts. If you were a visitor to the gallery for the first time you would get the impression not a penny is being spent in members' districts opposite.

Just as an indication of what is being spent in the district of Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir ever since this government took office back in 1978 - 1979, you had \$5.5 million spent in the district of Burgeo - Bay d'Espoir by the Department of Transportation and some federal involvement as well; in 1979 - 1980 there was \$8 million spent there; in 1980 - 1981, \$1,554,000 spent; in 1982 - 1983, \$673,000; in 1983 - 1984, \$2,447,000; in 1984 - 1985, \$3,269,000; and in 1985 - 1986, \$1.3 million, for a total of \$27

million ever since this government took office back in 1979.

Mr. Speaker, the Burgeo Road has always been high on the list insofar as this government is concerned. It has always been included in the department's listing to the federal government ever since 1979, when the link was completed. It has to be clearly understood, as I said before, the Province cannot undertake a \$32 million project on its own. Some federal involvement will be necessary.

So, with these words, Mr. Speaker, I conclude. I will respond to the gentleman's petition in writing when it comes to my office.

MR. SPEAKER:

Are there any further petitions?

O O O

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Twillingate.

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker, I beg leave, under the provision of Standing Order 23, to move the adjournment of the House to debate a matter of urgent public importance, namely the pressing and urgent need to reactivate the fish plants in St. Lawrence and Lawn in order to alleviate the serious social and economic impact on the approximately 500 fish plant workers and fishermen and their families and on the communities, as a whole, affected by the shutdown of the St. Lawrence and Lawn plants; and also to debate

the future operation of the fish processing plants in Rose Blanche and Port aux Basques, owned by the same principal, where problems appear imminent, thereby threatening the economic viability of the communities in question, and specifically the livelihood of approximately 1,000 fish plant workers and fishermen.

MR. SIMMS:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. SIMMS:
Mr. Speaker, clearly the intent of that Standing Order is to provide an opportunity for members to participate in an urgent debate. I do not have to cite all the references for Your Honour. They have been cited many times before in this particular case and I am sure Your Honour would not want to rule on a matter like this if he felt there was some serious consideration to be given without probably recessing and researching all the items anyway.

The urgency refers to the urgency of debate, not the importance of the issue. Obviously this matter has been ongoing for some time. So it is not quite in that normal category, certainly not in such a sense as it should be ruled that all the rest of the business of the House be put aside to allow this kind of a debate to occur.

I just make those particular comments really, because I think it is more an attempt to try to score some political points rather than anything else.

MR. TULK:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. TULK:
Mr. Speaker, I regret very much the statements made by the Government House Leader in his point of order, that the member for Twillingate is rising just to score a few cheap political points or a few political points, I think is what he said. It is not the reason. The truth of the matter is, and I refer Your Honour to Section 286 and 287 of Beauchesne, as the Government House Leader said, I know you are well aware of this matter, but Beauchesne states the matter must be so pressing that public interest will suffer if it is not given immediate attention.

Now, surely there is no way in arguing if the matter of the closure of the those fish plants is not given immediate attention, that the public interests will not suffer. Surely there is no way that you can argue that is the case.

The fishing season is here. Those plants are closed. Those people have no place to sell their fish. The hon. gentleman is quite right under that section to introduce this.

The other thing is the subject must be brought on early enough, and public interest demands that discussion take place immediately. Mr. Speaker, that is section 287. Surely the public interest demands that a decision be made, that this House, that this government - I know the member for Grand Bank would certainly agree - the closure of those fish plants in St. Lawrence demands we take immediate action in this House, because otherwise

the fishing season will be over and gone, if we are going to wait for this government to either call the Budget Speech or the Throne Speech to have a debate. We are into legislation. They will have to have Meech Lake and, who knows, it might take weeks and, indeed if this House stays open, even months. We could be into July and those fish plants would still be closed if we are going to wait to see what is happening.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is critical. The urgency of debate cannot be denied here. It must be done today and done immediately.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas):
Order, please!

I am prepared to deal with this matter now. I would like to point out that, number one, the motion is out of order. I would refer hon. members to our Standing Order 23, section (f) subsection (2): 'Not more than one matter can be discussed on the same motion.' The hon. member has proposed two matters here.

Secondly, I would like to quote from Beauchesne, the one the hon. member quoted, Section 287 on page 92: "'Urgency" within this rule does not apply to the matter itself, but means "urgency of debate"'. As hon. members know, there are opportunities on the Order Paper to deal with the matter, the Address in Reply and the Budget Speech. The matter is not in order.

Orders of the Day

MR. TULK:
Mr. Speaker, just a point of clarification.

AN HON. MEMBER:
You are questioning the Speaker's ruling?

MR. TULK:
No, no, I am not questioning the Speaker -

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

MR. TULK:
- just the fact that Your Honour ruled there were two matters here to be debated. The truth of the matter is we are talking about one company here and the specifics are two or three fish plants owned by that one company.

AN HON. MEMBER:
You are out of order.

MR. TULK:
I am not questioning him, I am just point out to him that this is the case, that indeed there was no reason I do not believe to rule him out of order on that point.

MR. SIMMS:
Order 12, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order 12.

The hon. the member for Menihek has six minutes left.

MR. FENWICK:
Six minutes?

MR. SPEAKER:
Yes.

The hon. the member for Menihek.

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

I just want to sort of summarize a few comments. Quite frankly, it is interesting that during Question Period and in response to questions asked yesterday -

MR. TULK:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

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

MR. TULK:

Mr. Speaker, before the Government House Leader leaves, I would like to bring something to his attention, if I may - and he is listening - and that is the matter we just brought up we believe is urgent and I would ask him now if he would first call either the Budget Speech or any other motion or bill on the Order Paper to discuss this matter in St. Lawrence, Port aux Basques, Rose Blanche and so on?

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. SIMMS:

No, Mr. Speaker. We have already called the Orders of the Day.

MR. TULK:

Oh! St. Lawrence is not important, is it.

MR. SIMMS:

To that same point. The hon. members are clearly doing one thing, Mr. Speaker, trying to play politics and nothing else, nothing more.

MR. TULK:

Oh sure!

MR. SIMMS:

There are opportunities. We had

thirty minutes of Question Period today. Where were the questions on St. Lawrence?

MR. LONG:

Right here.

MR. TULK:

Right down there.

MR. SIMMS:

None.

I rest my case, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

There is no point of order.

The hon. the member for Menihek.

MR. FENWICK:

The answer to the Government House Leader's question, although it is rhetorical, is that questions on the St. Lawrence plant and the Port aux Basques one did come today, and they came from us. We asked where FPI was, because they are the origin of the whole problem down there.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. FENWICK:

However, Mr. Speaker, we are talking about private schools right now. I just want to summarize the comments I made yesterday, since I think they are appropriate. During the Question Period and the responses in Question Period over the last couple of days on the failure of the Harbinger School, I think, highlighted the need for this legislation. And the details the minister provided today also gave us an insight into some of the worse abuses of the private school system. Of course, the fact that

the minister confirmed that indeed the tuition fee at this institution was \$3,500, and I assume that was a one year course, or a nine month course, or ten months, something of that duration, indicates the hardship these individual students have to go through once they enroll in particular courses like this. If they had gone to a public institution, like the Cabot Institute or any of the other community colleges in the Province, to take the same course over that period of time, the tuition fee would be, I believe, around \$500. So we are talking, in this instance, of a tuition fee that is seven times the amount charged by the particular public institutions.

So, the question you have is, Why would an individual student go to a private institution if public institutions were available?

The answer, of course, lies in the fact that most of the public institutions, like the Cabot Institute and the community colleges, are blocked with students now; they have waiting lists now, in some instances, requiring people to wait a year or two. And if individual students are not willing to put their lives on hold for that period of time, they go and take their chances on a private education rather than, quite frankly, waiting a year or whatever would be required.

The other thing that should be noted in that particular exchange from the minister was that the individual now is owed \$1,700, or \$1,700 was taken to pay for the first twelve weeks' education. As the minister did not Table the document, I am not sure that I have all the details correct.

But, it seems to me, that that is illustrative of what we are talking about here. If twelve weeks of education costs \$1,700, that is \$140 a week that is being charged by these institutions in order to do the education they are involved with, and that clearly is a horrendous sum to have to pay for an education in order to get into our workforce either as a secretary, which I understand is the course involved here, or into computer programming or any of the other courses involved here. So I think that is another example of the problems involved with it.

And, of course, one of the other problems, which has never been addressed by the minister or this government or anyone else, is how do you finance an education like that if you have any additional expenses to meet? Because individuals going to the private institutions really have to commit not only the student loan they draw but any student grants they have; the whole works is used up in tuition fees. And if the individuals are not supported at home or have a part-time job or some other source of income, quite frankly they find it very difficult to be able to complete their training and be able to live in a half decent manner while training is going on.

So, to summarize, we believe the public institutions, like the Cabot Institute and the community colleges, should provide the courses required to train our people, and that the reasonable expectations of the youth of our Province should be met in these institutions, and that there should not be waiting lists of inordinate lengths so that they are forced to go into private institutions to receive their

education. That is our main position.

If we have a lot of these institutions springing up, it is a sign of disorder in the public education system and it should be responded to by increasing the number of seats, putting in additional courses, even if they are on a temporary basis, in order to accommodate the kind of bulge that occurs.

Because, Mr. Speaker, one of the curious things, as everybody knows, about our education system is that the number of students we have to deal with is tremendously varied - one year we might have a certain number of students, the next year we may have more graduates to deal with, the next year many more and the year after that they may drop again; there is a variable list to it which is quite pronounced. Indeed, when one looks at the statistics of students graduating, one sees that planning for secondary education like this is a major challenge because we are looking at graduating classes which are becoming smaller and smaller as each year progresses. How we accommodate these students is a very large question that has to be addressed. Of course, one of the advantages we have is that our participation rate now in post-secondary education is still about the lowest in Canada, and that if we could increase the participation rate, there still would be an adequate number of students to go through our institutions.

I think we should still plan for more and more students and we should encourage them to continue on with their post-secondary education, whether it be

university or community college or whatever.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I still say that this is a good piece of legislation, it is an important piece of legislation. It is coming in a little bit late, but, fortunately, it is better later than never. Because, as we said yesterday, the variety in the quality of the institutions is their most notable attribute. Whereas the Harbinger one clearly had financial problems, there are other institutions out there which have a terrible reputation; students find that they have really been terribly bilked, I guess is the best word for it, bilked in the sense that they paid a lot of money and received a low quality education, one that was interrupted, one that was not on the facilities that were advertising and so on. Other institutions, of course, are also extremely well received and I mentioned yesterday, and since the former candidate for Waterford - Kenmount is in the gallery today and is involved with it, I will repeat for his benefit that the Keyin Technical College is one of the best regarded in the Province in terms of the private institutions, and indeed was very highly rated by the survey done by the House Royal Commission in terms of the education it delivered to its students. Unfortunately, that was not the case with all the other institutions.

However, having said that, Mr. Speaker, we will be asking for amendments when we get into Committee stage. One of the sections of that particular legislation calls for fines of up to \$250 for individuals who violate the provisions of it. We

think this is scandalously low. If you are looking at a several million dollar industry, which is what we are looking at, clearly violating the rules with impunity and only getting a \$250 fine is no means of forcing these institutions to comply with not only the legislation but with the regulations that will come down. On that basis, we think the maximum fine should at least be in the range of about \$5000 or so, so that the teeth in the legislation will ensure compliance with it.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, we welcome the legislation and we are looking forward to amending it in the Committee stage. Overall, we think it is in the best interest of the young people of our Province.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Bonavista North.

MR. LUSH:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I stand to again allude to the situation I raised in this House yesterday, specifically relating to the Harbinger School of Business. It is unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, that when we embark upon ventures like that, invariably somebody has to be burnt before we tighten up the legislation. In this particular situation, I maintain it was the slackness and the sloppiness of government regulations which allowed this to happen. Mr. Speaker, if we are going to give students loans and assign them to private schools, I believe we have to ensure that the legislation is sufficiently tight enough so it does not allow students to be gouged and ripped off, innocent students as happened in this case.

I thank the minister for his statement today and I know the minister is going to look into it. Now, I could have gone to the minister privately, as I normally would do on a situation like that, but I believed, Mr. Speaker, this matter should have been made public to alert parents, to alert students, and to alert the public of this Province as to what can happen when we do not have proper legislation to ensure that our students are protected. I think all hon. members will agree that that is a terrible thing to have happen to somebody, to enroll in a school and through various circumstances have to withdraw from that school. The minister seemed to suggest that he did not know that yesterday, but I specifically pointed out that the matter I was referring to had to do with students who withdrew. It had nothing to do with people who were continuing on in the course, it had to do with people who withdrew and whose monies were still somehow under the control of that school. I do not know all the details or technicalities about it, and one does not have to know; all we have to know is that students got ripped off. Regardless of the amount, whether it is \$1000, \$1700 or \$2000, it was too much for students, unemployed people trying to get ahead in this life, to find out they were ripped off in this manner.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I raised the matter, to bring it to the attention of the public and, hopefully, to make the government more aware of the situation and to tighten up the legislation.

Now, I am not sure that this legislation, in the meantime, will have the effect the minister

believes it will have. I am not sure. I think the clause he is counting on is Clause 19 (e), the minister can correct me if I am wrong. I believe it is 19 (e) that he is hoping will protect students in the event there is a financial problem or a bankruptcy, as happened with Harbinger, and that is to have bonds. It says, "Requiring registered private training institutions to be bonded in the form and terms and with the collateral security that is prescribed in providing for the forfeiture of bonds and the disposition of the proceeds."

Of course, Mr. Speaker, it will depend on what levels the bonds will be, what amounts they will be. For example, I understand the Harbinger School of Business had a bond. Do hon. members know how much it was? \$1,000 was the bond the Harbinger School had, and they had, I believe, seventy students enrolled. That is being properly disposed of now, but, Mr. Speaker, one does not have to be a great mathematical wizard to determine how much these seventy students will get. If there are any other creditors, Mr. Speaker, then these people will be down to very, very little.

So this particular legislation depends on what the regulations will be, whether it will be stipulated that the bond will be sufficient to take care of an event like this. I certainly hope, as a result of the Harbinger experience, that the minister will make sure that the bond is sufficient to be able to take care of an eventuality as this so that -

MR. MATTHEWS:

We had it long before that.

MR. LUSH:

Well, if it was long before Harbinger, how come they do not have it?

AN HON. MEMBER:

This is review legislation.

MR. LUSH:

I see. Yes.

Mr. Speaker, it is only if that bond is made sufficiently high enough to take care of all the contingencies, considering the maximum enrollment of the school and this kind of thing, will the student be protected.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly hope the minister will pay attention to this and assure the House that this will take place, that the bond system will certainly prevent this kind of thing from happening in the future. Mr. Speaker, if we can achieve that, then maybe we will have learned a good lesson from the Harbinger situation. But, again, I think the minister agrees, as do I, that it is most unfortunate that any student, be it a half dozen students or a dozen students, should have lost any monies because of the way this was set up, any amount of monies.

I certainly appreciate the fact that the minister is looking into this and has said that he will investigate the situation a little further to determine what his department can do in this situation. There are a number of things that can be done once the problem is determined as to how many there are, because I am not sure that anybody knows as this point as to how many there are; you get different numbers talking to different people. I can understand that, because people have not gotten down to analyzing them all. And they have not heard

back from some of them yet, because some of them just got their bills from the bank, so they probably do not know precisely how many there are. Once the minister gets a handle on the problem, I would hope that he will look at this situation with sympathy and empathy for these young people just attempting to make a start in life. To be hit with this situation could cause them, Mr. Speaker, to lose almost all confidence in our financial system, in our banking system, in our educational system, in the whole bit.

I certainly hope the minister, when looking into this, will keep these factors in mind, and the suggestions are almost innumerable as to what he could do: There is the matter of working out with the banks a longer period of time for these students to pay off their debt; there is the matter of dropping the interest; there is the matter of wiping out the loans completely because of the circumstances under which they developed. I certainly hope the minister will address all of these things, Mr. Speaker. With that, I will take my place.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. K. AYLWARD:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

I will recognize the hon. the member for Stephenville.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your wisdom, and my debt to the hon. member for Humber West will be

paid in due time.

Pertaining to this bill, just a couple of comments. I welcome the bill with relation to the regulation of private training institutions specifically to ensure there are regulations to govern the actions and the course requirements, etc., which should be there for young people or anybody, for that matter, who go to such institutions. These institutions have a place in our educational format, but they should not be here at the expense of courses already given in our provincially funded educational institutions.

That brings me to the matter, Mr. Speaker, of the financing of our educational institutions within the Department of Career Development, and the layoffs that have occurred with the community college system and Cabot Institute. My query on this, Mr. Speaker, is whether or not some of the layoffs we see, and courses being dropped, are due to the fact that we are giving the courses to the private training institutions? I am concerned that this is being done at the expense of the institutions we have and have had here for many years.

In talking to some people with the Cabot Institute and with the community college system, some of the programmes that were supposed to be transferred have not been transferred, Mr. Speaker, and some of the instructors have been dropped from the system, especially when it comes to the Cabot Institute.

In relation to the Cabot Institute, courses which were scheduled to be transferred along with the instructors, were dropped

with no explanation. I am kind of leery and have great concern, Mr. Speaker, about that. I think that problem should be addressed by the minister when he is closing the debate on this bill. Because if that is the case, if we are just going to get rid of the good courses and good instructors we had within our provincial educational system, when it comes to post-secondary training, we should have a second look at where that policy is taking us, Mr. Speaker.

There are a number of good private training institutions, and nobody debates that. I am glad to see this bill, but the problem of us getting out of training and educating our young people, or anybody who wants to get training and education, and deciding that we are going to throw it into the lap of the private sector, I think, especially when it comes to important education we have to provide, we should review that. If the government is doing this and they are doing it behind the scenes, it is not right and they should address the problem.

We have had specific information come to us which tells us that courses have been going on and were scheduled to be transferred from the institutes over to the community colleges, and this has not been done. I would hope the minister, when he is closing the debate, will address that specific concern in relation to the Cabot Institute and the community colleges in the Province, where we see not enough funding being provided and some courses being dropped.

We understand there is a review to be done on whether the courses being provided in our system are

setting us in the right direction, and if there is a demand for them and if there is a demand for the finished product. While we can accept that that review should be done, courses which are in demand and are needed should be put in place within the community college system, which has the mandate, and those courses should be provided with the proper funding and with the proper instructors, so that that mandate, with which they were provided last year, can be carried out. And that has not been happening. I do not think it has been happening adequately enough.

In the case of the Western Community College, out my way; I think that problem should be addressed. When we look at the private institutions, Mr. Speaker, and setting up regulations, the courses they are starting and so on should be checked out and monitored to make sure that the criteria and the proper courses, with all the materials and so on, are provided.

But I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, with instructor retraining within the career development system, because I do not think the proper advice has been given to instructors who are being laid off. I think there should be discussions with these people before the potential layoffs occur to discuss if they can be retrained in some other field, or if there is a way for them to stay within the system.

This was supposed to be done and it was set up within The Community Colleges Act. There was a subcommittee which was set up specifically when the reorganization occurred, and when the minister rises I hope he will make some comments on instructor

retraining, which is supposed to be ongoing, as a matter of fact, by the Department of Career Development in its retraining of instructors. When he rises I hope he will address that matter, because there are many concerns being expressed. It is not good enough to write it off to the collective bargaining process and that his person or that person, we have to wait for all that to occur before we can deal with potential the layoffs. You have to deal with potential layoffs, Mr. Speaker, before they come, and you should deal with that by getting in the people who are possibly going to be laid off and looking at retraining or an alternative course they may be able to teach with their background and qualifications. That is something that should be done. I see the mechanism that is set up, but I am not too sure about the way it is being handled or the way it is being carried out.

I have been told that there are resumés being submitted to the subcommittee for instructor retraining, and this is being done from the Cabot Institute and it is being done elsewhere. But that is far as it has gone. That is not what it was set up to do. They should be looking at that and reviewing and trying to keep people who are trained and who have been in the system for years, who are contributing a great deal to the community college system and the post-secondary education of the people of this Province. That problem should be addressed and I would hope, when the minister looks at the introduction of the regulations governing private training institutions, that he will also look at the retraining of his own people within the Department of Career

Development, and that the problem within the community college system is addressed.

Mr. Speaker, these regulations are welcome. They are good to see because of problems which have occurred with some of the private training institutions. We welcome the regulations coming in and suggest some other things that could possibly be done.

We will be watching to make sure that the private training institutions are not being promoted at the expense of good courses that have been set up in our system, our own public post-secondary education system for many years. There is a fine line there where we have to decide which way we are going. I hope the minister is aware of that and will address that over the coming months in his promotion of and registering of private training institutions, and will look at the outline of courses and the demand for them.

Mr. Speaker, that is where my concerns come from. They express some problems, I think, within the post-secondary education system in direct relation to the private training institutions and in direct relation to courses being offered at the Cabot Institute and other institutes, plus community colleges within the Province.

I would hope the minister will address those concerns very seriously, as there are a number of people within the community college system who are thinking that maybe they are going to be jettisoned because this government wants to promote private training institutions. Those are serious concerns that many people I know have, and have brought to my

attention. I would hope the minister will address those concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WELLS:

Before the minister speaks, I have just a couple of minutes.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. WELLS:

Mr. Speaker, I do not need to repeat most of what has been said by hon. members on this side of the House, and I will not do it. There is a matter I do want to raise with the minister, so I would ask him if he would pay particular attention to what I am saying.

I do not quite understand the purpose of Clause 15. I realize we can address it -

MR. MATTHEWS:

Which Clause?

MR. WELLS:

Clause 15.

- in Committee, but I do not know if there is a principle involved here. Why would any institution want to sell the goods or services of a student? There is a prohibition here against selling the goods or services of a student where the superintendent is of the opinion that the student is being exploited. Whether the student is being exploited or not, why would an institution have the right to sell the goods or services of a student? My concern is that by stating a prohibition that you cannot do it where the student is being exploited implies, at least, that you can do it where the superintendent may not be of the opinion that he is being exploited.

I do not understand the necessity for this and I thought I would raise it with the minister. He may not be aware of the reason for this provision in the bill now, but between now and the time it goes to Committee, at least he can take a look at this. It does not seem to me to be appropriate. Otherwise, I agree with the comments that have been made on this side of the House, and I will not repeat them, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

If the minister speaks now, he closes the debate.

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

MR. MATTHEWS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would just like to begin closure of the debate by thanking hon. members for their input into the debate on this bill and this piece of legislation. A lot of the suggestions and recommendations that have been made by hon. members have been extremely good ones, particularly the question asked by the hon. Leader of the Opposition; I will make note of that, check it out and let the hon. member know.

Since becoming Minister of Career Development and Advanced Studies, like any minister of any government department there is a lot to learn and a lot of people to get to know. For me, I guess, the private training institutions of the Province have been ones that I have had to familiarize myself with. The approach I have taken with it is a consultative one, to talk to the operators and owners of the private training schools of the Province, to talk to students affected, most of whom

have been affected in a very positive manner, but those who claim they have been affected in a negative manner, to see what the problems are.

I believe, as I said yesterday, that private training institutions are a reality in the Province; they have been in existence for in excess of twenty years. I see my role as Minister of Career Development and Advanced Studies as trying to strengthen the relationship between those institutions and the Department of Career Development and Advanced Studies, and to make improvements for the total educational system of the Province, of which the private training schools are one very important component. So that is the attitude that I have taken with it.

I have consulted with the Private Schools Association and met with them, and I have talked, as well, to individual owners and operators who are not members of the association, who had their input into our department, into our regulations and our guidelines, and I think we are making progress. I think this piece of legislation is testimony to the fact that these private schools have been in existence for in excess of twenty years in the Province. There has been considerable change, very positive change, but the legislation itself needed to be strengthened, some teeth put into a number of the regulations, and that is what we are about to do here.

While I have the opportunity, and while the member for Menihek is in his seat, I would like to take exception to how complimentary he became today when he noticed there was an owner, or an operator of

one of our private schools in the gallery. Yesterday, when he was concluding the debate he said, "Mr. Speaker, the final comments I would like to make on this have to do with the whole question of whether or not these private institutions should be there at all, whether they should exist." I just wanted to point that out because that same owner, or operator, is in the gallery now.

AN HON. MEMBER:
(Inaudible).

MR. MATTHEWS:
Yes, the member for Menihek said that yesterday. And today I saw him change somewhat, because I know how strongly he feels and how strongly he has objected, really, to private schools in the Province and private institutions.

There are a couple of other points I would like to make as well. The placement of students who graduate from the private training institutions has been very, very good. There has been considerable analysis done over the years on graduates and job placements, and, I must say, based on what I have seen since becoming minister, the job placement is far more successful for those coming out of the private institutions than for those coming out of the public institutions. It is just a comment I thought, in all fairness, I should make.

AN HON. MEMBER:
(Inaudible).

MR. MATTHEWS:
It varies with the course. I have seen figures in excess of 60 per cent for certain courses. Graduates have come out of certain courses from the private schools where they have found job

placements, and much higher than 60 per cent in others. When you compare that with what has happened in some of our public institutions, the job placement ratio and percentage has been much better. So I thought I should make that point today, while I had the chance, in concluding the particular discussion.

A lot of the debate over the last couple of days was particularly centered around Clause 19 which deals with, 'The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may make regulations.' I would just like to inform hon. members that we are looking at a number of areas for regulations. A lot of the debate over the last couple of days, again, has been about bonding. We have consulted very closely with the private institutions on what is adequate. We have our own opinions and they have theirs and, hopefully, as you do with any set of consultations, you meet somewhere in the middle which allows the private training institutions to be able to either start up and operate or continue to operate. That is the other consideration: If you impose too great a restriction or too great a bonding or other financial burdens on institutions, you may see them have to fold up. And you do not want to do that, as much as you want to have adequate protection for students in the amount of bonding.

Just for the information of hon. members, we have talked about a very, very important consideration in bonding, which is student enrollment. We are looking at varying amounts, depending on the number of students enrolled. Less than 100 certain amounts, over 100 and on the way up to 400 or 500, the

amount of the bond would increase in varying amounts. I think that is very, very important. As well, payment of tuition fees: Reference will be made in the regulations dealing with pro-rated refunds to students who withdraw or terminate prior to the completion of training courses. Of course, that is the problem, I guess, the hon. the member for Bonavista North highlighted yesterday, that a student withdrew and there has to be some mechanism in place to sort of deal with that. Because, as we all know now, the problem has resulted where students withdrew and there has been money owing to the students.

MR. WELLS:
Would you permit a question?

MR. MATTHEWS:
Sure.

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

MR. WELLS:
Would he also consider a requirement that the funds be held in a trust account by the school until they are earned by the passage of time? Otherwise, what happened with Harbinger could be repeated.

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

MR. MATTHEWS:
That is a point we will take under consideration.

Another point I was about to make before the hon. gentleman interjected was that we are looking at possibly thirty days, that money would be refunded

within thirty days of termination, so you put some kind of a deadline on it. If that had been the case with Harbinger, then this student, I do not think, would have been in the situation of being owed in excess of \$1700, because more than thirty days had elapsed between the time she withdrew and when the problem developed with Harbinger.

As well, we intend to include a section in the regulations dealing with the amount of tuition that may be collected by a training institute in advance of the training.

Of course, again that is part of the problem where some institutions have required full payment for a year and where our Student Aid Division has adopted the policy of issuing loans and grants on a semester basis rather than for the long-term, which is the same case at the university and the institutes.

AN HON. MEMBER:
(Inaudible).

MR. MATTHEWS:
Oh, to be interrupted by some people.

MR. SIMMS:
You are going to move second reading today, are you not?

MR. MATTHEWS:
Yes.

The hon. the President of the Council is getting quite anxious to get legislation put through, and we all understand why.

I will just highlight again for hon. members some of the major things here: A private training review board; more clearly defining the conditions required

for registration, which is important; conditions regulating the operation of a private training institution; appropriate increases in registration fees, and a more realistic amount in surety bonds, as I just indicated, directly related to the number of students enrolled in the school. In the case of Harbinger it was a \$1,000, and we all know what that amount spread over that number of students would mean.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Oh, oh!

MR. MATTHEWS:
It is kind of hard to continue here.

AN HON. MEMBER:
It is hard for the minister to do a thorough job.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Yes, it is, and I am so keen on doing that, you know.

New regulations governing the retention and refund of tuition fees. These are the main points of the Bill and before sitting down I would like to thank all hon. members for their input into it, and the suggestions for consideration will be duly noted and we will see if we can deal with it for the benefit of the people we most want to directly affect, namely, the students of the Province. I move second reading.

On motion, a bill, "An Act Respecting The Regulation Of Private Training Institutions", read a second time, ordered referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow. (Bill No. 2).

MR. SIMMS:

We will move now to order 13, second reading of a bill, "An Act To Amend The Nursing Assistants Act". (Bill No. 18).

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Health.

DR. COLLINS:

Mr. Speaker, the Nursing Assistants Act established a council for nursing assistants in 1983 and the Act, I think, has promoted the recruitment and the qualification of nursing assistants since that time with great benefit to our health care system. However, in consultation with the council, a number of amendments to the Act have been suggested. I might add, Mr. Speaker, that the council, itself, is the prime mover in all these amendments.

I will just very quickly go through them; they are fairly self-evident.

Clause (1) of this bill will expand the definition of registered nursing assistants. It will mean that the regulations brought in under the Act will determine who can be registered by the council as a nursing assistant. It would mean that people like operating room technicians, physiotherapist aids, urology aids, that type of thing, if the regulation which the council controls allows it, they can be registered under this Act.

The second point is a fairly minor one, that is the council itself now is composed of fifteen members. This amendment will say up to fifteen members. The reason why that minor change is made is that when the Council was first established, there were three hospital training schools for

nursing assistants and each one of those training schools had a member on the council. Since that time, two of the training schools have been closed. So you do not have three representatives from the training schools on the council, they are just not available any longer - that is one from each school. However, it may well be that some of these schools will reopen in the future, so we want to have that flexibility there. That is why we say up to fifteen. But with only one school open now, it will mean that there will be, in actual fact, only thirteen members on the Council. If another school opens up, there will be fourteen. If another school opens up, there will be up to fifteen.

The second clause, again, is much in the same way. When the act was first brought in, there was one member on the council nominated by the Ministers of Health, Education and Social Services, but the Department of Social Services, at that time, had a strong interest in the matter. We have now in the Department of Health taken over much of the areas of responsibility from Social Services where nursing assistants work. So there is no real need now to have the Department of Social Services represented on the council. As we have taken it over, this amendment now will allow Health to have two nominees, one that we always had, shall we say, for the acute care activities, and another one now for the chronic care activities which we took over from Social Services.

The other change there will be that there will not be a nominee from the Department of Education because this activity is now under

Career Development and Advanced Studies. So, instead of Education, the Minister for Career Development and Advanced Studies will be able to nominate someone.

On the third one: It is to allow the council to decide on some flexibility in terms of registration for training purposes. This could mean that the council could permit someone who had gone partly, say, through nursing training and then decided, for whatever reason, not to become a registered nurse, but now wants to become a nursing assistant, the council could deem that some of the training that person got as a nurse could go towards their registration as a nursing assistant. It is to give the council a bit more flexibility which they do not have at the present time on setting the training curriculum.

The final one in the bill itself, that same clause, will also allow the council to decide that as well as just paying a fee for a renewal of your license to be a nursing assistant, the council can, through regulations, have some flexibility to require other things too. For instance, they might require someone who has not been working for a long period of time as a nursing assistant, to do some upgrading before they would have their license renewed, that type of increased flexibility in registration. So those are the amendments that are in the bill as presented to the House.

I should mention that in Committee we are intending to bring in two further minor points, or fairly minor points. One is just a clarification point. The act, in two places, refers to non-professional activities or

improper conduct of professional activities. The wording is different in one place. In one place it says, 'improper conduct in a professional respect', and in another place it says, 'professional misconduct.' So it is just the same thing but it is worded differently in two parts of the act. We want to just make the same wording throughout the act.

The final one that we will bring up in Committee. I am just informing the House now what we intend to propose in Committee - is that if there is hearing in regard to a complaint, at the present time, the council must hold a formal hearing. If there is a complaint brought forward, the council must now have a formal hearing.

Sometimes these complaints are very, very easily resolved. We are proposing to bring in an amendment to allow the council to decide whether a hearing is necessary. In other words, instead of it being obligatory, it will be discretionary. As I say, that will be brought up in Committee.

With those introductory remarks, I move second reading of this bill.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Port de Grave.

MR. EFFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. EFFORD:

Mr. Speaker, I understand the minister's explanation of what he has just been reading and the changes to the bill. It is really

only housekeeping.

However, there are a couple of questions I need answered because we have to be very careful of what we allow a council or someone to do when we say a council has the right to give an individual a license as a registered nursing assistant. He explained that it could be somebody, for example, who is an assistant in an operating room.

I am wondering are we giving it to a lab technician or an O.R. technician. What I would like the minister to explain later is are we being too flexible? Is it possible that people other than those that have the proper training and qualified training could be registered as a nursing assistant? It says, 'Other classifications of health care workers.'

How far is that going to be expanded or what do you mean by other classifications of health care workers? We have a lot of people in the health care system in many areas, in the nursing homes and the hospitals - I would not say as much in hospitals as in nursing homes - who are health care workers but they probably have not had any formal training.

We have to be careful we do not allow the council to make an error or to be able to give those people, whom I have no doubt have many years of experience in working in the health care system, but do not necessarily qualify under a programme. So we have to be very careful who we give the qualifications or the registration to.

The second point: There is no problem with that. It shall

consist of up to fifteen members. It is quite understandable it is not necessary for a council to have to have fifteen members. It can work equally as well with less than fifteen. The fact, as the minister explained, at some point in time in the future there may be more nursing schools, then you would have the opportunity for those nursing schools to be represented on the council, and that is quite natural.

I have to say to the minister that presently, with only one nursing assistant school in the Province, I do not think we, on this side of the House, could agree that that is enough. One nursing training school, and I think it is presently at the Cabot Institute. That is where the only opportunity is now for anybody who wants to train as a nursing assistant.

AN HON. MEMBER:
(Inaudible).

MR. EFFORD:
I do not think so. They are trying to, but it is strictly now just at the Cabot Institute.

There are a number of reasons for that. I personally have had some constituents call me and ask me to see if I can help them get into classes in September. Now, the Cabot Institute can only -

MR. SIMMS:
There are quite a few on the waiting list.

MR. EFFORD:
That is right, there is quite a large number on the waiting list. The Cabot Institute, as we realize, can only handle so many in a class. The minister will probably stand up and say, 'Well, we have an overabundance of

nursing assistants in the Province or we do not need any more,' but I do not think that is so, because, in checking around, what we are finding more and more every year, not only in nursing assistants but in the trained nurses, is we are losing a great number of those trained people to other provinces, and it is for a number of reasons.

One of the main reasons is better pay in other provinces than there is presently in Newfoundland. I know the minister is quite aware of that, and he is addressing that situation in his negotiations now. But the fact remains we are losing a number of highly qualified, trained people in this area, nursing assistants and nurses and many other health areas. We cannot afford that. That is the reason we asked the question about why we only have the one institution now in the province where people can train.

For example, if in the Bay St. George area out on the West Coast we had another one and somewhere probably around Central Newfoundland or some other part of the Province, we would not have the heavy load we do have placed on the Cabot Institute now. It is unfair. That is another reason why.

It is very unfair to expect people to travel from Western, Central and Northern Newfoundland to St. John's and have this great expense where probably they could get it living in and around the area of Stephenville or Corner Brook or Central Newfoundland. It would not cost them near as much. That is another aspect the minister is certainly going to have to look at and take into consideration.

I know if somebody has to move

from St. Anthony down to Corner Brook or from Deer Lake to Gander or Grand Falls, they are going to have the same cost in boarding, but they will certainly not have the same cost in transportation they would have if they were leaving St. Anthony or some Western part of the Island and driving into St. John's. It is more easy to get home on weekends. With the long Winters we have, having to drive from St. John's to get home to their residence on a weekend or during Christmas vacation, it is quite difficult to travel that distance. It is not only weather, but it is also quite expensive. That is one of the concerns we have.

The other concern is we do not presently, and the minister is well aware of what I am going to say next, we do not have enough nursing assistants working in the hospitals and nursing homes. There is a great deal of room for more and more to be hired. That is the reason why we need a lot of more training.

An example is the situation at the Hoyles and Escasoni Homes. It is deplorable to go down there and go into those senior citizen homes and see the way in which those people are being handled and the care being taken of them. It is not the fault of the people who are there now, it is the fault that there is not enough staff. That is only an example. That is only two homes of the many, many numbers around the Province and the hospitals where we are grossly understaffed.

There is no way can we allow this to go on. We are treating our senior citizens, and we are treating our chronic care in the

hospitals and our long term care patients as second or third class citizens. Make no mistake, each and every person who has the good fortune of living, or the luck of living to be sixty-five years old is going to be placed in that same position.

I would never like to think, Mr. Speaker, I would have to be in a position where I would be placed in a senior citizen home, as we have witnessed here in the Hoyles and Escasoni, and that I would be allowed to live - it is not living - to be allowed to be placed in the situation where I cannot even get out of bed to get to a bathroom or to get a decent shower or bath myself. I have to wait for three to five hours for somebody to come and do it for me. That is absolutely disgraceful. It is intolerable and nobody should allow that to take place. But it is the situation that is taking place in this Province today, Mr. Speaker.

I had the opportunity last night of visiting the Miller Centre. I was going to refer to the General. I guess it still is the old General, but it is now the Miller Centre. A part of that Miller Centre is for the DVA, for the veterans. For people who went over in the first and second World War.

MR. HISCOCK:

The great wars.

MR. EFFORD:

The two great wars and took a chance. A lot of them gave their lives, but the people at the Miller Centre right now naturally never - because they came back, but they went over and they fought for freedom. They gave up whatever rights or whatever pleasures the

people that stayed home had. They took the chance of going over and being killed, but they came back. They fought for the freedom of their country. They fought for democracy and they succeeded.

To see them come back and the way in which we are treating those people today, I mean, it is absolutely again as I say deplorable, disgusting and degrading. We have absolutely no respect.

Last night while I was down in the facility, there was one person in the particular area for recreation, one person out of the numbers and numbers of people. There are not enough nursing assistants and not enough nurses. I know the problem is dollars and cents, but we have to look at what we are doing.

It is not only a matter of whether there is enough people working there, it is the facility itself. How nice would it be if those people had a surrounding outside, out around that particular unit, if they could get out and have a little park around the area and some nice seats and recreational facilities outside where on days like this they could get out and enjoy the fresh air and have some recreation outside. There is absolutely nothing out around the area. They walk outside that particular facility, or that institution, and they walk on the street.

I am only using that as an example. There are many, many, other areas around the Province where we have that. Now, there are a lot of good places around.

To give you an example, the Pentecostal senior citizens home

in Clarke's Beach, I must say, is absolutely fantastic. They have large grounds there where the people can get out and enjoy the sunshine. I know of another area down in Musgravetown. There is a beautiful facility down there and there is some nice recreation areas around that particular area where the senior citizens can get out around. I just forget the name of that institution now but it will come to mind in a minute because I visit that area quite often as I have a sister living down in that area.

These are examples of what we could be doing for our senior citizens, but those are private homes. What I am saying is the government institutions around the Province are not nearly as well kept. Just look here at Hoyles and Escasoni and the facilities outside there. People who do not have the opportunity to get out themselves and can only get out even at the best of times when the weather is worthwhile, where you need the nursing assistants and you need the workers in the institutions to be able to get them out and to let them enjoy some fresh air. It is only a very, very short season, as we know, in this Province. They get eight or nine months of cold weather when they cannot get out and we luckily get two months of weather which they should get out and enjoy.

The minister, I am sure, is going to tell me it is all a matter of dollars and cents and they are doing the best job they can. There is no doubt he is doing the best job he can but I wonder if that is the best job that can be done. That is the question we have to ask.

There is no question the remainder of the bill is just housekeeping and it gives the council a little more flexibility in the registration of nursing assistants. I would like for the minister, when he gets the opportunity, to explain if too much leeway is given in the registration of other people for registered nurses. He gave a couple of examples and I would think that that is covered there and that cannot happen.

The other part where the Minister of Career Development and the Minister of Health have the right to appoint two, and the Minister of Career Development, one, well, that is only natural because no longer is the Department of Education and the Department of Social Services involved with nursing assistants, the nursing homes, or the hospitals, so that is quite understandable.

Mr. Speaker, with that I conclude. At some point in time the minister may enlighten us to the fact that there is a protection there where nobody other than the properly trained and qualified people will be able to take part and be registered as a nursing assistant.

Thank you.

MR. FENWICK:
Mr. Speaker.

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

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

We do not like this bill. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, we consider it a major insult to the nursing assistants working in this

Province that this piece of legislation should have been drafted and these amendments should have been brought in here by a Minister of Health who clearly understands the implications of what is going on here, and yet has not been forthcoming with us in telling us exactly what is occurring.

The reason I mention this is because we took a copy of this legislation, when it was first tabled back in April, and sent it to the Nursing Assistants Committee of some of the public sector unions and asked them to have a look at it, to review it, to see what the situation was with regard to it, and whether or not it was an appropriate amendment or whether it was something we should be worried about.

Dave Curtis, who is the employee relations officer responsible for negotiating on behalf of nursing assistants, wrote me back in a letter of April 14, 1988 and in that letter indicated they had some very serious concerns with it because they saw this as a means for the Nursing Assistants Council to essentially de-professionalize the entire nursing assistant profession and return it back to its pre-1983 days. I will explain in a few minutes why that is the case.

I am really very discouraged. I took this up with the Minister of Health privately and indicated there were serious concerns by this group. I have actually even given him a copy of the letter I received from that organization and asked him if he would at least address the concerns raised there.

Unfortunately, even though the

letter was turned over to him sometime around the middle of April, I have yet to receive any reply. So I am quite discouraged the minister obviously either did not do his job properly, and just ignored it, or he agrees with the nursing assistants council and the innovations they are trying to put in here.

Here is what is wrong with it.

MR. SIMMS:

The Nursing Assistants Association (inaudible).

MR. FENWICK:

No, they did not. No, the Nursing Assistants Committee of the Newfoundland Association of Public Employees reviewed it and are clearly opposed to it.

The situation, Mr. Speaker, is this: Under the previous legislation the only people who could be registered as nursing assistants are individuals who are professionally trained to be nursing assistants.

If you look at the legislation in effect in 1983, it says, 'a person is eligible for registration under this act' - this is Section 8 (2) (a) - 'who pays the registration fee and who has completed a prescribed programme of education for registered nursing assistants.'

The proposed change in here is, 'who has completed a programme of education for registered nursing assistants or its equivalent as determined by the council.'

What that means is, under the prior system you would have to take the actual training course for nursing assistants offered now in one institution, but formerly

offered in a variety of them, and have successfully completed that in order to be a nursing assistant.

Under the new legislation the council itself will have the right to determine what is equivalent training. At this point, Mr. Speaker, one has to ask themselves, who does the nursing assistant council represent? We know there are close to fifteen members on the council, but the fact of the matter is, there are about three nursing assistants. Most of the other professional organizations, such as the Newfoundland Medical Association, the Medical Board, the Nursing Association and their organizations, do not have domination by their employers. They are a professional group which they respond to.

The Nursing Association, for example, the Association of Registered Nurses, does not have the owners of private health care institutions on their board, as the nursing assistants do. As a result, their interest is the professional development of nurses and the professional development of nurses, solely.

What we have here, Mr. Speaker, is a situation where what is clearly happening is the owners of private nursing institutions are saying we do not want to have to hire properly trained, registered nursing assistants. We want to go and re-define it so we can take people who have not the mandatory training they would have had under the previous act, put them in place, and, therefore, de-professionalize the whole occupation.

Mr. Speaker, I think this is

something we should be clearly very alarmed about, especially given the composition of this particular council itself.

The other thing this particular piece of legislation does, if one looks at the 1983 legislation, is knock out the grandfather clause. I guess maybe we should call it the grandmother clause since, of course, the vast majority of nursing assistants are women. That is section 8, subsection (3) which would be deleted by these amendments. It says, and I will quote, 'Notwithstanding subsection (2), a person is eligible for registration whose (a) has a combination of training and work experiences prescribed and (b) applies to be registered within one year of the coming into force of this act.'

It is very clear what this particular legislation was designed to. It was designed to register as nursing assistants people who had been in the profession for a number of years, did not have the formal training, but were clearly competent to operate as nursing assistants. This was the mechanism in 1983 put in place to accommodate those people who legitimately had an argument that putting the registration procedures in place at this late date and given their circumstances, they may have been advanced in years or had a large family to handle and so on, were not in a position to go back and take a year's training.

So we have a clause in the current legislation which accommodates quite easily the situation legitimately there prior to the registration of nursing assistants back in 1983. So the question we

have now is, what is this Nursing Assistants Council doing? Clearly what it does is it now says 'we will determine what is appropriate training.' That may be on the job training; it may be training in virtually anything the council is interested in establishing as equivalent.

As the minister says, it may be people who have gone into a nursing programme, spent one or two years in a nursing programme and decided that is not what they want to do, and then when they are evaluated, they have the equivalent qualifications of a nursing assistant. That may be the case.

But it also could be the wife of a private nursing home owner who wants to hire his wife there and says, 'Well, she has been around the home for a couple of years. We think this is equivalent training. Therefore, we want them to be certified by this board.' One must remember this is not a professional board of nursing assistants that they control, it is a Council of Nursing Assistants which they do not control and they have very little or any input into whatsoever.

So what we will then see

DR. COLLINS:
Will the hon. member just (inaudible).

MR. FENWICK:
No, no. We have legislation which says, 'You take the prescribed training at the educational institutions, you are a nursing assistant.' What was wrong with that? Absolutely nothing. It was a good piece of legislation. It clearly defined the training required. It meant those

professional standards would be adhered to and it meant we would have some confidence these nursing assistants knew what they were doing.

Under the new procedure, the council basically can put its rubber stamp on anybody's qualifications, no matter which way they got there. Again, it is the composition of the Nursing Assistant Council we call into question.

It is not a professional organization like the others because those professional organizations control it with their own membership. So, it is for this reason we are extremely upset to see this piece of legislation coming in here. We feel it does no serve whatsoever to the profession and all it does is accommodate questionable interests on the part of the individuals who are operating it.

DR. COLLINS:
That is your interpretation.

MR. FENWICK:
Well, I have not heard a single thing from the Minister of Health to suggest it is not. That is the part I find particularly frustrating.

DR. COLLINS:
If you listened to the examples I cited, it might have helped you.

MR. FENWICK:
Yes, I did. I heard the examples you had there.

I did not hear you explaining how the examples I gave you could not be accommodated by this particular situation. The fact you had this letter about a month ago and have not responded to me suggests you

do not particularly want me to get any information on this.

DR. COLLINS:

You are saying the council is a totally irresponsible body which (inaudible).

MR. FENWICK:

I am saying the council has different objectives from that of the nursing assistants who are working in the field.

Clearly, if we have owners of private nursing homes on this particular council, if we have employers who dominate it, they may then want to see different standards apply for it.

If we have a shortage of nursing assistants, and the member for Port de Grave (Mr. Efford) seems to suggest there is, and I would not doubt it whatsoever. We have a nursing shortage. I suggest we probably have a nursing assistant shortage as well. We have training institutions which have been closed down, so clearly they are choking off the supply of nursing assistants.

If all those things are correct, then what we are seeing is an end run around a professional training situation set up in the past, and that, in my opinion, was probably working quite well to raise the professional standards of this particular class of hospital employee. So those are the kinds of complaints we have with it.

The other thing which bothers me is since this government has already indicated its commitment to privatizing part of the health care system, since it clearly has privatized the management of the Hoyles Home and Escasoni, then we are going to see different

motivations apply here than have applied in the past. In the past, if we had professional management or professional career civil servants operating institutions like the Hoyles Home or Escasoni, then we would at least have some degree of faith their objectives were to have the highest quality of professional care for their patients, consistent with being able to meet their budget.

But when we have things like the Hoyles - Escasoni Home run by Extendicare, an organization with a checkered past and a somewhat checkered reputation in other provinces for the inconsistency of the quality of care they offer, then we would suggest perhaps what their objective in the future will be is to start looking at replacing their professional nursing assistants with designated ones by this Nursing Assistants Council, individuals who do not have the qualifications and who are essentially walking off the street, looking for a job, as the Escasoni management people say, 'Well, fine, we can do that. We are going to put you in there working with individual patients, but we are going to call you a Nursing Assistant III or something and we will designate you that. We will, therefore, get around our legal obligations to have qualified people there, but, at the same time, we can offer you a wage scale considerably lower than that which is currently offered nursing assistants,' which is not exactly the greatest in the world anyway.

In looking at the legislation, there are also other parts of it that are a little bit worrisome. If one looks at the definition of a registered nursing assistant in the original piece of legislation,

one reads this: - By the way, for those of you who have a copy of the legislation, it is the 1983 legislation, Chapter 50, Article 2, paragraph (e) - "Registered nursing assistant means a nursing assistant registered under this Act." That is, by the way, all that will be left under this amendment. But the original one read, continuing on, "Registered under this act who undertakes the care of patients and residents of custodial, convalescent, or other institutions under the direction of a registered nurse or duly qualified medical practitioner."

In listening to the definition or the argument put forward by the Minister of Health (Dr. Collins), I am not at all clear as to what exactly was the reason for deleting that particular section of it, because that one clearly states the relationship between a nursing assistant and a patient is as an intermediary between the nurses and the doctors and works under the supervision of the nurses and the doctors. By deleting that particular section of it, one asks, I think the very logical question, what exactly is being accomplished here?

Does this mean in the future, for example, the nursing assistants will be expected to handle wards all by themselves with no nurses on the wards, or to operate in institutions where no doctors are there, completely free of them because it is that supervision section of it that is clearly removed from it.

There may be other arguments for it, but the Minister of Health has not given us anything to suggest why his new definition is any better, and, in fact, what it suggests to do, if read in

combination with Section 8, where the whole question of how you determine what a nursing assistant is is dealt with, it tends to make the whole profession somewhat less precise in terms of what we expect of it and what we are looking for from it.

Mr. Speaker, I think the basic problem this piece of legislation shows is the fact that when the Nursing Assistants Act was established, it was done in a way entirely inconsistent with the way in which we do every other professional association in the Province.

I would like the Minister of Health, for example, to think, if the medical board, for example, that is established to supervise the medical profession in this Province, were established and it were a fifteen-person board and three of the people on it were professional doctors and the other twelve were the people like an Extencicare Vice-President, for example, or were civil servants or other bureaucrats involved, a mixture of people who want to set up private hospitals and whatever.

What would the Minister of Health think if we had a medical board in which -

DR. COLLINS:

If they were doctor's assistants, I might (inaudible).

MR. FENWICK:

What would the Minister of Health think if his profession, which is a noble profession and has a long and honourable history, was then set up in such a situation where the doctors themselves had not only no control of it, but three out of fifteen, which I believe is

the number of nursing assistants on it, although I may be corrected on that if the minister has more information on it. But what would he think of their ability to look at it as a development, as an organization that would provide professional training, maintain standards in the profession and so on?

I am not suggesting to you I wanted fifteen nursing assistants there. But clearly something more than three out of fifteen is a desirable objective in this case. Nursing assistants are the people who really do the work in the hospitals. I do not want to malign the doctors and nurses and everything else, but I have seen enough hospitals and I have seen enough nursing homes to know that when it comes to the really heavy work, physically tiring work, and the long shifts, the nursing assistants are the ones right on the front line. Obviously, they are supervised by nurses and doctors, but generally you are talking about a nurse and maybe five or six or even more nursing assistants so that the nurse becomes more of a supervisor and a coordinator of their roles, rather than the person who turns over the heavy patients in the bed, or does the bed baths and does all the other very mundane but extremely important work for the sick and the chronic care patients in our Province.

I think half of our problem is because this government has so little confidence in the nursing assistants as a profession and set it up as such a non-representative board, that this complaint, which I tell you honestly does come from the Nursing Assistants Council of the Newfoundland Association of Public Employees which, at this

point, probably represents more nursing assistants than any other organization in the Province. I have also talked to the representative of the Canadian Union of Public Employees who probably represent most of the other ones. They have not got as detailed a criticism of it, but they were also worried about the particular aspects of it. I have talked to nursing assistants who work in the hospitals themselves, nursing assistants who have looked at the legislation and considered it an insult. They consider their professional status as employees of a hospital with some sort of a reasonable expectation that there be standards there are being violated as a result of this. I think their legitimate comments should have been at least reasonably listened to by the Minister, rather than being sloughed off because, obviously, they are not as professional as he is as a doctor.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things I think I should do today, because I think it is appropriate for all of us to see it, is that I will table a copy of the correspondence from the Newfoundland Association of Public Employees on it. Before I do that, however, I would like to read into the record a number of the comments made by Dave Curtis, who is, of course, one of the NAPE negotiators. He is the employee relations officer involved with nursing assistants. I will read the section here:

"Section 8 of the amended Act under Subsection (2) is proposing a dramatic change insofar as the council will now be able to register individuals who have not trained as nursing assistants, that is, student nurses. This proposed change, coupled the

proposed change in paragraph (e) of Section 2, could open the doors to employers to hire whom ever they so desire as nursing assistants. This by the way," and this is a quote, "is becoming a major problem. They are now going to legalize what they could not do in the past."

What he is saying is he is seeing in more and more, especially in the smaller group homes which are being established for the care of some of our people, in these particular institutions, they are not bothering to look for trained nursing assistants, instead they are looking for less trained people they want to get away with because they feel they can hire them for less money.

Continuing on with the letter, "Section (8) of the amended Act, in the newly proposed Subsection (3), is providing the council with greater authority to deny a request for registration."

"The Act respecting the registration of nursing assistants states as its purpose the establishing of the council and the establishment of the standards of training and registration of nursing assistants. The proposed amendments clearly fly in the face of the stated purpose of the Act. The amendments will enable the council to register individuals who are not trained nursing assistants.

"Frankly, this council is an employer-dominated group of individuals who care nothing about protecting or, indeed, enhancing the role of the nursing assistants. The proposed amendments only serve to reinforce our distrust of the council.

"Many thanks for forwarding us the proposed amendments. Without your help, we would be unaware of the amendments."

That, Mr. Speaker, is probably the largest indictment of it. The last line in the letter indicates the group representing the largest number of nursing assistants in this Province was not even consulted in the drafting of this particular change in the nursing assistant legislation.

DR. COLLINS:

You are talking about unions. This Act does not set up a union. You are talking about an entirely (inaudible).

MR. FENWICK:

I am talking about the organization which speaks for the majority of nursing assistants in this Province. That organization was not consulted one iota.

Mr. Speaker, an interesting point: We had, up in the gallery -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

AN HON. MEMBER:

Sick!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please! Order, please!

MR. FENWICK:

We had, up in the gallery this afternoon, a Vice-President of Keyin Tech sitting there and he, along with the ownership of several of the other private schools in this Province, were not only consulted, Mr. Speaker, on their bill, they were given copies of the bill. They were on the committee that worked on it. They developed the whole thing, and when they were finished, they sent

it back here.

Now, that consultation, if it is good enough for a Former Tory candidate in Waterford-Kenmount, surely it is good enough for an organization which represents probably 3,000 or 4,000 nursing assistants in this Province. I do not understand why this is a particular good operation, a good means of consultation, when it is your buddies you are talking about, but when people who are, quite frankly, legitimately concerned with the welfare of the people who work in this Province in the hospitals were not consulted one iota.

I think that is a terrible inconsistency in the way you treat people. You did not have to listen to everything they said, but, for God's sakes, why did you not at least give them an opportunity to have some input into the legislation?

AN HON. MEMBER:
They did.

MR. MITCHELL:
Why did they not send in what they wanted to?

MR. FENWICK:
They did not even know the legislation was coming down! It is the last line. I will read it again.

"Many thanks for forwarding us the proposed amendments. Without your help, we would be unaware of the amendments." They were not even told the amendments were coming down!

AN HON. MEMBER:
(Inaudible).

MR. FENWICK:

Yes!

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

MR. SIMMS:
There are more nursing assistants on the council than any other group.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

MR. FENWICK:
There are three nursing assistants on the council.

MR. SIMMS:
More than any other group.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

MR. FENWICK:
And the three nursing assistants on it are not even connected up with any of the trade unions involved, so they do not even talk to them!

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Oh, oh!

MR. FENWICK:
Because they are appointed, not by the trade unions involved, which would not have been a bad idea, but they were appointed by the government for their own political reasons, rather than on the basis of who is qualified.

MR. SIMMS:
Are they registered nursing assistants?

MR. FENWICK:
Well, they have to be, otherwise they would not be on the council.

MR. SIMMS:
Of course they are.

MR. FENWICK:

Mr. Speaker, what it is is an example of how blind this government is to the fact that there are more interests in this Province than their corporate friends! These trade unions, these individuals, are very much concerned with the professional standards of the people they represent, because if they are not concerned with them, then there are a whole bunch of legal implications which could become involved here.

What will happen is individuals will be appointed into this particular profession, these appointed individuals will then go to work, they will occur bargaining unit positions, and if they end up with a problem and are getting sued by a patient because of some problem, the union itself, for a large part, will foot the bill to defend them. So they have a vested interest in making sure we have the best possible nursing assistants in the entire world. That is the kind of thing they want to do.

AN HON. MEMBER:

No way, wrong.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. FENWICK:

I will give the Page a copy.

MR. DINN:

You should be speaking on behalf of the people of Menihek, not NAPE or CUPE.

MR. FENWICK:

Would you bring it back? I only have one copy. Make a couple of copies for the House.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. FENWICK:

Mr. Speaker, I think it is indicative of a lot more than just the fact we are looking at these employers and allowing them considerably wider leeway than they had before in determining the people who look after the sick in our Province.

What it clearly shows is a bias towards looking at a council which is unrepresentative of the people who work in a particular industry, and is much more representative of the people who manage the industry, whose objectives, Mr. Speaker, must be different than - what happened to the rule where you are not suppose to walk between a person who is speaking and the Speaker?

MR. DINN:

They are not observant over there. They never read a book on what is supposed to go on here.

MR. FENWICK:

Mr. Speaker, it is clearly important the people who are involved in the profession be consulted with the agency of their choice. I would say to you, since collective bargaining has been in existence for about the last sixteen or eighteen years, the Canadian Union of Public Employees speaks as legitimately for its nursing assistants as does any nursing council which has a whole bunch of employers on it; that the Newfoundland Association of Public Employees, which has 16,000 members in this Province, of which perhaps 5,000 are health care workers of some sort of other, legitimately speaks for the nursing assistants as well.

It is, in my opinion, absolutely

unconscionable the government would sit there and say they did not even bother to consult them and ask them whether this particular piece of legislation was for the betterment of the profession or whether it was actually for the betterment of the employers who are operating in the health field today.

So, Mr. Speaker, I do not like the legislation. I intend to vote against the particular bill. I am hoping we can have an opportunity to modify it substantially in committee stage, if it does go through, because I think it is a poor example of what we should be doing.

The increase in the number of people on the board or at least the change in the number from fifteen to up to fifteen is of really no major consequences. It is something that we have no objection to.

But clearly the other pieces of it, where we say that the nursing assistant is defined as whoever a registered nursing assistant is, and take out of it the definition of what exactly a nursing assistant is, who is the primary health care giver on the line, supervised by the medical professionals behind them, when we do that, what are we then defining a nursing assistant as? We are defining a nursing assistant as god knows what. As a result, we will end up with all kinds of abuses which could creep into the system.

Mr. Speaker, could you give me an indication of how much time I have left, because I am not sure exactly.

MR. SPEAKER:

Five minutes.

MR. FENWICK:

So, Mr. Speaker, just to try and summarize the complaints, first is the process. I think the government, if they have a commitment to consulting in society, as they did with the private training school legislation, then they also have an obligation to consult with other sectors of society, including the trade union movement which has a legitimate function in this Province, even if the government over there does not believe it. That consultation should have been done. They should have known the legislation was coming down. They should have been quite aware it was going to significantly affect a very large proportion of their membership.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, we are arguing a professional nursing assistant is a professional nursing assistant is a professional nursing assistant and is not a nurse who flunked out of her course; is not some other student nurse who should be stuck in there because they have some staffing problems and they are going to alleviate them that way; is not the wife, daughter, son, uncle or cousin of a nursing home owner, who is looking for a job from them and is, therefore, going to be defined as a nursing assistant by the loose standards which may be applied.

All of the legitimate arguments for nursing assistants who are not registered were taken care of by the grandfather clause that is in the legislation today and provided for certification for those who are working in the profession for a long period of time. We do not need to loosen up the definition

of it. We do not need a situation where abuse can creep into the system.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, it is, in my opinion, unconscionable that a professional body regulating nursing assistants should have such miniscule representation from that profession. Three out of fifteen or up to fifteen is not enough. Clearly the medical board would not accept that for doctors and clearly the Association of Registered Nurses would not accept that for registered nurses. In my opinion, there is no reason nursing assistants should accept that for their registration.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER:
Hear, hear!

MR. K. AYLWARD:
Mr. Speaker.

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

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

I have a number of comments in relation to this bill. There are a number of concerns that the hon. member for Port de Grave (Mr. Efford); the opposition spokesperson for health has brought forward concerning the training of nursing assistants and also the courses to be offered.

MR. SIMMS:
Those are more sensible.

MR. K. AYLWARD:
When it comes to the registration of nursing assistants, Mr. Speaker, I have had an experience with this. The Nursing Assistants

Council to me, in my experience dealing with them on behalf of some people who have wrote me and asked me to get in contact with me, seemed to be a very professional organization. Now, that is my impression of what they are. As a matter of fact, the person I was trying to see whether or not they had the criteria to be a professional nursing assistant had to go through a strict procedure and had to submit their qualifications and experience.

As I see it right now, or as I have seen it in the past, there are strong requirements for nursing assistants before you can get certified. That has been the case, I think, in the past and I would hope that that would be the case in the future.

The thing about this is, Mr. Speaker, when bringing in the amendment, as brought forward by the minister, as the member for Port de Grave pointed out, we want to make sure that training and the criteria for being a professional nursing assistant are met.

The difference in the amendment as to the previous act, at first glance, does not appear to be as wide as the hon. member for Menihek (Mr. Fenwick) paints it to be, whatever that is, but we will have a look at seeing what implications it has. At first glance it appears that it does not, but we will have a look at it and see whether or not that concern is a valid one or not.

As I was saying, Mr. Speaker, the past system, from what I have seen of it, means a person who wants to meet the criteria could look at the criteria and get their qualifications submitted and has to go through a rather strict

procedure to make sure he meets the criteria in order to be a nursing assistant. I think that should be a requirement especially with future legislation and with the council.

If, Mr. Speaker, the government was not in contact with all parties involved, then that is a shame that all the people involved were not contacted, if that were the case. Maybe that is not the case, I do not know, but I am sure that the minister will respond to that when he rises.

I have a concern also, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the courses offered. We, out on the West Coast of the Province over a number of years ago, I believe, there was a course at Western Memorial, but then that was gotten rid of and for some while there was no course, but there was a great demand for nursing assistants. The Western Community College in Stephenville, the Bay St. George campus has been trying to put together a programme for nursing assistants because of the demand that has been registered by the senior citizens home in Stephenville Crossing and other health care institutions around the West Coast.

We are very concerned about the funding for such a programme, and that this programme should be brought in in other areas of the Province, because there is a need and where that need is seen, it should be addressed.

There is a lot of pressure within hospitals now on nurses who are performing work that is normally carried out by nursing assistants because of either a lack of qualified people or a lack of funding. So that is a problem

that has to be addressed.

There should be more courses offered to nursing assistants for areas where there is a demand for them. As I have said, they are attempting to put together a course. Last year, when they were getting ready to bring in the course in September - I believe it is now running - there was a great demand from the Bay St. George/Port au Port area, from people from all over the West Coast, who were wanting to get into the programme. There were only about twenty or thirty spaces, I believe, and there was a great number of applications to get into the programme. So there is a definite need to get people trained, because the institutions require nursing assistants to help with the health care of the Province, to help the nurses who are under a great deal of strain.

The other concern we have goes back to the change in legislation, in the requirements for people who want to be nursing assistants. That change appears, at first glance, to require that a person has to complete a programme of education for registered nursing assistants, or its equivalent, as determined by the Council. That would appear to address concerns expressed by the hon. member for Menihek. It has to be reviewed, Mr. Speaker, and we will be doing that. Our main concern is that people who are becoming nursing assistants are doing the proper courses, or have had the proper training, and are only allowed to become nursing assistants in our institutions if they have proper accreditation. And if we want to just wipe out the Nursing Assistants Council, at the present time we have to operate with the criteria we have set up, and with

the Council making those decisions.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the minister will address the problem is being brought forward so that people who are going to be taking care of our sick and aged in these institutions are fully qualified. As I have said, from my previous experience of helping some people who have been trying to get their accreditation, there seems to be a strict criteria which has to be met. I would hope people will again have to go through that criteria so that they do not slip through the system. It is a professional organization. As a matter of fact, nursing assistants in this Province perform very, very difficult work under difficult circumstances and under increased pressure.

MR. SIMMS:
(Inaudible).

MR. K. AYLWARD:
Thank you hon. House Leader.

The hon. House Leader recognizes that I am making some good, valid points, and I hope he will take heed of what I am saying.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to nursing assistants in this Province the work they do, again, is very important work. They work in tandem with nurses in this Province to provide the health care so badly needed and that right now, we are finding, is becoming increasingly difficult to provide in our institutions for many reasons, including the lack of funding and so on.

Mr. Speaker, we have to make sure that people who are going into the nursing assistants programme are fully trained and are able to deal with the responsibilities of

helping people within our institutions, and also that they are able to ensure that they are able to go through the Nursing Assistants Council and meet the criteria that are set out. We would be very concerned, Mr. Speaker, as the member for Port de Grave pointed out, if the criteria were being relaxed and people are getting through the process who are not really trained and who are not recognized as being professional. If that is the case, then we have serious concerns with the amendment. But we will wait to see what the minister says about what the interpretation is on the amendment he brings forward.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that nursing assistants in this Province need to be recognized more and more by the government of the Province to ensure that they are appreciated. I think, Mr. Speaker, that is one thing we do not do enough of in this Province, especially in the health care institutions of the Province.

AN HON. MEMBER:
(Inaudible).

MR. K. AYLWARD:
Mr. Speaker, I tell you! I am making a good speech here. Anyway, that was pretty good.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. K. AYLWARD:
There is a lot more to go, Mr. Speaker. Let me tell you, there is a lot more to go.

I will stay right on track, Mr. Speaker, as I normally do, putting forward good points of view.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. K. AYLRWARD:

Mr. Speaker, in summary, we hope the minister will address those concerns we have put forward in relation to getting people into these institutions who are fully trained and able to carry out their responsibilities

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible).

MR. K. AYLRWARD:

Too bad, Mr. Speaker. They are going to have to put up with my voice. That is it. It is just too bad.

The thing is, this has to be done. When the minister rises to close the debate, I hope he will address these concerns we have put forward.

It is very important, Mr. Speaker. Our population is aging. There is going to be an increased demand for nursing assistants in this Province, and it is going to become more important to make sure that we have people who are properly trained, so we will begin reviewing this amendment a little closer just to see what the intentions are.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your time and I adjourn the debate, as I normally do.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. TULK:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. TULK:

The hon. gentleman for Stephenville has just made another tremendous speech. If hon. members want to know what is really putting him forward, he has now decided, I think, to take the big leap of matrimony on July 29. On that basis, I think we should adjourn the House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMS:

To that point of order. In view of that significant event, I am prepared to move that this House adjourn now not wait until five o'clock - adjourn now - in honour of the hon. member's matrimonial plans.

Now, I am not certain. As the Minister of Fisheries said today, he does not always take everything that the member for Fogo says as gospel. So, is that a fact? The hon. member could confirm for me.

MR. K. AYLRWARD:

Yes.

MR. SIMMS:

It is a fact.

Mr. Speaker, I think the least we should do is take note of that fact and we should, on behalf of the House of Assembly, instruct Your Honour, or ask Your Honour, to write a letter to the groom and to the bride and wish them not many happy returns, but many happy days ahead.

DR. COLLINS:

I am willing to make him an honorary nursing assistant.

MR. SIMMS:

Make a motion, all those in favour and all that stuff. That was to

the point of order.

MR. SPEAKER:

It is one minute to five o'clock.

MR. SIMMS:

Is that Your Honour's response to the point of order, it one minute to five o'clock?

Okay, Your Honour. You are going to write the letter, are you for sure? We were serious about that, Your Honour.

Before I move the adjournment, Mr. Speaker, I would like to just say that normally I would indicate now matters we will be dealing with for the rest of the week. However, we have not quite finalized our agenda for Friday. So what I will do, in order to give hon. members a bit of time, is indicate that on Thursday - tomorrow is Private Member's Day, of course - we will continue on with legislation. Then, before the House adjourns tomorrow evening, I should be in a position, if Your Honour will give me a chance, because there is not normally an opportunity for me to speak, to indicate what is on Friday and what is on next week.

All hon. members will remember that next Tuesday the House is closed, too. I think we have already indicated that publicly.

I move that the House adjourn until tomorrow, Wednesday, at 2:00 p.m.

On motion, the House at its rising adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, June 1, at 2:00 p.m.

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Answers to Questions

tabled

May 31, 1988

Hensard

Traced by Hon. Minister
of Education, 31 May '88

1/88

Tuesday, March 15th, 1988

Question #89

MR. DECKER (STRAIT OF BELLE ISLE) - TO ASK THE HONOURABLE
THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION 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
- (e) WERE ANY OF THESE JOBS ADVERTISED IN ORDER TO GIVE THE UNEMPLOYED THE CHANCE OF APPLYING?

ANSWER

- (a) Number of people presently working on Minister's staff - 3.
- (b) Number of people appointed by Order in Council - 1.
- (c) Minister's Secretary - \$25,785.
Minister's Secretary - \$23,543.
Executive Assistant - \$36,356.
- (d) See Attached.
- (e) No. Both secretaries are career Public Servants - 18 years + and 13 years +, respectively. Executive Assistant appointed - left the Federal Public Service to accept position.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

- Responds to requests from constituents and the general public at large regarding government policy and programs in the department and government in general. Follows up on such requests and advises the Minister of sensitive or important aspects of such requests.
- Routinely prepares letters of congratulations to recognize significant achievements of constituents.
- Maintains close liaison with various community groups in the Minister's district. Advises the Minister of matters of concern, problems being experienced, projects needing assistance, current issues in the district or the Province, matters that may come to attention regarding the Department and any other matters the Minister may require information for future action by either the Minister or the Special Assistant.
- Takes steps to maintain high district profile of the Minister both in the district or provincial level.
- Responds to requests for speaking engagements in the district and from any group or organization anywhere. Initiates speaking engagements for the Minister on topical subjects from time to time.
- Co-ordinates the preparation of notes for speaking engagements.
- Confirms and arranges meetings for Minister with individuals requiring direct consultation while researching subject matter for meeting and advising possible course of action.
- Arranges logistical details of dinners, receptions, etc. being hosted by the Minister in any location in the world. Insures proper protocol for inviting guests, insures any problems that may arise are acted upon expeditiously.
- Represents Minister on various interdepartmental committees as requested.
- Represents Minister upon request at speaking engagements for which he is unavailable.
- Meets delegations on behalf of Minister, takes appropriate action in consultation with the Minister.

- Regularly attends House of Assembly sittings. Prepares and compiles notes for debates in the House of Assembly. Co-ordinates preparation of replies to questions on the Order Paper.
- Maintains close liaison with Special Assistants to other Ministers. Ensures requests from other Ministers are dealt with expeditiously.
- Becomes familiar with programs and policies of the Department and the government at large affecting constituents, the business community, and general public at large.
- Other duties which may arise or be assigned from time to time.

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