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Speaker: Honourable Thomas Lush

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6 December 1989

The House met at 2:00 p.m.

MR. SPEAKER (Lush):
Order, please!

Oral Questions

MR. MATTHEWS:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Member for Grand Bank.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question is for the Minister of Fisheries. I would like to ask the Minister, can he confirm reports that both National Sea and Fishery Products International have advised the Provincial Government of plant closures within the Province, and that we are going to see a minimum of four plants closed, one from National Sea and three from Fishery Products International?

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

MR. W. CARTER:
Mr. Speaker, I can tell the hon. Member and the House that no such advice has been yet given to the Provincial Government.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Member for Grand Bank.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would just like to say to the Minister that word is out, and I think it is time for this Minister of Fisheries and this Government to come clean with the people in the communities around our shores. My supplementary to the

Minister of Fisheries then is, can he assure the people of Burgeo, Ramea, Gaultois, Harbour Breton, Grand Bank, Fortune, Trepassey and St. John's that their future is secure in the deep-sea fishery?

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

MR. W. CARTER:
Mr. Speaker, as the hon. Member knows, of course, we cannot make that assurance.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Member for Grand Bank.

MR. MATTHEWS:
Mr. Speaker, the Minister is playing a game with the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, as he has done for the last four to five weeks in this House. He is on record, and the Premier is on record, as saying there is going to be a minimum of 6,000 people displaced from the fishery. Everyone in Newfoundland and Labrador is hearing signals coming from particularly the Premier and the Minister of Fisheries, that there will be plant closures. Eventually, probably before another week is out, the people in communities where fish plants are going to be closed will be aware that this Minister has been sitting on this information now for a significant period of time. So, once again I would ask the Minister of Fisheries will he set aside the fears in three or four communities of this Province, particularly three on the south coast of the Province and one right here in this very city, the employees of NatSea, and will he not come clean with the people and tell the people through this House exactly the plants that are up for closure in agreement with, of course, and supported by this

Provincial Government, three plants on the south coast and one in St. John's?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker, if telling the truth is a crime, I guess I am guilty. But we have not been advised by either company what, if any, plants will be closed. He attributes to us statements about a 6,000 person layoff. We said maybe and probably around that. We are talking probably two or three thousand man-years of employment, maybe, but certainly, Mr. Speaker, there is no definite information yet from either Company as to what their plans are. I cannot be any more specific, and the hon. Member will have to believe me.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Member for Grand Bank.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary to the Minister of Fisheries.

Will he please stand in his place and tell us when the people in these south coast communities I referred to, in the community of Trepassey, and those right here who are employed at National Sea Products on the Southside of this City, can expect to hear the news? When?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker, we expect that very shortly that information will be made available. Now I hope the

hon. Member will understand that I am not in the habit of lying to this House. When I say we have not been advised, I would expect him to either accept that or provide proof that I am lying.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Member for Grand Bank.

MR. MATTHEWS:

I can name the plants for you, if you want, that you know about now. I can name them, if you want.

MR. PARSONS:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Member for St. John's East Extern.

MR. PARSONS:

Mr. Speaker, my question, too, is to the Minister of Fisheries.

From the information I have received a deal has been struck by this Government with the Federal Government whereby in excess of 6,000 Newfoundlanders and Labradorians will be forced to give up their livelihood, their historic right, the rights of their families to live in dignity and to be proud of their God-given right.

Would the hon. the Minister of Fisheries tell this House if there is such an agreement? I ask him to do it.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER:

The question is hardly worth an answer. I can tell him now there is no such deal struck.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Member for St. John's

East Extern.

MR. PARSONS:

The President of the Fishermen's Union, I am told, said everything is a downside for the future of the fishery. Before this devastation takes place, would the Minister commit this Government to presenting to this hon. House a White Paper, and hold public hearings before the agreement is finalized?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker, I do not know what agreement he is talking about. We are not involved in any agreement with anybody, and I certainly see no reason why we should present a White Paper or have special hearings to talk about an agreement we know nothing about.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Member for St. John's East Extern.

MR. PARSONS:

It is common knowledge that there were meetings being held all last week, up until last night, and there are negotiations. As I have said, the information I have received said a deal is struck. Is the Minister, then, prepared to make a commitment on behalf of this Government to protect the inshore fishery, which is of paramount importance in respect to the northern cod, as was done by every Provincial Government since 1949, when we joined Confederation? Are you prepared to make that commitment to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. Member talks about meetings. Of course meetings are going on. The Premier and I met in Montreal on Sunday night with Newfoundland's Federal Cabinet Minister, Mr. Crosbie. We have had numerous meetings, and I suspect we will be having a lot more meetings before this is all over. But I can only repeat what I said a moment ago, we have not been advised of any plant closures. We expect to be in the very near future, but certainly, up to this point, we have not been so advised.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Member for St. John's East Extern.

MR. PARSONS:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. the Minister of Fisheries did not answer my question. My question was, will he give an assurance that this Government will protect the inshore as it pertains to the northern cod stocks, as has been done by every Provincial Government since 1949? That is the question I want him to answer.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER:

The question is so ridiculous, I am surprised the hon. Member would even consider asking it. Of course we will give that assurance. We stand behind the inshore fishery. We stand behind it completely!

Every meeting we have had, Mr. Speaker, every paper, every memo we have sent to Ottawa, we have given that assurance, and made it known to them that we do support the inshore fishery, and we support the 115,000 ton

allocation. We are insisting that that allocation remain intact. So what more can we do?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. TOBIN:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Member for Burin - Placentia West.

MR. TOBIN:

Mr. Speaker, now that the Government has information as to which plants are closing in the Province, now that the Government knows that there are four plants going down in this Province, let me ask the Minister of Municipal Affairs is it the reason the capital works programs for his Department have not been released as of the date committed, because the Premier and the Minister of Fisheries, and probably other Cabinet Ministers, are aware that there are going to be communities in this Province that will not survive the drastic cut in their economy that the Premier and the Minister of Fisheries are going to permit and encourage to happen?

MR. GULLAGE:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs.

MR. GULLAGE:

I do not know what the Member bases his question on, Mr. Speaker, but capital works for 1990 is being prepared now in the regional offices. Within a couple of weeks, I expect, it will be ready and available for my staff and myself to peruse, and that capital works will be announced

shortly, by the end of the year. It has a connection, in the sense that obviously we will be looking at communities and the condition of those communities, but we do that anyway. I do not know how pertinent the question is.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Member for Burin - Placentia West.

MR. TOBIN:

Mr. Speaker, the Minister has now admitted that the connection has something to do with the condition of the Municipalities involved. Mr. Speaker, he is a Member of Cabinet, he made a commitment that the capital works program would be brought down by the end of November, it is now December. I asked the Minister, does it have anything to do with the plant closures? That was my question. Secondly, if it has nothing to do with the plant closures, is the Minister trying to hide behind the closing of the House of Assembly before he brings down the report?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs.

MR. GULLAGE:

Mr. Speaker, when I made the comment that we look at the condition of communities, obviously one of the factors we consider is the financial viability of the community, their ability to operate their financial capability, their revenue and expenses and so on, and that all contributes to a decision on capital works. Other than that, there is no connection.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Member for Burin - Placentia West.

MR. TOBIN:

Mr. Speaker, will the Minister tell this House if he has had any discussion with the Minister of Fisheries regarding the closing of plants in certain communities in this Province?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs.

MR. GULLAGE:

No.

MR. HODDER:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER:

Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation. In view of the fact that the Federal Government and most Provincial Governments across Canada have restricted smoking in Provincial Government Buildings, some with a total ban, and in view of the fact that there is no scientist today who will dispute the link between smoking and lung cancer, does the Minister intend to institute a no smoking policy in Government Buildings and Offices?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation.

MR. GILBERT:

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Member for the question, and it is one I certainly agree with. I understand that Social Policy are right now considering making the recommendation, and we hope to have it in place very shortly. We are quite happy to make this recommendation, as far as I am

concerned.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER:

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for his answer. I would just like to ask if he could give me some idea of how. I understand there is some cost involved in this. There are some provinces, I should point out to the Minister, which have different types: some provinces absolutely ban smoking in public buildings totally; there are other provinces which have places set aside in public buildings for people, for smoking purposes. Could the Minister tell me what type of ban he is proposing?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation.

MR. GILBERT:

Mr. Speaker, we are not proposing anything, we are considering. When I get all the recommendations that will be made, I would imagine we will then make a decision. When we have all the information tabulated, we will be only too happy to tell the hon. Member how we are going to do it. So, really, we are considering, and I will be only too happy to provide the information once the decision is made.

MS VERGE:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Member for Humber East.

MS VERGE:

I have a question for the Minister of Social Services.

I would like to know whether the Minister of Social Services agrees with the proposal of his colleague, the Minister of Justice (Mr. Dicks), that social workers instead of Legal Aid lawyers represent applicants for maintenance and child support in court?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Social Services.

MR. EFFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, my position on that is very clear. I have been out of the House of Assembly and out of my position as Minister of Social Services for the last month. The question was asked of the Minister of Justice the other day, and the topic of social workers working with people seeking maintenance in the courts is one of the things I have on the agenda for discussion with the Minister of Justice. Once I have sat down with the Minister for a full discussion, I will be able to report back to the House. But I am not going to make a statement without being briefed fully and having discussions with my colleague, the Minister of Justice.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Member for Humber East.

MS VERGE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have a supplementary for the Minister of Social Services. Would the Minister tell the House whether, in his opinion as Minister of Social Services, back in the saddle now, riding bareback, whether the social workers employed by his department

have enough work to do now, or whether, in his opinion, there is a need to add to the complement of social workers employed by his Department, and, finally, whether there is any other work not presently being addressed or addressed completely which, in his opinion, social services social workers should be assigned to?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Social Services.

MR. EFFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am glad to be back in the saddle in the Department of Social Services. I am not sure what the hon. Member means by 'bareback'. But I am certainly glad to be back in the Office of Minister of Social Services. The hon. the Member for Humber East (Ms Verge) is quite right, that the social workers employed by the Department of Social Services have a very heavy caseload. There is no question about that. We are presently taking a look at the caseloads of social workers right across the Province, not only social workers, but child abuse workers, financial officers, and all people connected with the fifty-two District Offices across the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. We are presently looking and assessing to see where the workload can be eased off, to see where the need is for more child abuse workers, more social workers and more financial officers. We will be addressing that in the coming year, there is no question about it. We have a responsibility to ensure that the caseloads are relieved somewhat, and that nobody in the Department of Social Services carries a workload which cannot deliver the

service that is required of them by the people of the Province.

AN HON. MEMBER:

And there will be no cover up, right?

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Opposition House Leader.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier. In view of the fact that yesterday, for example, in debate on Bill No. 40, The Economic Recovery Commission, I pointed out and argued that there had been many people who have asked for the Government to reinstate The Private Sector Employment Job Creation Program and for this Government to get moving and to create some jobs. I also said, in view of the fact that the Board of Trade, a respected group of businesses in this Province and in this community have asked the Minister of Employment and Labour Relations (Ms Cowan) to introduce that same program, and in view of the fact that the Chairman of the Economic Recovery Commission has commended publicly the previous Government, the previous Administration for initiating that Private Sector Employment Program which created 2,000 to 3,000 jobs, and in view of the fact that the Minister of Finance (Dr. Kitchen), just a couple of days ago, admitted that our economy is falling down around our ears and that our unemployment rate has, in fact, increased since this Government took office and that jobs desperately need to be created, I would like to ask the Premier is he aware or can he confirm that the Economic Recovery

Commission, of which Dr. House is now the Chairman, has that Commission itself, in fact, now asked the Minister of Employment to reinstate The Private Sector Employment Program? Is he aware of that?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER WELLS:

I have to correct some of the misstatements leading up to the question and then I will answer the question. Mr. Speaker, we terminated what was called The Private Sector Employment Program which had, in fact, become an Employee Subsidy Program for employers who wanted subsidy for their employees. And there were employees, one in the District of Humber East spoke to me on it, the hon. Member's District, and said 'we did not apply for employee subsidy this year, we are hiring the workers anyway. We do not think it is right to have employee subsidies.' This is, in fact, what was happening with that program.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

PREMIER WELLS:

Mr. Speaker, the policy the new Government implemented was a policy of dealing with the fundamental problem and creating long-term jobs, not patchwork, not treating the symptoms. So we changed the policy of that along with other policies.

Now, I am aware that The Private Sector Employment Program was a program that the Royal Commission on Employment and Unemployment recommended be considered, and I have no doubt that they probably had good reason for recommending

it at the time. Unfortunately, the way it was introduced it became an Employee Subsidy Program and simply masked the real unemployment problem and did not deal with the real problem.

So, Mr. Speaker, we took a look at all of these problems. It is wrong to say that the Chairman of the Economic Recovery Commission has suggested that this be reinstated. I have no knowledge that he has, but I will certainly enquire and find out. I will make an enquiry and find out, but, Mr. Speaker, our objective is to deal with the problem, not to patch up the symptoms and fake the figures the way the former Government did.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Opposition House Leader.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that the Premier will not take his blinkers off, and that somehow he wants to approach this in a partisan way, and that somehow, because it was introduced by the previous Administration, he has to scrap it so they can bring in their own program. That is what they have in their minds and everybody in the Province can read it. I have said that the Chairman of the Royal Commission has, in fact, publicly commended the Government for bringing in that initiative. It is in the paper, May 7, 1989. Read it. The Board of Trade has asked for it.

Mr. Speaker, yes, it was a subsidy. Of course it was. The whole idea of the program, to provide an initiative, an incentive for businesses to hire people. My question to the Premier, then, is this: Can he not, for once, acknowledge that

the program was successful? Otherwise, why would all these businesses, and why would the Royal Commission Chairman have commended us on the program? In fact, it did create jobs, the idea being that if we gave an incentive of a subsidy you would create some jobs for awhile. But the fact of the matter is, fully a third of those jobs were full-time in end and the employers did, in fact, hire people permanently, such as the one he described from Humber East, probably. I do not know if they were involved in the program at the beginning. I am asking the Premier if he will not take his blinkers off and have a good hard look at it? Most importantly, I want to know if the Economic Recovery Commission, themselves, have, in fact, asked the Minister of Employment to reinstate the program. That is how important they find it.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER WELLS:

If I may correct some misstatements again.

Dr. House did not commend the former Government for doing it. The comment in the paper was his response to comments that the Report of the Royal Commission had been put on the shelf and had not been acted upon. In response, he said, a number of things had been acted upon, and he noted that that was one of them that had been acted upon.

MR. SIMMS:

But it was their recommendation.

PREMIER WELLS:

That is right. I understand that. That is the truth of the matter, not that there was a

commendation for it. Of course businesses support it, because it pays them to incur an expense they would otherwise incur themselves. How can we justify paying Newfoundland Light and Power Company Limited 50 per cent of the cost of forty jobs - how can we justify that? - that they would have to hire anyway? We say the money can be spent for a better purpose and in the end create more jobs. How can we justify paying law firms to hire article students? How can we justify doing that, when we could spend the money to other good use? How can we justify doing it?

Of course, as long as the Government is going to subsidize one business, any business is entitled to take advantage of it. I understand that. If Governments are going to subsidize businesses, then any business can take advantage of it. We think it is the wrong approach. It is also wrong to say that that program caused the creation of full-time employment. There may have been some full-time employment continued, but not because of that job. It would have been there anyway, Mr. Speaker. All Government did was waste money on that program. They could have put the money to better use elsewhere.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Opposition House Leader.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, it is really, really ludicrous for the Premier to make that kind of a statement. He does not know if those jobs would have been there anyway. How does he know that?

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

I want to remind the hon. Member that he cannot debate the Premier's answer. He is up for a question, and the Chair is expecting the hon. the Member to ask a question. All hon. Members know we are not supposed to debate answers.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Premier in view of the comments he just made in response to my question, would he not agree that the articles in the paper of May 7 that he said were not commendations, were in fact commendations? Would he not agree, if he reads them properly, that the former Chairman of the Royal Commission was, in fact, commending the Government? That is question number one.

Question number two, would he not agree, as well, that with the letters of commendation for the program that came forward -

PREMIER WELLS:

(Inaudible).

MR. SIMMS:

I will table it after Question Period.

PREMIER WELLS:

I would like to see it if I am going to answer (inaudible).

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMS:

Would you ask the Premier to stop interrupting, Mr. Speaker? I am trying to ask my question.

Would the Premier not agree, because of the letters and the support for reintroduction of that program by the Board of Trade, by the Chairman of the Royal

Commission, by individual people who have been involved, by people who were employed under the program, would the Premier not agree that this whole program is worthy of reinstatement? And if they want to cut out some of the things like utilities getting it, that is fine; we do not care if you tighten it up. But the purpose of the program was positive and most people in this Province agree with it.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER WELLS:

I now have the article in the paper and the article, as I see it, says: 'In a letter in today's Telegram, Dr. House outlined some major areas where the former Government took action', and he refers to the implementation of the Newfoundland Stock Savings Plan and the Private Sector Employment Program. But what the hon. Member did not read was the last paragraph in the article. 'In his letter Dr. House praised Premier Clyde Wells for accepting the Commission's philosophy regarding the balancing of urban industrial and rural development, adding he is optimistic the new Government will act on more of the Royal Commission's recommendations.' That is what Dr. House said in the article.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let me say that if a private sector employment program properly implemented will improve employment opportunities, this Government will implement it gladly. That Private Sector Employment Program amounted to nothing more than some subsidy for the businesses involved. That is basically what it was, and we disagree with that kind of approach. We want to create

long-term employment, and if we can find a means of implementing a so-called private sector employment program that will, in fact, serve the ends of creating long-term, stable employment in this Province, Mr. Speaker, we will gladly concede and implement such a program. But we were not prepared to continue with the way it was before.

MR. WINSOR:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Member for Fogo.

MR. WINSOR:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question is for the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs.

AN HON. MEMBER:

You want another \$2 million, do you?

MR. WINSOR:

Yes, and more than that.

The Minister said in response to a question about three weeks ago that the programs for recreation complexes would soon be announced. I even think he went on to say that the Member must be psychic, because he was now ready to announce it. That was nearly three weeks ago. Can the Minister now tell this House what his plans are, since he promised last June that new guidelines would soon be announced?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Member for Municipal and Provincial Affairs.

MR. GULLAGE:

What I said, Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, in answer to a similar question, was that we were, in

fact, reaching a decision as far as the regional recreation facilities were concerned, and that a recommendation had been brought forward to Government. As soon as that recommendation is accepted or otherwise, I will bring it forward to the House and announce the proposed program.

MR. WINSOR:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Member for Fogo.

MR. WINSOR:

Can the Minister now tell this House if it is true that he refuses to meet with recreation commissions because he has no new information to give them? And, furthermore, is this not a further indication that the Minister's Department is so big that recreation is not given any priority?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please! Order, please!

There are a couple of Members on both sides of the House talking back and forth, and His Honour is finding it difficult to hear the question. I ask hon. Members, please, to give the courtesy of silence to the questioner and to the Minister who is about to answer.

The hon. the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs.

MR. GULLAGE:

Mr. Speaker, the direct opposite of that is true; in fact, I am meeting with recreation commissions quite frequently, discussing the fact that they

should get on with making plans for their facilities and revising plans they had presented to the previous Government.

We are, in fact, going to bring in a recommended program, and that program will address the regional concerns, many applications of which we had presented to us in May. At that time, I think, three facilities were being considered for approval.

I believe, under the new proposed program, if it becomes a reality and if it is accepted by Government, we will see the ability on the part of Government to deliver more programs than were proposed under the previous Government.

MR. R. AYLWARD:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

One minute, the hon. the Member for Kilbride.

MR. R. AYLWARD:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I have one short question for the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation.

I would ask the hon. Minister if he would explain to this House the Department's policy on the use of Department of Transportation equipment and staff on private property and municipal property throughout the Province.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Works, Services, and Transportation.

MR. GILBERT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I will take the Member's question

and table the answer.

MR. SPEAKER:

The time for Oral Questions has elapsed.

Notices of Motion

MR. DICKS:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Justice.

MR. DICKS:

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled, "An Act To Amend The Human Rights Code, 1988."

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs.

MR. GULLAGE:

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a Bill entitled, "An Act To Amend The Urban and Rural Planning Act." (Bill No. 51).

Answers to Questions
for which Notice has been Given

MR. GILBERT:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation.

MR. GILBERT:

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, the Member for Port au Port asked me the question, what is happening to the Stephenville Airport issue regarding the First Air/Air Canada impasse over a joint fare

arrangement?

At the time, I told the hon. gentleman I would get the information. I told him we had been in contact with them, but I told him I would give him further information. I would like, at this time, to table for hon. Members copies of numerous letters.

MR. HODDER:

A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A point of the order, the hon. the Member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER:

I have no objection whatsoever to getting any extra information on the hon. Minister might have on the Stephenville Airport. The only thing is, Mr. Speaker, I asked the question and the Minister answered the question. He did not say anywhere, because I read the questions on a couple of occasions, that he would be responding to the question.

Now, Mr. Speaker, Question Period is Question Period; I ask a question and the Minister's answers. Now if he says I will endeavor to get extra information, then that is fine. My objection here, Mr. Speaker, is that what the Minister is doing is abusing this particular privilege, because there was no undertaking.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if he wants to do it by leave, fine, but not get up on the pretext that he had told me before.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation.

MR. GILBERT:

To the point of order, he asked me

what correspondence I had concerning this and I told him I would endeavor to get it. So I will table for his information the letters that I have written, and I would point out that on December 5 there was an announcement concerning Stephenville Airport, giving it full international status.

MR. HODDER:

To the Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

I was about to rule on the point of order, but is the Member for Port au Port speaking on the same point of order?

MR. HODDER:

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER:

It is part of the rules of this House whether the Minister can get up. He gave no undertaking that he was going to. As I have said, I have no problem with it, but if the Minister wants to bring this back, he should do it under a Ministerial Statement. But certainly he is going under the guise of giving notice from Question Period. He did not do that. If Mr. Speaker will look at Hansard, he will see that is so.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Member's point is well taken. Our Standing Orders are clear that a Minister answers a question when notice has been given. But it has happened in the past under this particular routine order, that Ministers have clarified an answer given the day previous, particularly with agreement by Members.

MR. HODDER:

Not while I have been here. I have been here seventeen years and I have never seen it done like this.

MR. SPEAKER:

I would advise hon. Members, please, that we try to follow the Orders, and that answers ought to be given only when notice was given of the answers. Under other conditions, a Minister ought to ask leave of the House.

The hon. the Minister of Works, Services, and Transportation.

MR. GILBERT:

Well, in that case, Mr. Speaker, I will table it. But the Member for Torngat asked me the question, 'Are there plans to downgrade or discontinue Canadian Airlines International's 737 service to Happy Valley - Goose Bay and Wabush?' I told him I thought it was rumors, but my officials were investigating it and I would report back.

Now I have, and we have been assured by Canadian Airlines International that they have no plans to reduce the 737 service to Happy Valley - Goose Bay or Wabush. Again, a typical example of the Member's question. Now, I will table that and the letters concerning Stephenville and First Air. I will table it for the Member, and he will be able to read it. If he needs anymore information, ask me and I will get it for him.

MR. SPEAKER:

Are there further Answers to Questions for which Notice has been Given?

MR. GILBERT:

They did not want to hear it.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

I just want to make sure again that everybody understands this particular item under Orders of the Day, Answers to Questions for which Notice has been Given. It is rather self-explanatory, that a Minister rises in his place to give an answer to a question for which notice has been given.

This is rather self-explanatory, and if in the future a Minister feels that the answer was not exactly the answer he would have liked to have given, the Minister may ask for leave, but not get up and say that it is for notice given. As I said, it can be done by leave of the House, of course. And I think in most cases a Member would grant the leave, because the Member, in asking the question, obviously wanted to know the answer. But to make sure that Ministers know that, the item is self-explanatory, and in future we want to stick to that particular rule.

Orders of the Day

MR. CRANE:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Member for Harbour Grace. I am not sure where he is standing.

MR. BAKER:
It is Private Member's Day, Mr. Speaker, and I already announced the resolution of the Member for Harbour Grace.

MR. SPEAKER:
Oh, I am sorry. It being Private Member's Day, the hon. the Member

for Harbour Grace.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. CRANE:
Mr. Speaker, I am happy to have the opportunity to speak to this resolution, a resolution I brought into this House the first day of our first session, after the April 20th election. I thought it was very important then, and I feel today it is just as important. I will begin, Mr. Speaker, by reading the resolution. Before I go on with the resolution, I wish the Member for Burin - Placentia West would put some tape on his mouth and keep quiet for at least one minute.

WHEREAS the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador has had a high unemployment rate for a number of years;

AND WHEREAS the previous Government have done little to significantly change this;

AND WHEREAS the royal Commission on Employment and Unemployment put forward recommendations to help solve the problem;

AND WHEREAS this Government has advocated policies to help alleviate the unemployment burden in the Province;

BE IT RESOLVED that all Members of the House of Assembly combine their efforts and work to put in place the mechanisms to help alleviate our problem and steer our Province toward economic recovery;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we request the Federal Government to assist us in providing an opportunity for meaningful

employment for the citizens of this Province instead of many of the make work projects that are of a temporary nature.

Mr. Speaker, unemployment has been and still is the number one problem in Newfoundland, not only in the Harbour Grace District, but every other District around the Province. As the resolution states, the previous Government did very little significant, if anything, to change this. It is a fact that during the past seventeen years, when Members opposite, or at least some of them, were here in Government, the gap between Newfoundland economically and the Canadian average, as well as the gap between Newfoundland and the Maritime Provinces, has widened. The former Government was unwilling to acknowledge that we had an unemployment problem, and if they were unwilling to acknowledge we had a problem, then they sure did not need a reason to look for a solution.

If some Members opposite, who seem to have all the answers, were as knowledgeable six or seven months ago as they are today, then we would not have inherited the mess we have inherited. And if they were not as intelligent six or seven months ago, I am glad they were not such fast learners previous to the election as they have been since, because if they had been, we would not have formed the Government and there would not have been a need for real change.

It is sickening to sit day after day, Mr. Speaker, listening to the criticisms of the Opposition. Some Members on the Opposition, certainly one or two of them, very certainly one or two of them, are very constructive in their

criticisms. However, from the majority there is nothing but destructive criticism. How an hon. Member can get up and speak for an hour and say nothing but the worst kind of destructive criticism is beyond me.

As I say, there are a couple of Members there who criticize constructively, and I feel they, like Members on this side of the House, have a genuine interest in coming up with programs to help alleviate our unemployment problem. Even though they are in Opposition, I believe they would be delighted to see this Liberal Government improve employment opportunities in Newfoundland.

Mr. Speaker, this Government acknowledges we have a great unemployment program, and this problem has been compounded with the closedown of ERCO Industries at Long Harbour, or Albright America, as it was latterly called; and now they have shut down one paper machine at Grand Falls, plus the fisheries crisis. However, the Premier and the Government will not bury their heads in the sand, Mr. Speaker, and hope for the problem to go away. They will work diligently, along with The Economic Recovery Team, to create alternative jobs for our people.

We have seen some very negative criticisms coming across the House, certainly from the Member for Grand Falls. Last week, when we got notification that a paper mill was going down in Grand Falls, he was very, very ruffled about it and he became very, very critical. But I do not think the Union President in Grand Falls thought he did such a job when No. 5 went down. He only reads papers that suit himself, Mr. Speaker,

something that pats him on the back. But when it pats him on the tail, he is not so fussy about reading it. So I will read it for him.

Mr. Downey says here 'There does not appear to be much the Provincial Government can do about the shutdown.' But he was critical of the Grand Falls Conservative MHA, and his attacks upon the Government. He said, 'Six years ago, when we lost the No. 5 machine, we got absolutely no satisfaction from the PC Government.'

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. CRANE:

'Now he is saying the Liberals are not going to be strong enough, they are not doing enough. He was our Member six years ago, and he did absolutely nothing.'

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Nothing. Not a thing!

MR. CRANE:

'I think the Opposition Members and Mr. Simms', he says, 'should stay out of the news media. They were promoting free trade last September.' The Union official said, 'Mr. Simms was telling everybody free trade would be good for Abitibi, and what is good for Abitibi is good for the town. It hurts me to hear this man come out and criticize the Liberal Government when it is out of his hands completely. He is a good man, but he should butt out.'

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. CRANE:

Sometimes it pays to read all of the papers, Mr. Speaker.

Members opposite knew before the last election, Mr. Speaker, that ERCO was on the way down. They knew the fishery had reached the crisis stage. And I would not be surprised if the hon. the Member for Grand Falls had some idea of the Abitibi-Price problems as well. Yet, during the election on April 20, Mr. Speaker, the people of Newfoundland never heard a word about any of these problems. Instead, the Opposition Leader and his team were going around the Province promising millions and millions of dollars, and everything from a stadium to a swimming pool in communities that did not even have a water supply. The audacity of Members opposite, having the gall to stand up and blame us for not being able to clean up in just seven months the mess they created in seventeen years.

Members opposite keep talking about the Private Sector Program. It must have been their prize program, their golden egg, because we hear it every day. I will not say the program was no good, because I am not familiar with the program. But I would like to know how many permanent jobs were created under that program. What percentage of jobs were permanent? Or, as Government Members say, did the program create ten week jobs at the minimum wage, after which people were transferred to UI for approximately \$120 a week?

Referring to a statement made by the Minister of Social Services yesterday, last year, under the Tory Government, 13,000 jobs were created at the minimum wage and then the people were put on UIC. I would say the last state of those people was a lot worse than the first.

MR. WARREN:
(Inaudible).

MR. CRANE:

We will get a collar for you, the Member for Torngat Mountains, as soon as we are finished.

Why do Members opposite criticize and I would go as far as to say dispise, Mr. Doug House, a person they thought was the Saviour, the best thing since sliced bread only three years ago. They had to go out and hire him to study the problems that affected Newfoundland three years ago, and they are still affecting Newfoundland. Now, because Mr. House was hired by this Government, because he has studied the problems and this government decided if he knew the problems he may be the best man to come up with solutions, he is no good anymore. It is because he was hired by the Liberal Government. That is the only thing I can see. I cannot see a better person to find solutions than a person who knows the problems.

Mr. Speaker, this Government has faith in the ability of Mr. House and The Economic Recovery Team. We feel that because they identified the problems and made numerous suggestions, many of which were not used, they are the most qualified to solve the problems.

Mr. Speaker, every day we hear about the fisheries from both sides of the House, and I guess the reason for that is everybody is concerned. Everybody knows the fishery has reached a crisis, and it reached the crisis before April 20. Nobody on the other side of the House were willing to tackle the problem, they burried their heads in the sand and forgot we

had a problem. And we are still facing this problem. But this Government and this Premier will not burried their heads in the sand, they will face the problem and tell the honest truth to the people of Newfoundland, something they are not familiar with hearing.

I am very concerned about the fishery, because we only have one or two groups of people in the Harbour Grace District who hire many people. Harbour Grace Fisheries is about the biggest employer we have, and Harbour Grace Fisheries is depending on 3,000 or 4,000 tons of northern cod from the resource-short plant program, and it concerns me that there is going to be a cut in the northern cod. I am concerned about that, just as every other person is, because if that plant goes, we are in real trouble economically.

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible) first in/first out.

MR. CRANE:

Well, I am certainly hoping that this Minister of Fisheries and this Premier would do things in a right and proper manner. Because the philosophy of this Government is fairness and balance, and when the chips are down, I think the Premier and his Government will put their philosophy into action. Mr. Speaker, sometime ago the Member for Fortune - Hermitage, who, I must say, is one of the better Members on the other side, a man who -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. CRANE:

- certainly has his head screwed on right, and is very concerned about his district, as well,

brought in a resolution concerning the fisheries, which I think was a good resolution, the only thing was he had gotten poor advice from some of his long-term friends and made it a two-pronged resolution which this side could not go along with, could not support. And the reason we could not support it, Mr. Speaker, was because the Opposition wanted Committees to formulate policy for this Fisheries Department and this Government.

If I remember correctly, although I was not a Member at the time as everybody knows, but I do read the papers occasionally, when the former Government was in office, the only Committee they had was the Public Accounts Committee, and when Opposition Members said anything they did not like, all their Members got up and walked out. Now, all of a sudden, they are not in the driver's seat, they want to formulate policy for this Government. Well, I say, too bad!

Mr. Speaker, for years and years now Newfoundlanders relied, and relied heavily on, make-work projects. And I am afraid, with the economy as it is right now, we are still going to have to rely on some make-work projects.

AN HON. MEMBER:
Short-term.

MR. CRANE:
Short-term is right.

However, I think this Government have plans, and I hope they can formulate policies that will do away with many of the short-term programs and jobs and bring in something more concrete. Because, Mr. Speaker, certainly nobody takes pride in watching a program on television, like the one last

year, where people were paid for bringing rocks from one place to the other.

MR. WARREN:
And bringing them back again.

MR. CRANE:
And bringing them back again. You are right. The Member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren) says, 'and bringing them back again.

AN HON. MEMBER:
The first time he was right in seven months.

MR. CRANE:
The first time he was right in seven months. But he is right this time.

But certainly nobody can take pride in projects like that. I think, Mr. Speaker, it is about time this Government got down and really tried to formulate some policies to get some long-term jobs.

And I think this Government will create long-term jobs. But we do not expect either the Government or the House Royal Commission to make recommendations that will solve all the problems you created in seventeen years in six or seven months.

I certainly look forward to the Government initiating policies and creating long-term employment. But they are certainly not going to do it overnight, and I do not think anybody expects that, unless it is the Opposition.

I believe this Government has a different vision for Newfoundland, a totally different vision than either of the previous Administrations. We are hoping and we are optimistic that with

the help of the Economic Recovery Team, and help from the Federal Government I might add, we can create some long-term, meaningful jobs. Because the Federal Government, and the Opposition certainly helped get them in there, are responsible for a lot of our problems, especially in the fishery. We think the Federal Government, if the right approach is made, will assist us in creating long-term jobs that will make Newfoundlanders proud to go to work every day, and not be ashamed to be seen going to or leaving their place of employment.

MR. WARREN:

People on the island (inaudible).

MR. CRANE:

People on the island.

Getting back to the fisheries, there is one comment I would like to make. Sometime ago, my good friend over there from St. John's East Extern, in a spiel one afternoon on the fisheries, said this Government was intent on destroying the part-time fishery. You know, I did not mind that from the Member for St. John's East Extern. I am sure this Government has no intentions of destroying jobs in the part-time fishery, where people are making seven or eight thousand dollars a year. What really fascinated me was that a man as wealthy and as prosperous as the Member for St. John's East Extern would stand up and say he was a part-time fisherman.

MR. PARSONS:

At one time.

MR. CRANE:

That is not what is in Hansard. That he was a part-time fisherman I think really flabbergasted me, and I said to myself, I am sure

this Government, or any other Government which has a feeling for the poor fishermen, will have no objections at all to scuttling part-time fishermen with his kind of income.

MR. PARSONS:

I gave it up in 1974.

MR. CRANE:

Again, Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to have the opportunity to speak on this, and I will be closing the debate. I will listen to the contributions from the Opposition now, and I am sure there are going to be some constructive contributions, because there are always. Thank you very much.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Member for Humber Valley.

MR. WOODFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few personal comments to the Member opposite, the Member for Harbour Grace. I can remember back sometime ago, when I gave my first speech in the House, I almost needed a towel to keep the sweat off my brow. So I have to commend the Member for getting up and giving his maiden speech - I would say it was his maiden speech. But just a little word of caution, a little word of advice from a person who served as a backbencher for some four years: you do not have to be negative to be good in the House, you do not have to be negative at all to be a good Member. So do not take all the advice of your colleagues, some might be good, some might

be bad. But, in any case, most of it is not conducive to the gentleman's character, I know, because I have known him now for the last few months and some of the comments he made are certainly not applicable to him. But, nevertheless, that is the give-and-take in the thrust of politics, and we accept that.

Getting back to the resolution, Mr. Speaker, in the WHEREASES, firstly, '...the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador has a high unemployment rate.' That is no secret. We do, and have had for some time. We have now and I suppose we will for some time, until there are some remedies.

The second one, the previous Government have done little to significantly change this high unemployment rate, I disagree with. Barring all politics, barring all partisan politics, and I am sure if you asked any Member of this House if anybody, now or in the past, did not act in a genuine manner and a constructive manner in trying to create jobs in this Province, in making an attempt to create jobs in this Province, I would venture to bet that you would not come up with one no.

Everybody tried. I do not care what Party you are in or what Administration you serve under, it is not an easy job, as Members opposite are soon going to find out. They have been in for six months and, as I said before, the jury is out. But the jury is out, and I am one Member here, and I am sure everybody else is with me, who will say I hope whatever you do works.

But I can tell you this, also, that we have had for some time in

this Province and other Provinces, but more specifically in this one, a real cancer in our society. And the cancer we had and have today and will have tomorrow in the short-term - speaking of the short-term when I speak of tomorrow - is one that is not going to be easily addressed. You are not going to treat it with band-aid treatment or anything else. I do not have to tell Members opposite what I mean by the word cancer. Everybody has been trying for years, not only in the Province or in Canada, but all over this globe, to try and find a remedy and a cure for it. It cannot be done. It has not been done. We have stopped some of it. We have eliminated some of the problems. We have addressed some of it, and certain sectors and certain parts of the human anatomy have been treated and treated successfully. But the real underlying cancer, we have not found a cure for it. Someday, someone will.

The new Government, and rightly so, is trying something new. When people in past Administrations tried something new, what did they get? They got nothing but a black eye, you cannot do this and you cannot do that. We are no different. But, at the same time, in saying cannot we are hoping that you will. Deep down in everybody's heart here we are hoping that you will succeed, but we must not lose sight of all, for instance, in this resolution. Forget, and I said it before, the element of blame. Every Member on the other side of this House, on the Government side, can get up and talk constructively, and they can be partisan, but forget this seventeen years, and the six months, and the twenty years, and the past administrations and get

on with the work. You are going to be judged on what you do. Not the length of time you are in office, on performance. Get on with it and forget about this seventeen years thing. Yes, we have tried many things. We have tried all kinds of things.

I was part of the Administration for four years, and I have no apologies for it. The only thing I apologize for is the fact that we did not make it work. We did not bring the unemployment rate down, comparable with other provinces in Canada. There are reasons for it, all kinds. We have made mistakes. Every member here has stood up and admitted that. We made all kinds of mistakes, but by mistakes you learn. We are not too big. Just because we are the so-called elected representatives in this Province; we are big boys now, we know it all. That MHA after your name stands for nothing else but 'might happen again'.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WOODFORD:

And if members opposite and members here think they are going to go around this Province and around Canada with their heads held high and think they have all the answers, I am telling you, you have not. We did not. You have not today and we will not tomorrow. We are not infallible, Ladies and Gentlemen. We are here for a very short term, and there is going to be somebody come along and take our place, I will tell you that. So let us get our act together and let us co-operate. Get up and debate the issues and debate them constructively. Tear the hide of each other when it comes to policies, but let us get

down to it.

The hon. member is a new member. He just got up. He has been watching the House for the last number of months, and by observing and looking around you think you automatically have to do what the other fellow does, but sometimes you get in trouble by doing that. In trying to be constructive today, in trying to draw up a resolution that zeroed in on the Economic Recovery Team, and in trying to find answers to the many problems we have in this Province, he had, at the same time, in every whereas to be negative in each and every one. The be it resolved part of his resolution, no problem, except for the fact that, again, in the very first words, '...we request the Federal Government to assist.' There is no problem with assistance, but that is not the answer to each and every one of our problems.

One of the things I challenge members opposite on, anywhere in this Province today, and the Premier just touched on it a little while ago, I challenge any member opposite to come to my district and find a Private Sector Program that did not work over the last couple of years - that did not work. It was a good program. The Premier mentioned that it was an employee subsidization thing. Yes, it was short-term in some cases, but in other cases they are still there, a very high percentage are still there. I heard members opposite mention the fact that, 'I know of five or six cases that did not work.' No matter what program this Administration brings in, whether it is a social program or policy with regard to the resource sector, they are not all going to work. But do not throw out the

babe with the bathwater just because the program was not a total 100 per cent success, just because it was brought in by a PC administration, just because there was nothing else at the time to put in there. Do not do away with it, fix it. If it has holes in it, plug them. If there is something wrong with it, if it is broken, fix it. But do not throw it out. If hon. members do that just because it was a program brought in by the previous Administration, or just because it was not 100 per cent successful, I can assure you today that you are going to be wiping out each and every program you ever institute from this day on. Because you will not have 100 per cent success, there is no way.

After only six or seven months in office, what are some of the ideas? What are some of the new policies that are going to be instituted? We are waiting. And, as I said before, hopefully some good policies will be brought in and hopefully some of them will work - hopefully they will all work. But when we make excuses and keep on making excuses, as I said in a speech a couple of weeks ago, after awhile it becomes a convenient crutch to lean on when we should be doing some of the things we should have done, and instituting some of the policies we should institute. So get off that crutch and get on with the work, and not do without the program because, as I said before, it was the previous Administration's program. Be constructive, look at the good parts in it and keep them, and do away with some of the mistakes that were made.

The very nature and geography of our Province is one that dictates

that certain work projects and parts of the resource sector in the Province are only going to work for X number of months. Mining is an example of an industry that could work year-round, depending on whether it is open pit or depending on whether it is a shaft type operation. And it is obvious from the records and from the income from the mining sector in the Province, some of the highest, if I am not mistaken this year, and no downtime or downturns in that part of the resource sector. It is working successfully and really well. There are all kinds of revenues. It is year-round. The more of that we can bring on, the more exploration that is done the better chance to bring on a new mining operation in the Province, and that is permanent work. It is going to be year-round, it is good for the economy, we are getting everything that is in it and it is here.

Some other areas, forestry.

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible) million dollars
(inaudible).

MR. WOODFORD:

That is right.

In the forestry part of it, the mills, yes, can work year-round. The people who supply the mills, the loggers, themselves, who are out there tramping around in three and four and five and six feet of snow with a power saw in their hands, they cannot work in the wintertime in the woods, especially now with the eight foot wood in. Four foot wood was not so bad. At least they could take it with one hand and chop it, and keep their saw in the other. They can do it. The eight foot wood

today is treacherous, it is dangerous to be in there. It is an injustice. I will go so far as to say it is an injustice for them to be in there, and I was one who went to bat with Kruger a couple of years ago in trying to get them to cut the majority of their wood, even if they had to hire extra help to do it, in the spring, summer and fall so that they would be out of the woods in the wintertime. It cannot be done. So those people automatically, by our very nature and by our very geographic nature, cannot work in the wintertime, or should not to a certain extent.

Agriculture, the same thing. We have sections of the agriculture industry, I mention one, the dairy, which could work year-round except for the actual feed content and forage and everything that has to be harvested and cultivated in the summer months.

Tourism can be year-round. We have the infrastructure. We have the scenery. We have the capacity in this Province to say and have, and money to put into the tourism sector that can work year-round in this Province. A prime example is Marble Mountain, a prime example is the - what is one in Clarenville?

AN HON. MEMBER:

White Hills.

MR. WOODFORD:

The White Hills Ski Resort in Clarenville. Look at Labrador.

MR. SIMMS:

Cape Ray.

MR. WOODFORD:

And Cape Ray.

There are all kinds of

opportunities to expand in the tourism industry in the wintertime as well as summer. It means new dollars. These are dollars to be brought into the Province and dollars that are kept here. And people in the service sector, 65 per cent of all jobs are created in the service sector. That, you know, bodes well, because we have it there. It is just a matter of getting our people out to do it. There is one thing Newfoundlanders were always afraid of, and that is taking a risk. It is one thing to take a calculated risk, but it is another thing to take a foolish risk, but the sad thing in this Province today, it has been for some time, it was back in 1971 when I started business, and it is to this day, still there by the people who received the application from the sawmiller down in White Bay, or the farmer out in Cormack, or the entrepreneurs in the service sector down here in St. John's, it is brought in, it is put on his desk, he looks at it and says, 'no way, that cannot work.' He makes the decision for the person who is out there scraping and scratching every day of the week, and willing to go into the woods or go out on the land or go out into a fishing boat to make a living. Some guy sitting behind a desk. Whether it is Confederation Building, or whether it is in Ottawa, or whether it is down in some other off our DRIEs, and DREES and DRONES, and NIPs and everything else we got in this Province. That is who makes the decision, Mr. Speaker, on whether that person is successful or is a success or a failure, and that is sad. I have seen it in the past, I see it today, and I guess I will see it for some time.

Getting back to the agricultural

sector, I only got a short time, and there was one thing that I would like to mention in going back to the report on employment and unemployment. One thing that always struck me, and that is the secondary processing, the primary produces in the Province is one thing, the secondary produces are another. It takes something like \$63 thousand, that is something for Members to just take note, \$63 thousand of output to create one person year of employment in the primary sector. It takes \$63 thousand of output to create one person year of employment in the primary sector. It takes just \$16 thousand of output to create one person year of employment in the secondary sector. That is where we are going to make or break this Province. That is where we are going to make gains. We have to.

The prime example was in Burin the other year when they put, I think it was broccoli, and something else in with some of the fish dishes, but for years bringing it in. Now we are starting to grow some of the very vegetables to put in with that dish and make it something conducive to one another so that it can be sold here, all local. And it can be done with others. Chinese vegetables, who would ever think that we could come to the Province of Newfoundland and grow Chinese vegetables to be sold in the Chinese restaurant. Everybody figured it had to come in from China, Taiwan, or somewhere else. It can be done right here. I am sure there are Members in the House that have went in and ordered Chinese food and said, 'My God, how did they get this all the way from China? How did they get it, and keep it so fresh?' But as an example of our ignorance, and I do not mean ignorance in the sense

of educational directly, but ignorance of the potential that we can and should have. But it has to be identified, and it is going to have to be done by the - identified by our people. We have had all kinds of programs identified, but when it got to someone where they say, 'Okay, you can have \$5 000 or you can have 50 or whatever, then they say no.

I guess my time is just about, Mr. Speaker, and before I do, I would like to go back to an approach that was taken just about a week and a half ago, or a week or so ago, on the Meech Lake resolution. And I would like at this time to move an amendment to the resolution based on a ruling by the Speaker, on a previous resolution introduced by a Member on this side of the House in saying that eliminating all of the WHEREAS's in the resolution, and the recitals, and keeping the resolution itself. That was the gist of the resolution. The basic thing in any resolution is always the BE IT RESOLVED. And because of the blame for the Speaker, because of all the rhetoric that are in the four WHEREAS's, specifically that I would move, Mr. Speaker, that the WHEREAS's in the amendment to the resolution eliminating all - moved by myself and seconded by the Member for Kilbride that all the WHEREAS's in the resolution be deleted, and we go with the BE IT RESOLVED alone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

You have all heard the amendment to the resolution.

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible) it is in order.

MR. K. AYLWARD:
Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. K. AYLWARD:
The Member for Humber East speaks
highly of me, and that is okay. I
do not mind that at all. I really
appreciate her comments.

Mr. Speaker, I want to welcome the
Minister of Social Services (Mr.
Efford) back into the Cabinet. I
tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the
Minister of Social Services is
going to show the House of
Assembly and the people of the
Province what kind of job can be
done when somebody who is
committed to the job gets in there
and goes at it. I think there are
a number of changes going to take
place in that Department and I
think he is going to be very much
responsible for the positive
changes that are going to occur.

Mr. Speaker, I speak to the
resolution today about the economy
and about the things that are
going to have to happen for this
Province to turn it around, to get
the economy moving. It is a
difficult job. It has always been
difficult for any Government, no
matter what stripe, to get the
economy moving in this Province,
because once you get it going,
something happens to give you a
little knock back. You can get
something rolling and then
something else happens, so it is
always a balancing and a juggling
act, basically. There has to be a
long-term plan put in place. That
is what we are about. That is
what we are trying to do.

I appreciate the comments of the
Member for Humber Valley (Mr.
Woodford) today. I have known the
Member when he was in Government,
and I know he has worked hard for
the District while he was in
Government and his comments today
were quite well taken.

When you look at it, Mr. Speaker,
we are not anymore in just a
Canadian economy or U.S. economy,
North American economy, we are in
a global economy; we are into a
world-wide market. Coming in
today, I was reading an article
about the Fax machine and what it
has done in the world. It has
made the world a lot smaller when
it comes to doing business,
business activities. And we, as a
Province, in trying to get the
economy going, have to recognize
that this is a global market and
that we are located, as a matter
of fact, I think, in a very good
geographic position for the future
if we do it right.

With the changes that are
happening in Europe right now and
in Russia, and so on, we being
located closest to Europe and
having access to the North
American market and to the U.S.
market, I think Newfoundland is in
a strategic position over the next
number of years, to develop our
economy. But we need a plan of
action with which to do that.
Basically, that is what we have to
do, and, as a Government, you are
juggling all the time trying to
fix this problem and that problem,
but you also have to have some
long-term plans in place. That is
what we are about, and that is why
the Premier and the Government are
trying to get the Economic
Recovery Commission to look at a
major overhaul of programs and to
help set some direction, and help
give some advice. And, Mr.

Speaker, you can never have too much advice when you are talking about economic recovery and where we go from here. It is extremely important that we have the right advice and that we have everybody involved in the process.

I think we are moving in that direction and this Government operates by consensus and with advice from everybody. I am supportive of that concept and I think it is going to pay off in the long run.

Mr. Speaker, I want to speak today also about the - I was in Stephenville yesterday and, talking about the economy and economic recovery, we had a very positive announcement by the Ministry of Transport officials concerning the status on the airport. As many people know, it has been a very hard lobby. The Member for Port au Port (Mr. Hodder) has been involved with that lobby, as have the Member for St. George's (Mr. Short), the Member for Gander (Mr. Baker), and the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation (Mr. Gilbert) whom I would like to commend today, along with the officials of his Department, for their good job and what they have done with the Stephenville Airport, their efforts to get Ottawa and the Federal Minister to understand the importance of transportation in this Province to the economy, and to understand the importance of the Stephenville airport, and our Minister, the hon. Minister of Works, Services and Transportation met with the hon. Federal Minister, Benoit Bouchard only a few weeks ago and I think that that was one of the stimulants that got the MOT officials into Stephenville yesterday, to announce their very positive

announcement on the status change for the airport which will now allow us to market the airport and will list us in the airline publications and the air publications for all international airlines and so on, so we will be working with Gander as a help to Gander. Gander and Stephenville airports are directly related, and very similar and Stephenville has always been the alternate to Gander and served that role well, now we will be recognized in serving that role and will serve a bigger one in the future, and it was a positive announcement and it also shows that if you lobby, you can be successful, and I think that is the very important thing and that it is important for all the communities out there, Mr. Speaker, right now that are in difficult straits or having difficult times, because it is never easy, but you can, if you put together a good organization of local people and do it right and go out and get the expertise that you need, you can be successful, and I think that announcement yesterday is a positive signal to other communities in the Province that you can do it on your own too, and if people are there to help you, but you have to sit down, you have to organize and you have to plan, and basically, that is what we, as a Province have to do. It is not over yet, our job is just beginning out in Stephenville, we have to promote that airport to the hilt now, and get into the marketing aspect, but now we have a second lease on life, basically, and we are very pleased about that, and we think it is a very positive indication for southwest coast, Newfoundland, and that it will pay off dividends for the Province. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of work ahead of us, and when

I heard the Member for Humber Valley speaking, as he did, very well, talked about not reminding the opposition about they have been in power seventeen years, well, the only problem that I have is that some of the colleagues of the Opposition used to remind me, when I was in opposition, a short period of time ago, that we were to blame for a number of problems that occurred, and when we were in power, which was 1972, I believe or 1971 was the last time. So, I am just hoping that we will not continue to do that, mind you, but we are trying to fix the problems as we see them and it will take some time, but the thing is, it does take some time to plan and to do it right, and we are in the process of doing that, very much so, and I think there are some positive things to come. We have got major problems, there is no doubt about that and when it comes to the fishery, and it comes to the forest industry, getting those, you are up and running but there are always bumps in the way and we have a major crisis now as everybody is aware in the fishery and hopefully with the work that is being done by the Federal Government and all the people concerned that we can see some positive news in the future, but it is a hard reality to face and it is very difficult when you have a new Government coming in and you are trying to get the reins of power, you know, you wake up the next day and you have a very difficult task on your hands, but, I think, our group here, this Government is very equal to that task, and I think that they will prove that over the next number of years. The labour force flash sheet that is put out every month by a Newfoundland statistics agency points out, Mr. Speaker, that the work force has gone up

since last year, up to two hundred and forty thousand, and I think that, at least, is an indicator that there are more people in the Province in the work force, and, hopefully that will mean more stimulation in the economy and we hope to see more of those people getting employed, and hopefully in the next three or four years the record of the unemployment for this Government will be a positive one and we will see the unemployment rate drop, and I think that is a measure of any Government, Mr. Speaker, in seeing something happen positively, you want to see your people working, you want to see them doing something with themselves in a positive manner and that solves a lot of other problems. Employment can solve a lot of the problems socially, that occur, Mr. Speaker, and I think, that this Government is committed to seeing major improvements and as the Economic Recovery Commission gets in gear and the Ministers and the Governments look at what actions can be taken, I think the 1990's, I hope, and I think will be a turnaround for this Province. We have a small population but we have a lot of energy and the best entrepreneurs I believe in Canada. We have the small boat fishermen, we have had the people in the forest industry and all the individual people in the pulp and paper industry, all of these people who are involved in all these types of industries in agriculture et cetera, tourism. We have an entrepreneurial spirit in this Province and we have to make sure that that is awakened more, and that we give support to that spirit, because basically we have to do it ourselves and that is what this is all about. So, I welcome the resolution put forward today and it gives us a chance to

discuss where it is going.

I talked earlier, Mr. Speaker, about a global market, and we are into that, and I think that as a Province, we are an exporter of a lot of raw material. We have to look at doing some manufacturing here of different types of products, of any type of product that is needed not in Canada or just North America, but in the world. There are markets that are available, there are markets out there for different types of products that this Province can manufacture, can process and I think it is important for us not to have a limited scope. We have to have a wide scope, Mr. Speaker. If we have that wide scope, and we have the entrepreneurial spirit, I think we will see positive changes over the next four or five years and into the 1990s as we go to the year 2,000. But it has been taking an overhaul of what we have been doing and of the direction that we have been going in when it comes to Economic Development. I think that with the new Economic Recovery Commission and the Government, I think they are doing it the right way. We are going to do it right, we are going to organize it right, and we are going to get the best advice that we can get.

So I support those efforts and we have to look at it in a bigger spectrum. It is extremely important that we do because the Province is not going to survive, it should not survive like it has the way it has been going. It has to get better. We have to make it better. We have been just struggling along and never have been able to get to the level of even coming close to being an equal to the other Provinces even

Atlantic Canada employment wise, and especially so in the last ten or fifteen years.

So we have to reach up and do it ourselves, and have the plan action in place before you go, and jump all over the place you have to know and be organized. I think it is important that we are getting organized and the plans are going to be there, they are being put in place. I think it is a long time since a full review has been done of all the different government programs and there are a maze of them out there, when it comes to a small business man or person trying to start a business, it is very difficult to understand what the programs are there for. How do you apply for them? It is crazy. I spend half of my time just reading the applications and getting the applications and trying to interpret them and so on, and wondering whether or not it fits this criteria or that criteria. So I think it is important that we get that straightened away and be sure that there is a one system in place that allows for the development of people to go and open businesses and so on. I think that is one of the things that the Economic Recovery Commission is looking at.

Hopefully, that will happen. As that happens it will be a good help to the person out there, the individual who is trying to get involved in the economy and trying to contribute.

I support the resolution, Mr. Speaker, as it is written. I think it is extremely important that we are going to be facing a number of problems over the next number of months as a Government and we take that responsibility very seriously. I think that we

have the capability as a Government to perform and I think that we will do.

I look forward to seeing the Opposition being constructive in their criticism. I think that is important. When I was in Opposition I used to try and be that way, sometimes it was difficult, Mr. Speaker, you get out of line, but the Opposition should be constructive in their criticism of this Government. It is important that all Members be involved in the process.

I think that one of the things that this Government has done right off the bat, when it went into power, was to recognize that every MHA should have the service and so on. And we now see every MHA having a secretary and an office and so on, those little things were made, those things were major though for the recognition of the role of the Member to be involved and I know for myself, and a lot of us in rural Newfoundland, in the smaller municipalities, we become economic development officers so we can become very involved in the process of getting the economy moving in this Province. If you are working full-time at this you are dealing with businesses all the time, you are dealing with owners of companies, you are looking at business plans all the time, so we are an important part of this process, every Member is, whether you are Government or Opposition, and, I think, that is the way it should be looked at. If you do that you can be a very active person in the process of what is happening.

I do now know how my time is doing, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER:
By leave.

MR. K. AYLWARD:
I am giving a very nice speech, I know.

AN HON. MEMBER:
I am listening.

MR. K. AYLWARD:
You are listening. Alright, good. I am trying to let the Opposition know that they can be constructive in their criticism and we will seriously consider all their suggestions in our work as we go along and try to get this economy moving. I think the 1990s are going to be exciting times for this Province with the Government we have, and with the ideas we have in this Province, I think, it is going to be very exciting. The business school down here at Memorial University, a product of which I am, with a Bachelor of Commerce degree, has put in me an entrepreneurial spirit and has put, I think, a lot of business graduates out there who are now in this Province and are starting to come through the system who are trying, and I know a lot of them personally, who are in the system now and trying to get businesses going and the economy going. I think it is important that we promote the entrepreneurial spirit through programs, and through education. That is happening more and more but we still have to put a major emphasis on it, because that is the way it will happen. Like I said this world is a lot smaller now with the technology that is available and we just cannot become, and keep continuing to be, an exporter of raw materials. We have to look at secondary industry, look seriously at it, but be professional about it. Get business plans done up

and know how to do them, learn how to do them, and teach our people to be business managers as much as we can. I think if we can do that, and we try and learn that, it goes a long way. No Government is going to solve these problems overnight. You can hope to put the environment there for our people to do something and create the opportunity for themselves. We can be, I suppose, the catalyst to do that and that is what we should be. I think that this Government is going to be that, but it also takes the energy of every individual and their own entrepreneurial spirit. I think that Newfoundlanders and Labradorians have the best and probably the biggest entrepreneurial spirit in Canada. We have been survivors for hundreds of years but we have to look at the changing technologies that are occurring in this world right now and become part of the process and be involved in the process. I think that is the important thing. I again say to you, Mr. Speaker, today, and I give you an example of the lobbying that we are doing in Stephenville. Everybody has gotten together, using all their energy and going out and getting expertise. The Provincial Government is helping, the Federal Government is trying to help, so that is an example and there are many more examples of that. That is what has to happen, and if that can happen, then things can be a lot more positive. While we have a high unemployment rate and many other problems we have to deal with it, deal with it seriously and we have to put the plan in place. We do not go off half knowing what you are going to do, you do it right. We are going to make mistakes. There is no doubt about that. You are going to

move. If you are going to make change you are going to make mistakes, but the serious intent of this Government to deal with the problem is what has to be recognized, and I think it is recognized by people in this Province very much so and they are going to give us that opportunity. And I expect, Mr. Speaker, that they are going to give us the opportunity in the next election and the next one after that and the next one after that, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. K. AYLWARD:

I expect we are here for a long time, Mr. Speaker, as we get our long term plans in place to try to make sure - I remember getting these idle threats, Mr. Speaker, when I was in Opposition telling me they were going to send in, Mr. Speaker, ten Ministers to come in and clean me out in Stephenville. Ten Ministers they were going to send in, Mr. Speaker, into Stephenville and clean me right out. And I used to say well, there is no job security in this job. I mean, that is all you can do. You know, you just work your heart out and leave it at that. But anyways some of those hon. Members who used to give me those idle words now they know the tables can switch, Mr. Speaker, and you always treat every MHA as an equal and we are all part of the process like I said earlier and that it is extremely important, Mr. Speaker, that we as Members be involved in the process.

So I know some people in the Opposition are not used to that, but I am sure that they will get used to the roles over the next

few months. But I hope they will be constructive to this Government, like we were in Opposition. We were a constructive Opposition. We suggested many good things to them and very constructive. The Minister of Social Services (Mr. Efford) was very constructive and a number of us who used to be in those days of those little offices and one secretary to two MHAs and water coming down in our offices and all that kind of stuff. I remember those days, but we -

AN HON. MEMBER:

What has changed?

MR. K. AYLWARD:

Well what has changed? Well what has changed, Mr. Speaker, I can say we believe in treating Members equally and having an environment with which to work, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. K. AYLWARD:

I think the fairness and balance of this Government is being proven and as we get into trying to develop the economy of this Province with the expertise that we have and the nice way we are going about it, getting people involved in the process, Mr. Speaker, as we do that I think that the Opposition is going to have very little to really say to us except praise, Mr. Speaker, basically. Praise because of the good efforts that have been put forward by this Government and the many more efforts that are going to come forward.

But the thing is Rome was not built in a day and it is going to take some time. But as we get into it I am very confident that things will happen. And I look

forward to seeing the positive change that this Government will bring. And the entrepreneurial spirit, Mr. Speaker, will rise above and will see us in the 1990s not being just a Canadian economy, but we are going to be a competitor, I believe, in the world economy and a good one. All we have to do is just develop ourselves and if we do that we will be all right.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your consideration and your patience and I will rest my case, thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. HODDER:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (L. Snow):

The hon. the Member for Port au Port.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. HODDER:

Mr. Speaker, I should first say that I can agree with some of the things that the Member for Stephenville (Mr. K. Aylward) was saying. I guess there are many things in this debate that we can all agree on, but certainly I cannot agree with - what happened to the Member for Stephenville is that he ran out of steam and he then gave part of his speech that he gave last session where everything is sweetness and light on that side.

But, Mr. Speaker, to refer to the announcement which the hon. Member referred to before I start my comments, as far as Stephenville is concern, I would just like to say that is a positive announcement. It is positive in

this light that as the Member mentioned the Stephenville airport will now be in the books. The American flights or any International flights coming to this area will have that airport and will be able to land at that particular airport.

But the other point, Mr. Speaker, is that one of the big fears once we lost the jet service in Stephenville was the fact that -

AN HON. MEMBER:
(Inaudible).

MR. HODDER:
I am just referring to some comments that were made and -

MR. HOGAN:
(Inaudible).

MR. TOBIN:
Mr. Speaker, the Member for Placentia (Mr. Hogan) is always interrupting. (Inaudible).

MR. HODDER:
Mr. Speaker, if the hon. Member wants to - look, the Member for Stephenville spoke - if the hon. Member wants to, maybe we can all sit down and he can get up and speak.

But, Mr. Speaker, the important thing about it is that the airport will be able to remain open in the state that it is now.

AN HON. MEMBER:
Oh, oh!

MR. HODDER:
Mr. Speaker, if the Member for Placentia wants to continue on, I mean the Member for Placentia can get up and speak. Are you ready to get up to speak? Because if not, I will wait until after you are finished.

But, Mr. Speaker, the airport itself under the present arrangement is being used only by prop aircraft, now there was a great danger that the runways would not be maintained in their normal way, since these flights do not need the same length of runway and especially equipment in the area has already been downgraded. And what is great about this announcement is the fact that the airport now will be maintained as an International airport at International status. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased about this. I took this particular proposal that it would be a general aviation airport and that it would be a full international airport to the Federal Minister of International Trade, John Crosbie, back, I believe it was almost one year ago last January, and at that time he agreed to look into it. I did have that involvement in it, I do know that the Member for Stephenville did I also wrote him a covering letter which I will get for the Minister which was much more comprehensive than any of the letters that I had saw that he had written, but I sent a covering letter afterwards. We can all claim results, but I will say to the Minister that I would say, as the Member for Stephenville said, that it was a joint effort. But I will say to the hon. Minister and to the Premier, that the problem between First-Air, and Air Canada has not been resolved, and I detect that the Government has relaxed at the oars. Now, I do not say that in as far as the Member from Stephenville is concerned, but as far as the Premier is concerned and as far as the Minister is concerned, he has met with the hon. Benoit Bouchard on a number of occasions. He met with him about the CN Ferries, and when I

asked him the question yesterday, he did not respond, and I asked him directly whether he had spoken on that particular subject. The only thing that I fear, I think that pressure must come from everywhere, certainly the Stephenville people have been doing their job. I am asking the Premier and I am asking the Minister to do his job. You just cannot sit back and let the Member for Stephenville carry the ball for you. The issue is a Government to Government issue and it is one that the Government should be persuing. It is one of the, as I said yesterday, one of the top issues, one of the top 5 or 6 issues that are facing the Government today, and it is more important then people realize.

But, Mr. Speaker, having said that, the resolution states to put into place mechanisms to help alleviate our problem and steer our Province towards economic recovery. Now, Mr. Speaker, that was one of the lines in the first BE IT RESOLVED. Mr. Speaker, I can certainly agree with that, but if it means the Recovery Commission, then I feel that the Government has gone the wrong way. The Recovery Commission is nothing but an act of desperation because the Government, after being in Opposition for some 15 years was obviously bankrupt of ideas. And, Mr. Speaker, the Government had the access to groups like this Economic Recovery Commission, they had the Economic Council of Newfoundland, they had a number of ways in which they could solicit opinion from bureaucrats. But, Mr. Speaker, we have a situation in this Province now where bureaucrats are going around the Province representing themselves as Government Members. I mean there was a case weekend

before last where a Member of the Recovery Commission attended a banquet and brought greetings on behalf of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Mr. Speaker, which makes me wonder, there was no Government representative there, but it makes me wonder what is this Economic commission. I mean the Minister for Development, he has a role. What I would like to know, and what I would like for the Premier to say if he speaks in this debate is just where the Recovery Commission fits in. Now, Mr. Speaker, this is Government by bureaucrats. I have never seen anything like this before, if you look back through Newfoundland history, even back to 1949 since we came into Confederation, there has often been Royal Commissions, Commissions of Enquiry, but never before have we had a Recovery Commission that works with Government that works through the Premiers office. And then they go to a Development Association meeting in the Province and bring greetings on behalf of the Minister. It has not been fully said in this Province yet exactly what that Economic commission is doing. Mr. Speaker, I would not suggest that the Minister for Development, as Minister of Development, would think he has to develop a philosophy, he has to plan for the future. But how does he fit in with the Economic Recovery Commission. Mr. Speaker, I suggest that in a very short time that the Economic Recovery Commission will be a dead issue and a albatross around Members' necks.

Now, the other thing I wanted to talk about was the private sector program. I am sorry that the Minister of Labour is not hear, but in her Estimates Committees

back before Christmas in the last session of the House, the Minister was questioned by a number of the Opposition Members in that Committee. And since she did not know the details of the committee, and this is on record, and I think the Hansards have been published for that committee, and for the first time, even with new Ministers, which she was, and I have seen other new Ministers, she had her officials answer all of the questions on the public Sector Program. Mr. Speaker, it would seem to me that if a Minister had axed the program, and that is what she did, she axed the program and then afterwards the program had been axed could not tell Committee Members and had to have one of her officials explain the program and explain what they thought of the program. And actually the objections came from the officials. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that what happened on the Private Sector Program was that hon. Members felt there had to be something wrong because they were over here and they were over there, and, Mr. Speaker, there was nothing wrong.

Now I heard the Premier come in and say something different today. He came in and said it was an Employment Subsidy Program and that one person he had spoken to said that something had led him to believe that it was a subsidy to businessmen. Well I tell you, Mr. Speaker, that - I will give you an example of two initiatives that were undertaken through the Private Sector Program, both of them were in my District. One was when the Port au Port Seafoods decided that because of this program, because the money was being made available by this program, they thought there might be a market, and do not laugh, but

for conners tails, okay, we call them conners, I think they are -

AN HON. MEMBER:
(Inaudible).

MR. HODDER:
Yes, but there is another name of some sort of perch or something like that, for conners tails.

MR. W. CARTER:
Ocean perch.

MR. HODDER:
Ocean perch. Yes, but the people in Newfoundland know it locally as conners. And they hired under the Private Sector Program a group of students to use those tails, because the fishermen bring them in, the fishermen usually throw them away as a by-catch, the fishermen brought them in and marketed them.

Now, Mr. Speaker, they had good sales for them, the problem was that they got in trouble in Brig Bay in the Minister of Development's District (Mr. Furey) and went bankrupt, but it was a good initiative. Now it failed, but it was a good initiative and it was the sort of thing that that the Private Sector Program was suppose to address.

Another one which happened in the District, which I think was successful, a local take-out restaurant grocery store decided to put a little restaurant there, they decided they would put a mini-golf course in on the basis, and I had mentioned it to them and they had come to me and asked me if there was some funding from rural development for a mini-golf course. We went to rural development and found out there was not time to get it ready for the summer, so they decided to go

ahead themselves and build a mini-golf course under other arrangements and hired a student to operate it for that summer and for the following summer. Now there is no longer the Private Sector, but that was the spark that got that mini-golf course there and that golf course is still there.

AN HON. MEMBER:

What did they do this year?

MR. HODDER:

This year, Mr. Speaker, they did not have anybody there. It was not open for most of the time.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Why?

MR. HODDER:

Because - I do not want to get into a debate with the hon. Member but I can give him names. Because what happened in this particular case, it is a very small store, a very small little restaurant with about ten tables sort of thing, I think they had it open for about one month during July, it was not open for the period of time it was before. What I am saying is that that particular facility was put there because of the initiative of the Private Sector Program.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Did it work?

MR. HODDER:

It worked. Yes, the people who were there earned all summer, they earned a certain amount of money from the mini-golf course. They brought tourists into the area. It is the first mini-golf course in the area, God knows that in the area of Port au Port we want as many people, but it was a spark initiated, the thing to be built, and it was used for part of the

summer and this summer. But you just cannot look at it and say that there is nothing to this and that is it.

Now, Mr. Speaker, speaking of the District of Port au Port, it happens to be one of the most highest unemployment areas in this Province. And it is not unique in the Province, although some of the people in the Province feel that it is unique. There are many areas in the Province that have high unemployment. There is high unemployment in Labrador. There is high unemployment down in Bay d'Espoir. There is high unemployment, and who wants to take the record for being the highest unemployment area. Nobody takes credit for that. But there are areas from time to time with higher unemployment. But, Mr. Speaker, if we can cure the problem of high unemployment in only just one of those areas, then we have made some sort of a move that we have done something good in this Province.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I feel that each area of the Province - we have always accused the Federal Government of cutting the man to fit the cloth.

I think Joe Smallwood used to call it the procrustean bed policy where if the bed is not long enough you chop of the guys feet.

AN HON. MEMBER:

That is not (inaudible).

MR. HODDER:

No. Because, Mr. Speaker, we do the same thing here in the Province. Every program that this Government puts out is the same for every other area of the Province.

AN HON. MEMBER:
(Inaudible).

MR. HODDER:

Mr. Speaker, if I am a Liberal I have never seen so many Tories in my life as I see on the other side in particular the Premier.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. HODDER:

As a matter of fact, I tell the hon. gentlemen that when I joined the Tory Party I was at a caucus meeting one time and I looked at my fellow seatmate and I said, there are more Liberals over here than there are over there. I have always felt that way, and certainly since this Government is in power it has been proved in spades.

Mr. Speaker, each area of the Province has different problems, but I think if the Government is smart what it will do is look at every area of the Province in different ways. In other words unemployment in Port au Port cannot be solved in the same way as unemployment in Eagle River can be solved. There are different problems and different approaches that must be taken.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that we have to develop entrepreneurship in many areas, not only in the schools but everywhere else we have to develop entrepreneurship. We have to put special funds into education. I think, Mr. Speaker, that we have to look at the local businesses in the area, we have to try to animate local business, and we have to particularly promote whatever opportunities are in the area. There are some opportunities in some areas of

this Province which are not in other areas of the Province. I think particularly of tourism in some areas of the Province. There are some areas of the Province where you cannot promote tourism, but there are other areas of the Province where you can. There are some areas of the Province where you cannot go and promote the minerals that are there but there are other areas in which you can. I think you have to identify new resources and you have to identify business opportunities where they are. One thing we do not have in many areas of this Province is a data base. There is no data base in a lot of the areas of the Province for anybody coming in who want to set up a business. The Economic Council of Canada at one time said that there were actually seven areas of this Province which are growth areas and very many of them are bays. I think in terms of my own area it is Bay St. George. Bay St. George sort of hangs together and they said that we should develop industry in the central part of those bays and that we should develop all weather roads going back and forth. In an area such as Bay St. George we do not have an adequate data base just to promote people in. We also have to improve the infrastructure where needed.

Mr. Speaker, I was sorry to see the Premier leaving because I wanted to talk about fuzzy thinking on behalf of the Premier. I asked a question of the Premier here in the House back about two or three weeks ago, and in the preamble to the question which was a Tourism question concerning the road from Cape St. George to the mainland which, by the way, would be of great benefit to the Member for St. George's (Mr. Short) District and would be

of great benefit to the Member for Stephenville (Mr. Furey) District, even though it is in my District. I asked a question about it and I did mention that it would open the whole Port au Port Peninsula for limestone development and when the Premier got up to speak he said, no, that is not true. It will not open the Port au Port Peninsula for limestone development. Mr. Speaker, the Premier, obviously, does not know, or he has been badly advised, as the Port au Port Peninsula is the largest block of limestone on the Eastern Seaboard of Canada or the United States. The Minister of Energy is here. There are three concessions there and I should speak to the Minister about this now. First, there is Lower Cove, and Lower Cove is now going into a joint arrangement with a German company and they are promoting their limestone. His Department also looks after Aguathuna and when this Government was in power we went out and called proposals across Canada for Aguathuna and we were successful in getting a company to come in who now want a lease on Aguathuna. Aguathuna belongs to the Province. It reverted from DOSCO. Lower Cove belongs to Lower Cove. They have the land but the minerals on the top of the Port au Port Peninsula, and I thought I saw the Minister shake his head, used to be the BRINEX which are the most pure of all and they now belong to Canadian Mining, Western Canadian Mining. Not very long ago they decided to get a local contractor to crush some limestone and send it around to various people who might use it and they had to use a woods road to get to it and they did not get to the best of stuff then, but it seems to me, Mr. Speaker, if a road goes across the top of the Port au Port Peninsula and there

are minerals on the top of the peninsula that belong to a specific company, I do not know how the Premier can say that the road would not open the Port au Port Peninsula and the limestone development. Certainly, they would be able to access their deposits. Anyhow, the Premier is not here. Perhaps one of his Members will tell him I am disappointed in him.

Mr. Speaker, to get back to the limestone at Aguathuna. I have not seen - and I am sort of off the topic here now - but I have not seen any movement or any real effort by this Government to actively promote it. It is near the water, it has a great strip ratio. There was a wharf there before, belonging to DOSCO. It is very easy to ship by water. We, for the past two years, were actively promoting it. We had some success with it.

I called the Department and was told by a very senior official that he knew nothing about it. I will not say who this very senior official was, but he knew nothing about it. He put me on to somebody else who did know something about it. But I certainly got the impression that was not being carried out.

Mr. Speaker, I have had my five-minute warning. I think I have gone over that. I had a whole lot of other things to say about the fishery and about tourism and all that sort of thing, but I will save it for another day.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear; hear!

MR. DUMARESQUE:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Member for Eagle River.

MR. DUMARESQUE:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

It is a pleasure for me again to rise in this House, and particularly, to support the resolution put forward by my colleague from Harbour Grace.

I want to spend a few minutes, Mr. Speaker, to speak on the general issues alluded to in the resolution and also, of course, to pay specific attention to some of the problems in Labrador. And, I must say, Mr. Speaker, it is getting to be an onerous job to be speaking for the Coast of Labrador all the time, since the Member for Torngat Mountains never seems to have the consideration for his District to stand up and be counted on issues. But, Mr. Speaker, as time goes by and he realizes the great direction in which this party is taking the Province, and, in particular, the Coast of Labrador, I am sure he will get up and commend us for our actions.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate the thrust of my introduction on this resolution. But, again, I would like to take just one second to touch on the innovative way the Opposition have found to deal with the resolutions that are put forward, particularly the way they are dealing with this resolution today, by cutting out the 'Whereases' in the clauses before the resolution is put to the floor.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am not a constitutional expert and I have paid close attention to hon. Members of this House who have

indicated expertise in the Standing Orders and Beauchesne. But, Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, again, with my limited understanding of the rules, it would only be proper that 'Whereases' in a resolution be dropped if, indeed, they were wrong. And, I must say, by looking at the 'Whereases' as the hon. Member puts them forward, I have a lot of trouble coming to accept that they are wrong. For instance, the first one says, Whereas the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador has had a high unemployment rate for a number of years, now, Mr. Speaker, you do not need to be any economist or any great insightful individual to acknowledge that certainly the unemployment rate in this Province has been double the national average and in the double digit figure for years and years and years, so nothing wrong about that particular whereas, and you know, the second one, Mr. Speaker, Whereas the previous Government has done little to significantly change this, I mean, with all due respect to Members of the Opposition who have indicated that we cannot go on blaming the seventeen years of Tory rule and with all due respect to the individuals who indicate that as Members of this hon. House, we have to be constructive and we have to ascertain our presence in this House, but I think that as Members of a Government, Mr. Speaker, there has to be a day, there has to be a time come, when we have to reckon with reality, and, as I know every Member of this hon. House is sincere, and that everybody here is putting forward their best effort, Mr. Speaker, but there has to come a time, obviously the time came for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador to pass judgement on the

policies and the initiatives of the previous Government and indeed, the statistics, all the statistics that you want to look at, point to the exact statement that the hon. Member makes, that if indeed there has been significant change, it certainly has not happened in per capita income, it certainly has not happened in unemployment rates, it certainly has not happened into growth in our economy, Mr. Speaker. Now the third one, Whereas the Royal Commission of Employment and Unemployment put forward recommendation to help solve the problem, nobody can dispute that, Mr. Speaker, there is a great document that I read the report on Building on our Strengths, and I believe there is no doubt there are very, very good recommendations put forward on this particular issue, and finally: Whereas the Liberal Party has advocated policies to help alleviate the unemployment burden in this Province, Mr. Speaker, there is absolutely no doubt that the Liberal Party has been advocating policies to have an effect on the unemployment rate in this Province, and I do not think there is any Member on this side, and indeed, if the truth had to be revealed by Members opposite, there is no doubt that everybody is confident, that once the policies are instituted and the programs take shape in this Province, that indeed the unemployment rate will be different, and indeed it will be lower in four years time than it was when we took over this Administration. Now, saying that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to get on to the gist of my argument today, and to focus my debate. What I want to deal with, and what I want to bring Members attention to, is one of the old adages, Mr.

Speaker, about, where there is a will, there is a way, and I just want to deal with the big player in our Federal system and indeed a big player in Newfoundland and Labrador, and that is the presence of the Federal Government, and how they impact upon our economy and how their policies have such a dramatic effect upon our employment rate, and I mean, there is absolutely no doubt that the will has always got to be there, if in fact you are going to get any kind of meaningful change. Now what will has been shown, Mr. Speaker, by the Prime Minister of this country and by the Progressive Conservative Government of this country. In 1987, the Prime Minister came down here and signed the Hibernia Agreement, 12d, Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the profound statement that was made that day by the Prime Minister of this country for all of Newfoundland and Labrador to hear, I am not afraid to inflict prosperity on the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, that was the great sense of political will that was given to the people of this Province. He said, that is what I am not afraid to do, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER:
(Inaudible).

MR. DUMARESQUE:
He said then a couple of weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, at the First Ministers Conference he said, 'The people of Newfoundland and Labrador should be grateful that Canada brought you into Confederation.' Now, that is another example of that particular attitude. How patronizing, how condescending, how absolutely immature, and how dramatic, the Prime Minister, the first Minister of the day can be to another part

of his own Country. You should be grateful. Let there be no misunderstanding, Mr. Speaker, that we came into this great Country with things that that Prime Minister will never, ever live up to. We came in here with the determination and the courage and the will to make changes in this great Country, and we have done exactly that through our Premiers over the years. Now, Mr. Speaker, the attitudes have got to change, but also the policies have got to change. If we are going to have any effect on regional development and on Newfoundlands unemployment rate, the policies have got to change.

I just want to touch on a number of the policies that have been coming forward over the last four years, and in particular a couple of the latest ones, Mr. Speaker. When they decided to cut out the railway, when that famous rails and roads deal was signed, that was a real dramatic policy statement for the Federal Government to have implanted on the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. And what did it do to Port aux Basques, and Bishop Falls, and all those places that were so critically dependent upon this. And what exactly did we give, without belabouring the particular issue, Mr. Speaker, I think that there is no doubt that that particular policy was detrimental, and that indeed we sold out the Government of the day, we sold out on that particular issue. And there is no doubt that it will have long lasting effects on our economy.

Now, what did the Federal Government do not to long ago in regional development programs? What did it do to the ACOA program? It slashed that program

time, and time, and time again until now you are down to a situation where the most you could ever ask for as a private entrepreneur is \$200 thousand. They have cut, and cut substantially in the initiative of that particular program, and at the present time it makes it virtually impotent. Mr. Speaker, as the Premier of our Province has enunciated over the past number of days, and particularly at the First Ministers Conference, we have seen regional development money in this country go to the central Canada triangle through the southern Ontario, and the Quebec metropolis, and I believe, Mr. Speaker, that is not a matter of undue criticism, that is a matter of fact. That is a matter of exactly what commitment the Federal Government is paying to the needs of the areas that are most blatantly hurt by particular regional development policies. There is absolutely no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that this particular move by the Federal Government has stymied economic growth, has stymied in particular the small and medium size businesses that usually takes up the greatest share of economic growth. And I think that that has to be acknowledged. We have to indicate to the Federal Government that they were wrong in doing that. They were also wrong that they cut out the development of the tourism industry in this Province. They were also wrong by saying no to Newfoundland and Labrador, and we will not sign the \$21 million tourism agreement. One of the opportunities, and one of the lights that we have in our Province that will give us an opportunity to find jobs and develop our economy, but the Federal Government said, 'No, we cannot see that in our budget to

be able to do.' They could not see that because obviously, Mr. Speaker, they did not have the will to pursue that particular direction.

Now one of the latest gimmicks, of course, Mr. Speaker, that comes to the floor of the House of Commons and to the people of Canada is the great G.S.T., Mr. Speaker, that great suction tax that the Federal Government has put in place. That \$20 billion suction tax that is now put in place and going to be instituted on January 1991. That is the latest initiative that that Federal Government has come out saying to people of Newfoundland and Labrador that there is another 9 per cent for you. There is another 9 per cent on all your goods and services, your haircuts, and every other service that you might get, but also they are contemplating and it has been recommended that the groceries be also taxed, Mr. Speaker. That is the latest initiative that the Federal Government have to be putting in place now, to stimulate the economy of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am not going to stand in this House on all occasions, and certainly not this one, to enunciate policies and to enunciate criticisms of all policies that are put forward without, of course, being responsible and advocating things that will be of real essential benefit to our Province, to offer good advice to the Federal Government of the day and ask them if they would really consider some of the things that the Premier of this Province and the Government of this Province are saying time and time again.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, there is

no way that we will ever encounter the real problems of the day without exploring and coming to grips with the cause of this. And one of the things that obviously we have to keep advocating and keep pursuing is reforming of the Federal structure that we presently operate under. And in particular the reforming of the senate to an equal and effective Legislature or an effective institution within the Federal state, because that senate will offer us, as a have-not-province, an opportunity to effectively encounter some of the political reality that obviously rises to the floor in the House of Commons. And we see it now and the political influence is seen through the regional development spending, it was seen through the larger provinces, Ontario and Quebec have garnered their benefit from it.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have to keep pushing, and I am sure that the Opposition will continue to support us, to get that essential senate reform and to get that kind of impetus that I think is at a watershed time in our evolution, Mr. Speaker.

Now, of course, there is other particular policies that the Federal Government can institute that will have a dramatic effect and a lasting effect upon our economy and upon our economic growth. And one of the things is the factoring of regional development spending. Mr. Speaker, as our Premier has demonstrated through his understanding of the issue that if, in fact, the Federal Government were to factor regional development spending to the unemployment rate then you would, in fact, have in place in the

policy and in the system, a delivery mechanism that would see four times as much money come to Newfoundland as would go to Toronto or to the Southern Ontario economy and that particular area. We would see then that this would be an opportunity for the Federal Government to have some impact on what happens in the Port au Port Peninsula or on the Labrador Coast or in the South Coast of Newfoundland. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that this will be an effective policy change for the Federal Government to institute.

Now, of course, there are other things too and I would just like to touch on a couple of more. What about restructuring the interest rate policy that is in our country. Because the interest rate policy that we have here right now is certainly detrimental to our regions which have to try and attract the investment. And, Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that if that particular policy was changed as our Minister of Finance (Dr. Kitchen) has certainly demonstrated in the last couple of days, that if that particular policy was changed then certainly our small and medium-sized businesses would have that impetus that they certainly need at this point in time.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I do not want to use up all of my time talking about the general issues and specific policies that the Federal Government may institute. I would like to take this opportunity again to speak a bit about the Coast of Labrador and how the Federal Government, in particular, can have some impact on the economic growth of this part of our Province and see our people employed in meaningful and long-term ways.

Mr. Speaker, I guess we all saw last night on the 'Here and Now Program' how devastating it is this year for a number of people along the Labrador coast and a number of communities there that, through no fault of their own, there was no fish there, their plants were closed down during the summer, Mr. Speaker, and plant workers could not get any work.

I hope that people will give us their support, and the Opposition will have their conversations and their impact on their federal counterparts, Mr. Speaker. Concerning the Northern cod stock off the coast of Labrador that has gotten such tremendous publicity and has had such a tremendous impact on our whole economy, indeed the economy of the Atlantic Provinces. I would hope that the Federal Government when they make their new allocations of cod next year, Mr. Speaker, they will look at giving a portion of that cod to the coast of Labrador. To the people there that are closest to that particular resource, there was only one plant this year, Mr. Speaker, that went any more than twelve weeks. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that if one-twentieth of that total allowable catch of Northern cod, which is the fish that swims right along our coast, was taken and brought to the coast of Labrador and processed on the coast of Labrador we would indeed have full employment along our coast. Indeed we would not have the pictures that we saw last night on the television screen.

Mr. Speaker, the fishery is the mainstay and of course the Federal Government has the authority to deliver on the quotas, and deliver on the allocations. They also, Mr. Speaker, I believe, are being misguided in allocating the caplin

quota in Labrador. They are being misguided because the caplin quota right now is put in with western Newfoundland and all Labrador, and by the time that the caplin gets down to our area of the Province we are in no position to harvest it and, therefore, we will lose out on the economic benefits of it. While we certainly have the potential, Mr. Speaker, to harvest and process that particular species, there is no way that we can do it unless we have a quota for Labrador.

Again, Mr. Speaker, in licensing crab fishermen. There is a great potential in the Cartwright area for us now to probably look at some crab processing in Cartwright and maybe in Rigolet, where the people there are so needy of that kind of impetus, Mr. Speaker. I would certainly support that initiative and I hope that the Federal Government will be able to see fit to put our things in place.

But, of course, Mr. Speaker there is no doubt that all of these policies will come through after a period of time and through our insistence as a responsible and constructive Provincial Government. I certainly would be remiss, I guess, if I did not indicate to this hon. House that obviously the Provincial Government plays a role here, and the Provincial Government has to augment that political will.

I have no doubt, Mr. Speaker, no doubt at all in the confidence that this Government is exposing to the rest of the Province. I have no doubt that come our next budget the Liberal stamp will be put on to the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Liberal policies of this Government will be put in place to

have the long-term and beneficial affect on our economy that we all, as responsible Members of this House, would ever want to accomplish.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Member for Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I realize I only have about fifteen minutes left, but I guess it is only appropriate that I should follow the hon. Member for Eagle River.

I think the first remarks of the hon. Member for Eagle River were that he hopes that the Member for Torngat Mountains would do more for the Labrador coast than he is doing. I should remind the hon. Member, if that hon. Member is in this House for the next twenty-four years, and that would still only make him a young man, and if he can do half as much as I attempted to do in my last eleven years then I would suggest that the hon. Member can then get up and maybe say a few remarks that could be more complimentary.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I will say one thing that I will never advocate Labrador separating from Newfoundland. That is one thing, Mr. Speaker, that this Member will never advocate, Labrador separating from Newfoundland. Everybody in Labrador knows I have always stood up for our being part of the Province, and the Province is Newfoundland and Labrador and always will be.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have to refer to a couple of the comments the hon. Member made. He said just before closing, that one of his major concerns is the Northern cod, which means the fishery. It was only in the last month that the Minister of Fisheries took fish within sixty miles of Nain, within sixty miles of Makkovik, within sixty miles of Hopedale, and transported it back to the island portion of the Province, and this hon. gentleman would have the gall to get up and say he is going to vote for this resolution as it is!

AN HON. MEMBER:

Are you not going to vote for it?

MR. WARREN:

Not as it is, no. Let me just say to the hon. gentleman, the 'Whereas' there that the former Government did not do anything to help: Now, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman does know that the former Government did do something; in fact, I think our unemployment rate was reduced by about 2 percentage points?

AN HON. MEMBER:

It went down from 22 per cent to 15 per cent.

MR. WARREN:

It went down from 22 per cent to 15 per cent, Mr. Speaker. So I would think that is doing something.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I heard the Premier, in answer to the question asked by the Member for Grand Falls (Mr. Simms), when he said that he did not want to see Newfoundland Light and Power have extra people on the payroll, being half-paid by the Government. Now, Mr. Speaker, when this was happening last year, where was the

Premier at the time? Did the Premier write a letter to Government at the time saying, 'No, we do not want that program, because, as Chairman of Newfoundland Light and Power, I do not think it would be fair'?

AN HON. MEMBER:

No.

MR. WARREN:

No, he did not. I cannot recall any letters going to the Minister of Career Development saying that Newfoundland Light and Power was not going to accept it. I cannot remember. No, because at that time, the Premier was in the private sector. Now, he may have been Leader of the Liberal Party, but he was being paid \$50,000, so he still was partially in the private sector.

MR. MURPHY:

(Inaudible).

MR. WARREN:

The hon. gentleman from St. John's South is not in his own seat. Now, I do not mind him jabbering back and forth if he would go back to his own seat.

AN HON. MEMBER:

He should be named.

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, the hon. the Member for Eagle River (Mr. Dumaresque) also spoke about the Federal Government. Now, we were talking about how the Federal Government can help. Mr. Speaker, I have correspondence here - I know the first thing they are going to say is 'table it'. But I will not table it, Mr. Speaker. There are letters here from John Fraser, a Federal Minister, Allan McKinnon, a former Minister, the hon. Giles Lamontagne, a former Minister, and

also a letter from Mr. Rompkey.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I wrote to Mr. Rompkey when he was Minister of National Defence -

MS COWAN:

He was never a Minister of National Defence.

MR. WARREN:

I am sorry, National Revenue. Now, when you are Minister of National Revenue, you have something to do with finances. Now, I asked the Minister if he would consider reviewing the changes to the UIC regulations. Now Mr. Speaker, I have to ask for quietness.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order! Order! Order!

MR. PARSONS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, I want the hon. gentleman for Eagle River (Mr. Dumaresque) to just learn one little thing that happened when Mr. Rompkey was Minister of National Revenue. Mr. Speaker, I wrote him a letter saying that there has been a concern expressed by constituents of Mr. Rompkey.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

The hon. the Member for Torngat Mountains asked for silence. I ask that the hon. Members accord him that privilege.

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Rompkey was then the Minister of National Revenue and a letter was written to him

saying how you had the opportunity of a lifetime to make sure that changes would be made to the UIC regulations so that the people on Coastal Labrador, where the fishing season is so short, had a chance to make amendments to the regulations. Mr. Rompkey up until only two weeks ago, in fact, I think it was in the paper today, that Mr. Rompkey is saying that he wants to see changes to the UIC regulations. Now after being Minister of National Revenue in Trudeau's Cabinet he had an opportunity to do something about it, now even today he is calling for changes. Now, Mr. Speaker, as you can see, and my hon. colleague for Humber Valley (Mr. Woodford) said today, maybe Members of the Newfoundland Legislature or MPs and everything else, but we can only keep on trying. Now maybe Mr. Rompkey tried at the time, but at the same time he is still trying today, and he had a much better opportunity ten years ago than he has today.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I notice I only have seven or eight minutes left. But I do have so many things that I want to discuss about the economics of, in particular, Labrador. Back in February month I released, as Minister, a craft study on the potential in Labrador. I would say one of the best studies that was ever compiled by consultants, I think the consultants was Dennis Knight Associates, and it was a super analyst of the potential of the craft industry in Labrador.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what has happened to that study? I say to the hon. the Minister of Development (Mr. Furey) that there is a real potential of improving the economic base on the Coast of Labrador, by bringing in some of

the recommendations of this particular craft study. Now, Mr. Speaker, at the same time - seeing I am addressing some of my comments to the Minister of Development - the Minister of Development had the opportunity this summer of visiting Hebron. I think the Minister was impressed. And, in fact, I think the Minister was -

AN HON. MEMBER:

Did he go fishing?

MR. WARREN:

Not in Hebron. No, Sir. Definitely not in the Hebron area.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Where did he go fishing.

MR. WARREN:

Further south.

Mr. Speaker, let me say to the hon. gentleman he was overly impressed with the presentation that he received from business interests, with the development of and the restoration of the Hebron area. And, in fact, Mr. Speaker, I think if there ever is a potential for tourism development on the Northern Coast of Labrador then, Mr. Speaker, it is in the Hebron area.

And I want to compliment the Minister on showing at least a positive appearance to this request. And at the same time, Mr. Speaker, I say to the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs (Mr. Gullage), the Minister of many coats. The Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs recently met - Mr. Speaker, this is of very, very important economic importance for the coast of Labrador - the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs and myself

recently met with an arm of the Labrador Inuit Association concerning a museum for the Community of Nain. And, Mr. Speaker, again it was an excellent presentation by Mr. Gary Baikie and Miss Finmins, it was an excellent presentation. And the Minister did show interest. But, Mr. Speaker, people cannot live on interest shown by the Minister. We have to see action taking place. And, Mr. Speaker, I call upon both Ministers to review those two requests, and if those Ministers can carry out this request then I am sure the people along the Coast of Labrador will be quite, quite pleased about it.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Give it up!

MR. PARSONS:

You have five more minutes.

MR. WARREN:

I have five more minutes, Mr. Speaker. And, in fact, my last three minutes is going to be very, very important. Mr. Speaker, my hon. colleague from Eagle River, I have to go back to him continuously. He is always talking about Labrador has to be developed for the Labrador people. And here we get the Minister of Mines and Energy not letting the Labrador Inuit association know anything about it, but signing a 25 year lease, you gave away a 25 year lease with the Iron Ore Company of Canada right on the land that the Labrador people are negotiating with the Federal Government. And, Mr. Speaker, the Member from Eagle River supports that kind of action from that Government. Shame on the Member! Shame on the Member! I say that the Member should be ashamed of himself allowing a Minister to sell away, and give

away land that is under negotiation. You should be ashamed of yourself. You should be ashamed of yourself, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

MR. WARREN:
And, Mr. Speaker, let me tell the hon. Member from Eagle River that this shows that he does not want Newfoundland and Labrador to be together. He wants Labrador to separate, Mr. Speaker. And I say to the hon. gentleman, this time you cannot speak from both sides of your mouth, you cannot have both of them. You cannot have your cake and eat it too.

Mr. Speaker, let me finish my quoting, Mr. Speaker, from my book. Our footprints are everywhere, and just in case the hon. gentleman from Eagle River, and in particular the Minister of Mines and Energy, let me read a comment from a person who is now 83 years old from the community of Postville, and that person still today, goes in on his trap line and tries to make a living. And, Mr. Speaker, let me quote - now, Mr. Speaker, I got 5 or 6 minutes yet. And I say to all hon. gentlemen, and in particular the Member from Eagle River, just listen to those comments and then see if you will support that Government. Now, Mr. Speaker, yes, their footprints are everywhere, and let me say to the hon. gentleman I will definitely, until the day I die, I will tell the hon. gentleman that I will promote Labrador much more than he will promote Labrador. And, Mr. Speaker, in closing - I ask for quietness, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. WARREN:
Mr. Speaker, this is a very important comment from an individual 83 year old gentleman who still has his trap lines inside of Postville in Kaipokok Bay. I will read it, Mr. Speaker. "I would not make that type of agreement," this is about selling off the land, okay. "I would not make this type of agreement that says okay, we have the money, you can take the land, because I have children and grandchildren who may want to trap and hunt. For their sake, I would not make an agreement of that sort. The way I look at it is they can push around the Labrador people the way they want to. That is referring to St. John's, Newfoundland, Ottawa, and anywhere else." And that is what this gentleman is saying. Mr. Speaker, 'and they are saying the heck with the Labrador crowd, they are no good anyway. I still want,' they say, 'over my trapping grounds. I still want control over my land.' And, Mr. Speaker, 'I say to this Government that people on the Labrador coast want control over their land,' and that is signed by George Sheppard in Postville, Labrador. And I am proud of that man, and I am saying to the hon. Member from Eagle River, he should be proud of that man too, and not let the Minister of Mines and Energy go ahead and give the Iron Ore Company of Canada a 25 year lease to mine the same land that they are talking to the Government about.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am disgusted. And let me say, my time is up, Mr. Speaker, and I will conclude by saying, Mr. Speaker, that we want -

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

It is now 4:40. The hon. the Member for Harbour Grace now has to close the debate.

The hon. the Member for Harbour Grace.

MR. CRANE:

I certainly find great difficulty in following the Member for Torngat Mountains, but I certainly hope I never get as torn up as that over any issue in this Legislature. I would like to congratulate the speakers that have spoken since I have, especially the Member for Humber Valley, although I cannot understand for the life of me why he would want to get rid of all the 'whereas' in the Resolution. The Province of Newfoundland and Labrador has had a high unemployment rate for a number of years. I certainly do not think anybody who has spent as much time around the legislature as the Member for Humber Valley would argue with that one. We have talked about two per cent in a couple of seconds and we will tell you where it has gone, and whereas the previous Government has done little to significantly change this, I can understand the Member for Humber Valley not wanting to along with that 'Whereas'.

MR. MATTHEWS:

What happened to him (inaudible)?

MR. CRANE:

Oh, it is true, but I am sure he could not go along with that unless he is classified as a traitor to your party. But the other 'Whereas' the Royal Commission on Unemployment and Employment put forward recommendations to solve the problems, you fellows hired Doug House and you accepted his

recommendations, put some of them into practice, so I cannot see why you would argue with that one. And whereas this Government advocated policy to alleviate unemployment, that must have broken his heart, I can see why he would want to eliminate that one, that is true, but I am sure it is going to break his heart. The Member for Port au Port, in his speech says that different areas have different problems. I can assure you that is true, what works in one area will not work in another, maybe, but as different areas have different problems, the treatment certainly has to be different. The Province of Newfoundland has experienced high unemployment rates for many, many years, especially during the 1980's. Newfoundland has experienced shorter spells of employment and longer spells of unemployment than our mainland counterparts. Only thirty-nine per cent of Newfoundlanders work year round, compared to fifty-nine per cent of the Canadians. The official unemployment rate in Newfoundland is around twenty-five per cent average. However the unofficial rate which includes hidden unemployed, so called discouraged workers, the people who have stopped looking for work. If you add those in you will find that the unemployment rate usually hovers around thirty, thirty-three per cent. The unemployment rates of the 1980's, although Members opposite take a lot of credit in providing X number of jobs, the unemployment rate in 1982 is 16.8 per cent. In 1985 it was 21 per cent and in 1988 it is 18.7 per cent. So, since 1982, it is higher in 1988 by 2.2 per cent, and I cannot see how the Government of yesterday could say they did a great job in trying to solve the unemployment

problem. Mr. Speaker, we can see the high unemployment rate in not a new problem, it is not something that came about since April, and it is not something that could be solved since April either, but it is something that came about over the years and it is going to take maybe years to repair. Mr. Speaker, we are in progress in the Province, we must learn from the mistakes of the past, it is with this in mind, that I look at the approach, the Members opposite, when they were in a position to tackle the problem. What did they do, Mr. Speaker? We are looking for things to avoid in the future, if we are looking for things to avoid in the future, we certainly could find lots. The old approach to developing and creating employment was wrong, Mr. Speaker. They relied on crisis management, when they found the crisis they brought in plans in the crisis to look after, they waited until the crisis rose and then they would try to whip something together, some kind of a program, a program to save, in many cases, I guess their political hides. Well, I would like to say to the Member for Grand Bank, if I do not say anything for the next three weeks, I want to say just as much as he said, since the session opened.

AN HON. MEMBER:
(Inaudible).

MR. CRANE:
Yes, it seems to me that all they cared about was saving their political hides in securing another four years, rather than face their problems fairly and squarely, and honestly try to take the potentials of Hibernia development and blow it all out of proportion, because here we are saying to the people of the Province, do not worry about all

the other problems, we have plans to tackle them because we have the big project Hibernia. For three elections Hibernia proved to be very successful to the Opposition because they won three elections on it. They wanted to blow the project out of proportion and they did. They did not care about the false expectations they aroused in our people. They did not care about misdirecting our economy. They did not care about the people who invested money in projects offshore. They did not care about young Newfoundlanders and Labradorians who took training to pursue careers in offshore industries that were not there. To bring it all together, Mr. Speaker, their main mistake was they did not care about people. They only cared about their politics and being re-elected. The one mistake I know this Government will not make, because it is a Government that cares for people and believes in fairness and balance.

I think we have learned from all the twisting and political opportunism from the previous Administration on the Hibernia issue. In the dying days of the previous Administration their Leader realized he could not make the sun shine so he decided the least he could do was light up the skys in Mount Pearl.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Oh, oh!

MR. CRANE:
Yes, it did that.

The Sprung greenhouse teaches us many lessons. First, it is not to be pushed into funding projects too quickly by outside investors. The second is to work from your strengths. And the third is when

public money goes into a project the public have a right to know how the money is being spent. There are some mistakes of the past, Mr. Speaker, that I think the people of Newfoundland and Labrador need to be reminded of now and then. During the last election the Members on this side of the House realized the mistakes of the past and advocated a real change. Needless to say the people voted for that change and they got it. We all know that the real change does not happen overnight. We realize the faults of the get rich quick schemes of the previous Administration. Real change comes with a commitment to tackle the long-term problems of our economy. Real change comes from a Government having the foresight to fight for Senate reform as the Premier has done when dealing with Meech Lake.

Mr. Speaker, the Government realizes the importance of tackling the economic problems of the Province head on. They realize they have to take a little criticism from time to time from the Opposition because we are not moving as fast as they would like for us to move. But I say, Mr. Speaker, that it is very strange for a crowd who were in Government for so long and did not solve the problems, to criticize us for not solving all the problems in less than a year.

Mr. Speaker, they are so rash and hypocritical to do this. I would respond: This Government has come into a situation not of our own making, but we face the responsibility of having problems and having to solve them. I am proud of the prudent management style that this Government has brought to the affairs of this Province. We have seen the

Government, before it spends money, ask what the taxpayers of the Province want to do. This is in sharp contrast to the spending approach of the previous Administration. The main words in this regard have been fairness and balance.

In the previous Administration allocation of public funds was done on a political basis, very unfair, very unbalanced, tipping mostly towards the P.C. Districts. I say again, to turn the economy around and to address the serious unemployment rate in the Province will take hard work and determination. Pie in the sky industries are not the answer. The Commission states that the biggest transformation has to come in small communities, where most Newfoundlanders live.

To reach the goal of self-reliance, the rural communities need to experience a revolution in education of their citizens, be linked into provincial research and development strategies which are geared to their needs, enjoy a newly-designed income security system, gain greater control over the decisions that affect them and receive the active support and encouragement of the Federal and Provincial Government agencies in their efforts to achieve self-reliance.

Any strategy to resolve the Province's serious economic problems must reflect a long-term vision of the nature of our society.

The Commission recommends that we look beyond our past and lost industrial dreams, to move consciously and positively into the coming post-industrial age.

When one looks at the support we have gotten in the past toward developing our rural communities, it has been minimal. Our rural communities have survived despite neglect and discouragement rather than because of official support.

The Government and developers have emphasized large industries and developed major centres. I say it is time we give more support to small businesses and the fishery, which is the mainstay of our rural population.

Sixty-eight per cent of Newfoundlanders live in communities of less than 5,000 people. Newfoundland will always have a rural society and we, as a Government, have to gear policies towards their needs.

The Government is committed to promoting regional development. The initiative for regional development will come from regions themselves. The role of the Government will be to provide the tools for the job. This Government is also committed to supporting decentralization of business and industrial activity.

The Economic Recovery Commission has been put into place to implement long-term solutions to our economy. The Opposition keep criticizing the Economic Recovery Commission and will not give it a chance to operate.

The Economic Recovery Commission will distribute funding and will do a job that I am sure, not only the Liberal Government, but the Opposition, will finally be proud of.

Mr. Speaker, all Members of the House, I am sure, really want to alleviate the problems facing this

Province. At least, I hope this is the case. Certainly we can all get behind the new Economic Recovery Commission and give them a chance to help tackle the economic problems facing the Province.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say before closing that we are not going to support the amendment. The amendment, as far as I am concerned, is doing away with -

MR. MURPHY:

Reality.

MR. CRANE:

- reality, not living in reality. We, on this side of the House, we will be supporting the resolution as is.

I think all Members of the House realize the Federal Government has a role to play in creating employment, and the Economic Recovery Team will play a role as a mediator between the Federal Government and the Provincial Governments. We may certainly get more out of that than we got before, because there was no negotiation, there was just confrontation. They must be encouraged to assist us in providing opportunities for meaningful employment as I said before, Mr. Speaker, employment where men and women of this Province will enjoy letting people see them go and come from work and not bow their heads and be ashamed to go and come from their place of employment.

Mr. Speaker, I will now conclude, and I will ask hon. Members, even Members on the other side of the House who have introduced the amendment, to think it over and vote for the resolution as is. And not only vote for the

resolution as is, but support the Government in their efforts to try and overcome the unemployment problem in our Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

On motion, the amendment was defeated.

On motion, the resolution was carried.

MR. FUREY:

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to inform the House that we will be reverting to Bill No. 40, which is Order No. 11.

On behalf of the Government Whip, Mr. K. Aylward, the Member for Stephenville, would like to invite all Members, Government Members and staff, Your Honour and all of the staff, the press, and the world, everybody who would like to come, to the Government Members Office as soon as we adjourn today, for a party hosted by the Government Whip and the Government Members. So we invite everybody.

MR. WARREN:

Where is that?

MR. FUREY:

That is located on the 5th Floor of the West Block, which is the new building.

Mr. Speaker, we also want to take this opportunity to thank the Opposition for their generous invite for December 12 at 5:00 p.m. I am sure many Government Members will be there. I understand that the Opposition House Leader only discovered this some minutes ago himself.

So I apologize for the lateness of the invitation on behalf of the

Government and on behalf of the Whip, but we just learned about it ourselves a little while ago. So we would like to see as many as possible of the staff and the Opposition Members come over and join us in this festive activity this afternoon.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Opposition House Leader.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, first of all, we look forward to the continuing debate on Bill 40. It will go on for quite a while.

Secondly, we appreciate the invitation to attend the reception that you are hosting. Unfortunately, because of the shortness of the time allocated to us and the notice given, I am not sure what other Members have, but I have a meeting with the Speaker and I understand there is a Committee meeting. If some of us do not show up, I can assure them it is not because of any personal animosities or personal negative feelings. We may have our differences here in the Legislature, but outside that is not the case.

With respect to our own function next week, Tuesday, the 12th of December, the Acting Government House Leader is absolutely correct, I did not know about it and there are a few Members on this side who were not aware of the date. I knew we were planning to have one, whenever. But it just goes to show, I guess, how efficient our staff is, the invitation went to Government before it came to us.

And I can tell hon. Members, by the way, the Opposition offices -

MR. MURPHY:

Have it early. The House will be closed.

MR. SIMMS:

No, the House will not be closed, I can assure you of that, and it will not be closed on the 13, and it will not be closed on the 14, and so on.

I will tell you for the benefit of new Members that the Opposition offices are located on the 5th floor still, that the roof is still leaking in certain parts, and I am not quite sure where we are going to hold it. We do not know where we are going to hold it, because we did not even know there was going to be one. We will find a place, if Members opposite want to bring a contribution to the party, since we are in Opposition.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

The Chair reminds Members of the Internal Economy Commission of a meeting in the Speaker's office immediately at the closing of the House.

This House now stands adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, at 2:00 p.m.

Index

Answers to Questions

tabled

December 6, 1989

*Tabled by Hon. Minister
of Works, Services &
Transportation, 6 Dec, '81*

Question: What is happening with the Stephenville Airport issue in regard to the First Air-Air Canada impasse over a joint fare arrangement? (Mr. Hodder)

Answer: Table for Honourable Members benefit copies of numerous letter to Air Canada and Air Nova concerning the Stephenville situation, including letters of concern over Air Canada's refusal to grant First Air joint fare arrangements for its proposed service to Stephenville.

Provincial Government has been heavily involved in the whole Stephenville issue. A total of \$215,000. was allocated to assist the community in its lobby efforts. Two studies were carried out. One examined the social and economic impact resulting from withdrawal of Air Canada from Stephenville, including implications resulting from loss of cargo service, and effects if Stephenville can't be used as an alternate for Gander in the TOPS program. The purpose of the second study was to identify a market niche for Stephenville Airport and to develop a marketing strategy. These studies have recently been completed in draft form and are presently being reviewed by my Department.

December 5th Announcement of Official Designation of
Stephenville Airport as Full International Alternate Airport:

Tuesday December 5th it was announced that the Stephenville airport will receive official designation as a full international alternate airport for re-fueling stops as well as International General Aviation Airport Designation.

This designation will permit facilities at Stephenville Airport to be published in all International Civil Aviation and Canadian Aviation publications. The designation will complement Gander in attracting International technical stops to both Stephenville and Gander.

This is good news for Stephenville and will allow the airport to be more beneficial to the community and surrounding area than it ever was in the past. We expect international travel to increase, and with this designation, the airport can market itself on an international basis.

Question: Are there plans to downgrade or discontinue Canadian Airlines International 737 service to Happy Valley-Goose Bay and Wabush? (Mr. Warren)

Answer: We have been assured by Canadian Airlines International that they have no plans to reduce 737 service to Happy Valley-Goose Bay or Wabush.



The Town of Stephenville

P.O. BOX 420, STEPHENVILLE, NEWFOUNDLAND, A2N 2Z5

TEL. (709)643-2803 : FAX (709)643-2770



PRESS RELEASE

STEPHENVILLE AIRPORT

TODAY, MAYOR CEC STEIN ANNOUNCED THAT MEETINGS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF TRANSPORT CANADA, ATLANTIC REGION, SENATOR COCHRANE, M.H.A. KEVIN AYLWRD, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE BROUGHT NEWS THAT STEPHENVILLE AIRPORT WOULD RECEIVE OFFICIAL DESIGNATION AS A FULL INTERNATIONAL ALTERNATE AIRPORT FOR ^{Reducing} ~~TECHNICAL~~ STOPS AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL GENERAL AVIATION AIRPORT DESIGNATION.

THIS CAME ABOUT DUE TO THE EFFORTS OF THE MEETINGS BETWEEN MINISTER SHIRLEY MARTIN AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TOWN OF STEPHENVILLE AND ITS AIRPORT COMMITTEE, HEADED BY FORMER MAYOR, KEVIN WALSH.

THE MEETINGS WITH THE MINISTER WERE A DIRECT RESULT OF SUPPORT FROM M.P. ROSS REID, AND SENATORS COCHRANE AND MARSHALL, M.P. ROGER SIMMONS, M.H.A. KEVIN AYLWARD, AND THE PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION. WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE FEDERAL MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR NEWFOUNDLAND, THE HONORABLE JOHN CROSBIE AND THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SENATOR FINLEY MACDONALD, TRANSPORT CANADA AND THE HONORABLE SHIRLEY MARTIN, THE DESIRE OF THE SOUTHWEST REGION OF NEWFOUNDLAND TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE ROLE OF THE STEPHENVILLE AIRPORT HAS COME ABOUT.

THIS DESIGNATION WILL PERMIT FACILITIES AT STEPHENVILLE AIRPORT TO BE PUBLISHED IN ALL INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATIONS AND CANADIAN AVIATION PUBLICATIONS.

THIS DESIGNATION WILL COMPLEMENT GANDER IN ATTRACTING INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL STOPS TO NEWFOUNDLAND AIRPORTS.

MAYOR STEIN WANTS TO PUBLICLY RECOGNIZE THE ROLE PLAYED IN THIS ACHIEVEMENT BY THE PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES OF SOUTHWEST NEWFOUNDLAND AND GANDER WHOSE EFFORT INDIRECTLY AND THROUGH THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE RESULTED DIRECTLY IN THE SENATE COMMITTEE HEARINGS AND GAVE OUR CRITICAL SITUATION A MUCH HIGHER PROFILE. THE SUPPORT AND INDULGENCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL IN STEPHENVILLE TO THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE WAS ESSENTIAL TO THIS SUCCESS. ALL THESE EFFORTS HELP. THIS IS A CASE WHERE A MAJOR COOPERATIVE EFFORT IS BEGINNING TO PAY OFF.

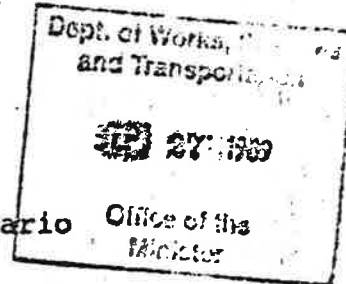
Commission
Transportation Agency
of Canada



Président
Office national des transports
du Canada

SEP 20 1989

Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0N9



Exec dockets: 5059 and 5103

The Honourable David S. Gilbert
Minister
Department of Works, Services & Transportation
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
4th Floor, Confederation Building
St. John's, Newfoundland
A1B 4J6

I I 010284

Dear Mr. Gilbert:

Re. AC/5103

This is further to my letters of September 8, 1989 and September 18, 1989 acknowledging receipt of your letter dated August 31, 1989 and a copy of your letter to Mr. C. L. Taylor, concerning First Air's proposed service to Stephenville and its inability to negotiate an interline agreement with Air Canada and AIL.

As you know, the new National Transportation Act, 1987 removed most economic regulation of air transportation in southern Canada and reduced it in the north. The new legislation was established to make it easier for air carriers to provide service to communities than was possible under the former regulatory framework. This has enabled the Agency to handle First Air's proposal for air service to Stephenville in a timely and expeditious manner.

However, the Agency's jurisdiction, with respect to a possible reduction in air services or with respect to fares and terms and conditions of carriage, is somewhat limited. Section 80, of the new Act, does offer some protection for air travellers against pricing abuse on monopoly routes in southern Canada through a complaint investigation mechanism administered by the Agency. Specifically, the Agency is empowered, upon written complaint, to make a finding to disallow an increase in the "basic fare" (known as the economy or "Y" fare) or reduce an increase to an amount considered to be reasonable.

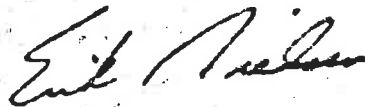
- 2 -

For the transportation of goods, the Act contains provisions in section 59 whereby a complaint may be filed on the grounds that an act, rate charged or omission by a carrier may prejudicially affect the public interest. The Agency also offers mediation services which can help to resolve disputes between shippers and carriers concerning rates or service conditions.

In addition to the Agency's jurisdiction, airlines are subject to the requirements of the Competition Act.

I hope that the foregoing comments have served to clarify the Agency's jurisdiction in this matter.

Sincerely,



Erik Nielsen

AirNova

09/20
Air Nova Inc.
Suite 2200
Fort William Building
St. John's, Newfoundland
Canada A1C 6H5 (709) 576-8908

September 25, 1989

HONORABLE DAVID S. GILBERT
Minister
Department of Works, Services
& Transportation
4th Floor, Confederation Bldg.
St. John's, NF
A1B 4J6

Dept. of Works, Services
and Transportation

SEP 22 1989

Office of the
Minister

I I O 1 0 2 8 A

Dear Mr. Minister:

RE: AIR CANADA - STEPHENVILLE

I have your letter of September 18 concerning Air Canada refusal to grant First Air joint fare arrangements for its proposed services to Stephenville.

First of all I should say that this was done by Air Canada on its own volition, but at the same time, being fully aware of the spirit of its Commercial Agreement with Air Nova and of our joint efforts in the region.

I am aware of Stephenville's concerns and its desire to attract jet service to the community. It is my understanding that apart from its concern for adequate flight schedules, it is also concerned that the airport could lose its status as a jet airport.

Air Nova's decision not to provide air service to Stephenville was based on economic considerations relating to traffic levels and the service pattern required to give an adequate service frequency. Air Atlantic was servicing the point and had greatly improved its frequency and service. At the same time, Air Nova was improving its service to the West Coast by added frequency through Deer Lake.

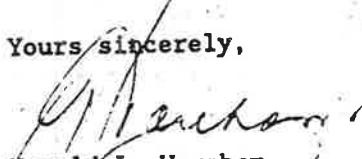
It is our belief that traffic demand will eventually determine the level of service required and that should First Air be awarded joint fares from Air Canada, it runs the risk of jeopardizing the rather fragile structure existing and the overall improvement which have been achieved in the region.

Certainly, Air Atlantic should be in a better position to assess the service level required and in the event that they might be acquiring jet equipment in the future, should be consulted on this matter.

Hon. David S. Gilbert
September 25, 1989
Page 2

Please be assured, Mr. Minister, that Air Nova does not wish to be, nor perceived to be, uncooperative in this matter and should you require further information or explanation on our part, please do not hesitate to contact me at anytime.

Yours sincerely,



Harold L. Wareham
Chairman & C.E.O.

HLW/dls



SB

GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
DEPARTMENT OF WORKS, SERVICES & TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Minister

SEP 18 1989

4th. Floor
Confederation Building
St. John's, Nfld.
A1B 4J6
(709) 576-3678

Mr. Harold Wareham
Chairman and CEO
Air Nova
Suite 2300
Fort William Building
St. John's, Nfld.
A1C 6H5

Dear Mr. Wareham:

Re: Air Canada - Stephenville

I received a copy of a letter from Mr. Jean-Jacques Bourgeault, Air Canada's Vice-President of Passenger Sales and Service which he forwarded to Mr. Kevin Aylward, the M.H.A. for Stephenville District concerning Mr. Aylward's request for Air Canada to allow First Air to have a joint fare arrangement with Air Canada, for its scheduled air service serving Stephenville. Mr. Bourgeault states in his letter that Air Canada must decline a joint fare arrangement with First Air, due to a current arrangement with your Company.

This letter is an official request for your Company to release Air Canada from any obligations they may have to your Company which prevents them from entering into a joint fare arrangement with First Air.

An early and co-operative decision would be very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

DAVID S. GILBERT
Minister

/jah

cc Hon. Jim Kelland, Minister
Hon. Clyde Wells, Premier
Roger Simmons, M.P.
Mayor Kevin Walsh, Stephenville
Gary Renouf, President Chamber of Commerce
Claude Taylor, Chairman of the Board, Air Canada
Hon. John Crosbie, Minister
John Crichton
Kevin Aylward

bcc Beckett/SB

Cabinet du
ministre des Transports

Office of
the Minister of Transport

Dept. of Works, Services
and Transportation

SEP 13 1989

Office of the
Minister

SEP - 8 1989

09/19

The Honourable David S. Gilbert, M.H.A.
Minister of Works, Services and Transportation
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
4th Floor, Confederation Building
St. John's, Newfoundland
A1B 4J6

1101028A

Dear Mr. Gilbert:

Re: AC/Step

On behalf of the Honourable Benoit Bouchard,
Minister of Transport, I would like to acknowledge
and thank you for your letter of August 28, 1989,
received by this office on August 31, concerning air
passenger and cargo service at Stephenville,
Newfoundland.

Please be assured that the Minister will be
responding to you personally when he has fully
reviewed the matter you raised.

Yours sincerely,

Bonnie Smith
Ministerial Aide-Correspondence



GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
DEPARTMENT OF WORKS, SERVICES & TRANSPORTATION

II01028A

AUG 31 1989

4th Floor
Confederation Building
St. John's, Nfld.
A1B 4J6
(709) 578-2678

ice of the Minister

The Honourable Erik Neilsen
Chairman
National Transportation Agency
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0N9

Dear Mr. Neilsen:

Re: Stephenville, Newfoundland

Thank you for awarding an operating authority for First Air to service Stephenville. I appreciate your having abridged the application process to enable First Air to potentially provide this service effective August 21, 1989.

You may not be aware that First Air has been unable to negotiate appropriate interline arrangements with Air Canada and CAIL to permit the economic functioning of such a route. I understand the failure of the interline arrangements rest solely with the refusal of both of the major carriers to provide such arrangements.

I would request you to have this matter investigated to ensure the principles of marketplace competition, upon which the National Transportation Act 1987 is founded, are met.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

DAVID S. GILBERT
Minister

jah
c Hon. B. Bouchard
Hon. J. Crosbie
Mayor K. Walsh
K. Aylward
C. Taylor
P. Jeannot



GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
DEPARTMENT OF WORKS, SERVICES & TRANSPORTATION

87

Office of the Minister

AUG 31 1989

JE 010287

4th Floor
Confederation Building
St. John's, N.S.
A1B 4X6
(709) 576-2678

Mr. Claude I. Taylor, O.C.
Chairman of the Board
Air Canada
500 Rene Levesque Blvd.
Montréal, P.Q.
H2Z 3X5

Dear Mr. Taylor:

Re: Stephenville, Newfoundland

I am writing to you in your capacity as Chairman of the Board of Air Canada to bring to your attention recent events as they concern air passenger and cargo service at Stephenville, Newfoundland.

Following the departure of Air Canada from this market Air Atlantic, a Canadian Airlines International (CAIL) partner, increased service to both Halifax and St. John's using Dash 8 aircraft. First Air applied to the National Transportation Agency of Canada for authority to service the market and was granted such authority. The First Air service was to commence August 21, 1989 connecting with Goose Bay and Ottawa.

It now appears that First Air will not serve Stephenville as both Air Canada and CAIL have refused interline arrangements. When Air Canada withdrew from Stephenville, part of the rationale was that your shareholders would be better served by having the aircraft in more lucrative markets. Perhaps you would be good enough to explain why interline arrangements with First Air are not in the best interest of Air Canada shareholders.

I await your response on behalf of the Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

DAVID S. GILBERT
Minister

/jah

- cc Hon. B. Bouchard
- Hon. J. Crosbie
- Hon. E. Nielson
- Mayor K. Walsh
- K. Avlward
- P. Jeannot
- Board of Directors

This document is the property of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. It is to be returned to the Department of Works, Services & Transportation, St. John's, N.S.



GOVERNMENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
DEPARTMENT OF WORKS, SERVICES & TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Minister

4th Floor
Confederation Building
St. John's, Nfld.
A1B 4J6
(709) 574-2678

The Honourable Benoit Bouchard
Minister of Transport
Place de Ville
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0N5

Dear Mr. Bouchard:

Re: Stephenville, Newfoundland

I wish to ensure you are personally aware of the continuing problems in providing appropriate air passenger and cargo service at Stephenville, Newfoundland.

First Air has received authority from the National Transportation Agency of Canada to provide service at Stephenville. However, apparently both Air Canada and Canadian Airlines International Limited have refused to enter into interline arrangements. This refusal essentially renders uneconomic the proposed replacement service for Air Canada which departed the market on June 17, 1989.

I have requested the Chairman of the National Transportation Agency to investigate this situation. As you are the Minister responsible for the National Transportation Act, 1987, I am sure you will agree a remedy is required to ensure appropriate air transportation service for all communities. I trust you will have a full investigation conducted on this matter.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

DAVID S. GILBERT
Minister

DEPUTY MINISTER
BLIC WORKS AND SERVICES

- Reply Yourself
- Take Appropriate Action
- Retention and Filing ie
- _____ h

ROUTINE
59-08-21

Minister

APPROVAL

THE SENATE OF CANADA



LE SÉNAT DU CANADA

THE HONOURABLE JACK MARSHALL CD

July 6, 1989

Dep. of Works, Services
and Transportation

JUL 17 1989

Office of the
Minister

ROOM 204 10
OTTAWA, CANADA
K1A 0A4
(613) 993-4500

The Honourable David S. Gilbert
Minister of Works, Services and
Transportation
4th floor, East Block
Confederation Bldg.
St. John's, Nfld. A1C 5T7

Dear Minister:


I refer to your NIS 1 dated June 15, 1989 (Works, Services and
Transportation).

It is pleasing to note that you are taking up the cause of the
discontinuance of DC-9 air service to Stephenville by Air Canada.

Moreover, I am pleased that your government is providing the sum of
\$215,000.00 to assist in lobby efforts to the federal government
- (a) the social and economic impact and (b) to identify a market
niche for Stephenville Airport.

It is heartening to note your objective efforts and I wish you
every success in your endeavours.

Sincerely,


Jack Marshall, CD
Senator

cc: Kevin Aylward, MHA
Fred Stagg

jm