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FORTY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF  
NEWFOUNDLAND

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**VERBATIM REPORT**  
*(Hansard)*

*Speaker: Honourable Thomas Lush*

Thursday

1 June 1989

The House met at 2:00 p.m.

MR. SPEAKER (Lush):  
Order, please!

Before getting into the activity of the day, on behalf of hon. members I would like to welcome to the galleries today a delegation from the town council of Windsor, represented by Mayor Blackmore, Councillor King and Councillor Green.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:  
Also we would like to welcome to the galleries the Mayor of Come By Chance, Mrs. Betty Gilbert.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:  
Also, on behalf of hon. members, we would like to welcome to the House today some students, twenty students actually, from the Avalon Community College in St. John's, accompanied by their instructor, Mr. Bill Smith.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:  
Also we have some students here today, sixty Grade VII students, accompanied by their teacher, Mr. Gilbert Tulk, from the Glovertown High School. I am sure all hon. members would like to welcome these students.

Also we have twenty Grade XI students accompanied by their teacher, Mr. Mike Sutton, from O'Donel High School, Mount Pearl. I am sure all hon. members bid you welcome.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

### Oral Questions

MR. TOBIN:  
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. the member for Burin - Placentia West.

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

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation (Mr. Gilbert).

On Tuesday, I guess, the minister made a major announcement in this House on a roads agreement, and yesterday he was not allowed back in the House to answer the questions. He had to stay out until after Question Period, Mr. Speaker. He hung around the common room and did not come in until after Question Period was over. Now that he is here, Mr. Speaker, I have a question I would like to ask him.

Outlined in the campaign policy for the Liberal Party in the election, it is clearly stated that, "Our economy will only grow and diversify if we have a good and reliable means of transportation. We will stagnate if we are not to have a reliable and effective means of delivering goods, services and people from one part of the Province to another and to deliver exports to be marketed outside the Province."

Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister is: If that is the case and that is the philosophy of the Liberal Party, then why did you

gut the budget for road work from \$48 million to \$30 million? Forty-eight million dollars had been recommended by the bureaucrats in your department and had been accepted by the previous administration. Now, Mr. Speaker, why were the people of this Province robbed of \$18 million in this budget?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. GILBERT:

Mr. Speaker, the member preambled his question about my not being in the House yesterday. I assure him I was on the Queen's business, otherwise I would have been here.

Now, as to the fact that the roads program that we announced was \$30 million instead of the amount that he feels we should have announced, I have an explanation for that. I would say that, first of all, the House has not been open for ten months. We right now have to announce a program that we hope is going to be completed this year. We could announce a \$60 million program but it would not be completed. What we had in the Interim Supply was an amount of \$30 million which is going to be completed this year. We will not be paving over ice and snow like was done sometimes when the previous members were in government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. TOBIN:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

A supplementary, the hon. the member for Burin - Placentia West.

MR. TOBIN:

Mr. Speaker, now that the minister has admitted to this House that they did deliberately cut \$18 million from the budget and deny that kind of money in road improvements to this Province, let me ask the minister, Mr. Speaker: When they got involved in the slashing of the budget how could they justify cutting from the list recommended by the senior bureaucrats, not by politicians, Mr. Speaker, and how did the minister and his Cabinet colleagues cut from twenty-one Conservative districts a total of \$14 million, Mr. Speaker, yet in the thirty-one Liberal districts only \$7 million was cut.

Now, Mr. Speaker, how are we supposed to win districts in this Province like Grand Falls, that did not receive any money, Burin - Placentia West that had roads money cut, Baie Verte, and the list goes on, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, how does the member for Placentia (Mr. Hogan) go out and explain to his constituents how the road work was cut in his district? How does the member for St. George's (Mr. Short) explain that the whole system was gutted?

MR. SPEAKER:

Would the hon. member please get to his question? It is a supplementary question and I ask the hon. member to get to it.

MR. TOBIN:

Okay, Mr. Speaker. Having said that, let me ask the minister how can he explain to the people of Newfoundland fairness and balance in cutting from the Conservative districts \$14 million, when there are only twenty-one PCs elected

here, and yet they managed to cut less than half of that from the other thirty-one districts. Would the minister care to explain if that interprets fairness and balance?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. GILBERT:

I think the member answered his own question really. The program that we introduced in this House on Monday was one that was made up by the civil servants and recommended as a priority list, with the amount of money that we were spending, or announcing at this time, the \$30 million. The list was, as I say, compiled by the civil servants. The list that the hon. member is referring to now is, the one that he had, is a different agenda. I know nothing about it. I asked my civil servants in the department to provide me with a priority list for provincial roads in this Province for the current year, within the constraints and within the dollars that we had to work with. I was provided with the list. It was a list based on the priority of the civil service. It had no input from the political process whatsoever, and I am quite happy with it, as I am sure the people of Newfoundland are.

MR. TOBIN:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Hon. the member for Burin - Placentia West.

MR. TOBIN:

Mr. Speaker, being a member of the former administration, I know what the list was and I know where the list was when this administration

was no longer in office. So, one way or the other, Mr. Speaker, the member should come clean and be truthful to this House. There was a list, Mr. Speaker, that was put into the system, and the minister knows that. And there is only one way for it to be taken out, and that was taken out by the minister. It is not good enough for him to say that he did not see it. It was in the system and it had to be removed.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let the minister explain to this House how there were seventeen projects added on to that list that were not a priority. Seventeen projects, Mr. Speaker, were added on to that list -

MR. WINDSOR:

All in Liberal districts.

MR. TOBIN:

-all of them, Mr. Speaker, every single project in a Liberal district. Is that fairness and balance, Mr. Speaker? Why and how did it happen? Is that what the minister is go to continue to see in this House?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. GILBERT:

I would suggest to the hon. member that if there was a list compiled by the previous administration it was clearly political. Our list is not political. Our list is based on fairness and balance and on a priority that was seen by the civil servants.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. DOYLE:  
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. the member for Harbour Main.

MR. DOYLE:  
Mr. Speaker, my question is to the same minister as well. The minister is aware, and is very well aware, of the announcement and the commitment and Cabinet approval that was given to the people of Bell Island a short time ago, approximately one year ago, to have a second ferry built for Bell Island simultaneously with the first one.

Now, will the minister explain to the people of Bell Island, who a year ago were dancing in the streets and rejoicing that they had a minister and a government who recognized the needs of Bell Island by providing a decent transportation service, will the minister tell us, clearly and openly and plainly and honestly and sincerely, why he has chosen to dash the dreams of the people of Bell Island by not keeping the commitment of the announcement of the second boat? Will the second ferry, as announced by the previous administration, be built for the people of Bell Island? If it is going to be built, when will it be built? Will the minister tell us?

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

MR. GILBERT:  
I would suggest to the hon. member that the people of Mount Scio - Bell Island danced and rejoiced in the streets so much they elected a Liberal member.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. GILBERT:  
As to the ferry, Mr. Speaker, we made an announcement, as is well known, and I am sure if the member had listened to the press last week, when I made the announcement about the building of the ferry that is presently starting construction in Marystown, I made a commitment to the people of Bell Island that we, in this government recognized the need for a second vessel for that run, and that we would be making an announcement in due course as to when this ferry would go into construction. I assure the hon. member it is in good hands. Have no fear, we are going to look after it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. the member for -

MR. DOYLE:  
Mr. Speaker, the minister is better at dancing -

MR. SPEAKER:  
Order, please!

I am sorry. I just want to remind the hon. member that the Chair has not recognized him yet.

MR. DOYLE:  
Sorry, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:  
I was about to, but both of us were talking together.

The hon. the member for Harbour Main.

MR. DOYLE:  
Mr. Speaker, as I said, the minister is better at dancing than

he is at answering questions. Now, I am going to ask him a second time, and I am going to ask him come clean with the people of Bell Island, and the people here in this House. His officials recommended, approximately one year ago, that a second boat be build simultaneously with the first boat being built. Treasury Board approved the expenditure approximately one year ago. Cabinet approved that expenditure approximately one year ago. I made the announcement as minister, in front of 300 people on Bell Island about one year ago, that two boats would be built simultaneously. Now, would the minister agree with me to go to a public meeting on Bell Island next week and explain to the people of Bell Island why they are not having that second boat built?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. DOYLE:  
And, will he go to the Premier and say to the Premier, The commitment has been made and the commitment must be kept? Will the minister go with me to a meeting on Bell Island next week and explain this to the people of Bell Island?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

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

MR. GILBERT:  
First of all, to the member's reference to my dancing, my wife will be proud to hear that because that is one of the things she never considered me to be too good at.

As far as answering the member's

question, I have talked to the members of the Commission over there, and if there is a request from the people of Bell Island for me to go to Bell Island and have a meeting on Bell Island, I am sure that I will go, accompanied by the member. I have no problem at all. I have nothing to fear from the people of Bell Island, or has this government. We have made a commitment, as I stated to the member earlier, so I will run through it again just to be sure that he understands. There is one ferry that is in process, and there is a contract given to the Marystown Shipyard to construct it.

MR. DOYLE:  
For one.

MR. GILBERT:  
I have told the people of Bell Island, and I tell the member here today, we are in the process of considering, and we made a commitment to them, that there is going to be a second ferry for Bell Island.

MR. DOYLE:  
When?

MR. GILBERT:  
The one thing that the member seems to forget is that there is a different government here now than the one he was part of. The commitments that he made do not necessarily, nor does this government necessarily have to honour. We are in the process. I have said publicly that we are going to honour the commitment to have a second ferry for Bell Island, so I can assure the hon. member, yes. As to having a meeting with the people of Bell Island, if I get a request from the people of Bell Island I will be only too happy, as I am sure my colleague will be happy, to go

with me to face the people on any decisions we have made concerning the ferry for Bell Island.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. the member for Harbour Main.

MR. DOYLE:  
I am very pleased to hear the minister say that, Mr. Speaker, because I will see to it that he gets an invitation next week to go see the people of Bell Island, and I will be happy to go along with him as well. Mr. Speaker, as long as he is not going to built a second boat simultaneously with the first one for the people of Bell Island, maybe they have relief coming in some other way. Will the minsiter give us his comment on the statement in the **Liberal Party Policy Manual**: The Liberal Government will consider ferry transportation to the Islands off the Coast of Newfoundland to be an extension of the road system, just as we expect the Gulf ferry service and the Trans-Canada highway to be a part of the national transportation system"? He told me about this many, many times when I was sitting on that side and he wanted to see that policy implemented. When can the people of Bell Island, and the people of Gaultois and Change Islands and Long Island and Pilley's Island and the various islands that are serviced by ferries, when can they expect to see a roll-back in the ferry rates to the islands around this province as annunciated by the Minister and this government in their **Liberal Party Policy Manual**? When can they expect to see that, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. the Minister.

MR. GILBERT:  
Within a reasonable time, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. HODDER:  
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. the member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER:  
Another question to the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation. It is obvious that the government does not intend to live up to the promises that were made by the former administration, by this side when we were over there. The question I have for the Minister is: Does the Minister intend to live up to the promises that were honestly made by the present government during the election campaign? The ones that were honestly made and publicized during the election campaign, does the Minister intend to live up to those promises?

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

MR. GILBERT:  
I have no record that I have to live up to your promises.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Yours! Yours!

MR. GILBERT:  
But I can assure you that any commitments that we made will be looked after in due course, as I just told the hon. member.

MR. HODDER:

A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER:

The first promise made by the present government, the first promise in the election campaign as seen on television and billed on CBC across the Province as the first promise made by the government, was a road from Cape St. George to Mainland. That is a road that has been awaited for by the people of Bay St. George, the people from Port au Port, the Francophones of Port au Port. Does the Minister intend to live up to that promise, that ten mile road from Cape St. George to Mainland?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister.

MR. GILBERT:

In due course, Mr. Speaker.

MR. HODDER:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER:

A further supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

I am pleased to hear that there is a little opening there, because I would like to point out to the minister that this was the first promise made, and we are not looking for it in the future, in four or five years time, The people expect it now. It was made by the Premier, it was made honestly. I believe he meant it when he he made it. You see, Mr.

Speaker, that road will not only promote tourism, will not only rationalize community services around the Port au Port Peninsula, it will also open the limestone resources on the peninsula for development. Mr. Speaker, during the election campaign the Premier singled out Port au Port as an area for development, but we are not going to wait for two or three years.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

I remind the hon. gentleman -

MR. HODDER:

I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. I got carried away.

MR. SPEAKER:

- there are certain words by which he can interrogate a Minister, and they are usually 'how', 'when', 'why', and I have not heard any indication of a question. So will the member get to his question.

MR. HODDER:

Well, the question, Mr. Speaker, is when does the Minister intend to call tenders for that road from Cape St. George?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Works, Services and Transportation.

MR. GILBERT:

Well, as I told the first hon. member today when he asked about the Provincial roads program, the program that we have announced so far this year is on a priority basis and it was the one that was provided by our civil servants as the one that should be done immediately. So I say to the hon. member, as soon as the name of that road comes up on the priority list and we have the



capital funding to do it, it will certainly be looked after.

MR. GREENING:  
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. the member for Terra Nova.

MR. GREENING:  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is to the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation. In view of the fact that \$1.5 million has been spent on the road from East Port to Burnside, which also serves the Island of St. Brendan's, and in view of the fact that the road from Lethbridge to Jamestown has been paved, with the exception of Brooklyn, could the hon. minister tell me when tenders will be called to pave those two roads?

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. the member for Works, Services and Transportation.

MR. GILBERT:  
No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. HEWLETT:  
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. the member for Green Bay.

MR. HEWLETT:  
Mr. Speaker, I represent a rural district, Green Bay. It was Liberal for twenty three years after Confederation, but insofar as transportation is concerned things only started to happen in the dying years of the Smallwood administration. Progress continued through the 1970s and early 1980s under the PCs, but there is still much left to be done in Green Bay as regards to transportation. Why, for the first time in twenty years, did

Green Bay not get one red cent of new transportation money?

MR. GILBERT:  
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. GILBERT:  
Well, as I understand it, Mr. Speaker, there is nothing left to pave there.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. HEWLETT:  
A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:-  
The hon. the member for Green Bay.

MR. HEWLETT:  
I will inform the minister, Mr. Speaker, that we have got in excess of forty kilometers of gravel road left in Green Bay. And among those roads, Mr. Speaker, is the road to Harry's Harbour and Jackson's Cove. Both the PC candidate and the Liberal candidate in the election promised to have this road done. If the PC Government had been re-elected that road would have been done this year. Why is the Liberal Party, now in government, not keeping up with the promise to do what the Liberal candidate promised to do?

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

MR. GILBERT:  
Mr. Speaker, I would remind the hon. member that there are 3,000 kilometers of unpaved road in Newfoundland, all over the districts. So he is very

fortunate if he lives in the district that only has forty kilometers of it left.

MR. HEWLETT:

A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Green Bay.

MR. HEWLETT:

As I pointed out, Mr. Speaker, we have been in Confederation for forty years and for the first twenty we got absolutely zilch, so we had a lot of catching up to do. Now is Green Bay being penalized because my predecessor happened to be the Premier of this Province, I was his side-kick and now I am the member? Is that the reason Green Bay is being penalized?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. GILBERT:

Of course not, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

I would appreciate the hon. minister just waiting until I recognize him.

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

MR. GILBERT:

Of course not, Mr. Speaker. But it did not get on the priority list that was given to us by the civil servants this year.

MR. TOBIN:

It was on the priority list.

MR. WINDSOR:

That is not true.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

I realize that the hon. member is standing, but there are also other people speaking from their chairs. I want to remind hon. members that a question is asked by the member standing, and that is the only one that I am going to be recognizing now and in the future.

The hon. the member for Grand Bank.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to have a chance to question the same minister and ask him when can we realistically expect contracts to be let and work to begin on the projects that he announced on Tuesday?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. GILBERT:

Mr. Speaker, in the statement that I made, we expect the contracts to be let late in June or early in July.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Grand Bank.

MR. MATTHEWS:

I thank the minister for the answer, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask him now, what year might the residents of Grand Bank expect some money to be spent on improving roads in the area of the Province where they live? Because we are all very, very convinced in this Province that the Premier was very, very sincere, and it was not just a play on words when he said

that he would exercise fairness and balance, and that all regions of the Province would be treated equally.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. GILBERT:

When the name comes up on the priority list, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Grand Bank.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Mr. Speaker, thank you.

The big question is how do you do that? Mr. Speaker, I am looking at a list here, on page 5 of the priority list that was submitted by the officials of the Department of Transportation, and under the District of Grand Bank there were two expenditures recommended; (1) improvements to two intersections with Route 210 at Grand Bank for \$100,000; and the second expenditure resurfacing four kilometers of Route 210 from Fortune towards Point May for \$400,000. Now this is page five of a list that was recommended by the officials of the Department of Transportation.

So my question to the minister is what happened to that \$500,000 expenditure? And how did this \$500,000 expenditure get taken off the list and some seventeen projects that were not on the list get on the list? That is the question, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Political interference.

MR. GILBERT:

Because, I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the list that was published for the \$30 million there was a higher priority on the list that was already published.

MR. MATTHEWS:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Grand Bank.

MR. MATTHEWS:

I guess it stands to reason that I am not satisfied with that particular answer. I want to ask the minister, in light of the fact that there are some \$30 million already announced in transportation improvements and road work around this Province this year, and that recommended projects were taken off the list and others supplemented, will there be other announcements this year for additional road work, improvements to bridges, and so on? Will there be additional expenditures by government this year for improvements to roads around the Province? If so, will the people of the district of Grand Bank be given their duly expected expenditure of \$500,000, or are they, as well as other districts in this Province, to be penalized for exercising their democratic right?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. GILBERT:

At this time I cannot answer that question, concerning what is to happen in the future.

MR. MATTHEWS:

You cannot answer any question.

MR. DOYLE:

You deserve the 'Wimp of the Week' Award.

MR. A. SNOW:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Menihek.

MR. A. SNOW:

Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to say how impressed I am with the openness and frankness of the minister's answers. So I will try a different minister, the Minister of Education.

I wonder if he would tell me why he would surreptitiously make a news release, or slip a note under my door, to inform me, so I can inform the residents of Menihek, why this government is slipping on some of their promises? Is that slippage, or is it a signal of things to come? Mr. Minister, would you answer the question to me, for the people of Menihek, why you, indeed, did not make a Ministerial Statement in this House to inform the ministers and the members of this House about the closure, the not continuing with the operation of a first-year university programme in Menihek?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Education.

DR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question. I want to say to the people of Menihek that he has interceded on behalf of them in this regard in the past two weeks, and I appreciate his intercessions for them.

I made a news release about a half hour ago, or an hour ago, and I

had copies sent to the hon. member and to the Opposition critics. I think they were in caucus at that time. I issued a news release at the same time, so that the people of Menihek would get it directly. That news release is going to the Board of Governors of the Labrador Community College.

In the Speech from the Throne, Mr. Speaker, the government said that first-year university courses will again be offered in the Labrador West area as soon as possible. Since that speech, my officials, and others, have considered all the possibilities, and looked at the possibility of offering that in the Fall of 1989. We concluded that educationally it was not a sound idea. No instructors have been hired, no labs or libraries are in place, no facilities are available appropriate to these programmes. These facilities are necessary. Quality facilities, quality instructors, quality text books, quality libraries are essential, because this programme has to be accredited by Memorial University. So it was our conclusion, Mr. Speaker, that we could not proceed this Fall, because we made a commitment to the people of the area that we proceed in the Fall of 1990.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Menihek.

MR. A. SNOW:

Mr. Speaker, Labrador West, indeed, is quite a distance from St. John's, but things have not changed that much in the last month. Things have not changed at all in the last month, other than the fact that this government is slipping on delivery of services

outside the City of St. John's. Things did not change since the election.

One of the first promises the now Premier made in the election was if he were elected as a Liberal, a first-year university programme would be implemented in Menihek in September 1989.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. A. SNOW:  
Now, he made that promise. He said he would do it immediately. Now why did the Minister of Education convince the Premier that he should back-leg on that? Why did he convince the Premier not to go ahead with this Promise?

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

DR. WARREN:  
Mr. Speaker, I did not convince anybody of anything. I looked at this, strictly from an educational perspective: What is right in terms of quality education? This government has a commitment to quality education to every person in this Province.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

DR. WARREN:  
And I have, Mr. Speaker, consulted with other agencies. I have a draft here of a news release which is about to be released by the Labrador Community College Board of Governors, and they say in that draft - I gave them a draft of my release earlier this morning - that they understand that we were put in a very difficult position. They understand the reasoning for our decision. They are disappointed, of course. The

students are disappointed. I am disappointed, Mr. Speaker, but we cannot do it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
You can so!

DR. WARREN:  
If we are going to do it we are going to do it right.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

DR. WARREN:  
One final comment, Mr. Speaker. If any students are disadvantaged as a result of this decision we will take whatever action is necessary to ensure that they are treated fairly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:  
Question Period has expired.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
By leave! By leave!

MR. SPEAKER:  
Question Period has expired, by my clock. We began at 2:06 p.m.

#### Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees

MR. SPEAKER:  
Pursuant to Section 29, I wish to present a report, that of the Parliamentary Commissioner. I am pleased to say I have received the Fourteenth Annual Report of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the calendar year 1988, and I lay it on the Table of the House.

#### Orders of the Day

MR. BAKER:

Order 1, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order 1. Address in Reply.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Fogo.

MR. WINSOR:

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to speak in the House for the first time, representing the historic district of Fogo.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WINSOR:

I would like at this time, Mr. Speaker, to congratulate you upon your re-election. You share a district adjacent to mine, and share many of the problems, I am sure. I might add that it is the first time in this district's history that it has elected a Conservative member.

We have had a long history in Fogo, but I do not think we should use history only as a teacher. When Mr. Langdon spoke the other day, some of the government members came back and said the problems in his district were the problems of the past administration. The Premier has promised a new direction for his government, and I hope our district will get equal and fair treatment.

Mr. Speaker, there are great needs in Fogo district, and perhaps no need greater than in transportation. I had hoped to question the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation today, but time ran out. We have a serious problem with our ferry system to Fogo Island. The present system is certainly not

adequate, especially during the Winter months. There is a need for a ferry with icebreaking capabilities to be built immediately. There is also, certainly, the problem of gravel roads in our district. We have a district that was fortunate, in that during the Moores Administration most of the roads were paved. We still have a large number of communities, though, that have to rely on gravel roads. We were expecting a major commitment from this government to address that matter, but not much help is forthcoming.

In the area of water and sewer, there is no district in this Province that needs more than we do, except for one community. The Minister of Mines and Energy might know that, since he comes from Lumsden. That is the only community in the entire district that has a working water and sewer system almost completed. Not one community on Fogo Island has a water and sewer system that is complete. The past administration started some, and we sincerely hope that this administration will continue the work of now completing the water and sewer systems that has been ongoing for the past two or three years.

In the area of government services, our district, too, needs help. The Speech from The Throne said that one of the biggest employers in this Province is the government. You now have a chance to create some employment in rural Newfoundland, specifically in our district, by moving some government services to our area. I speak specifically of Social Services, which used to exist in the area but was moved out. You now, Sir, have a chance to bring it back again.

Fire protection: the unit existed a number of years ago. It was moved out, and now it can come back again.

In the area of the economy, Sir, we have perhaps one of the most vibrant fishing districts in the entire Province. The Co-op on Fogo Island has established a great fishery. It certainly needs some help. In fact, I think in the last session, the last government allocated a \$1.5 million guaranteed loan for the Fogo Co-op to keep moving. Earlier this year, I made representation to the Minister of Fisheries, asking for assistance for the fishermen of Fogo Island with respect to the caplin fishery. As of, I think, 5 June, the caplin season opens and, to this date, no help has been forthcoming for the fishermen of Fogo Island with respect to moving their graded and ungraded caplin from the Island.

The town of Musgrave Harbour, the largest community in our district, has applied to both provincial and federal governments for secondary processing of fish. The previous administration, in consultation with the federal government, approved ACOA funding and NORDCO is now doing a study. We hope this government will expand the fish plant and give them the secondary processing necessary to generate employment in our area.

In the area of tourism, Sir, our district is perhaps one of the most underutilized districts in the Province. From Lumsden all the way to Musgrave Harbour, we have some of the finest, sandiest beaches, and perhaps the Minister of Development will now put some money in place -

MR. SIMMS:

He should come out for a swim.

MR. WINSOR:

Yes, even come out for a swim. - so the necessary facilities can be upgraded and improved upon, so that this vibrant, economic kick-start can get our area going.

Also, we have the great Gander river, which has been used by many tourists throughout the years. We need massive government expenditures to further develop it.

Forestry: In 1961, our area was devastated by a major fire. The past administration started a silviculture program in that area. We are asking this government now to continue the work in forestry that the previous administration had started.

The problems of Fogo district are many. We ask that this administration would, over the next few days, as it prepares its budget, make allocations to our district so that we can become equal partners and be treated fairly, as the Premier promised.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Exploits.

MR. GRIMES:

Mr. Speaker, before I begin to address hon. members of this hon. House, I would be remiss if I did not, like others, take a minute to congratulate yourself, Sir, as the re-elected member for Bonavista North on your election by this House to the Chair, as Speaker. As a previous visitor to this hon. Assembly and this hon. House, in the gallery, I will miss your participation in debate, having

witnessed you in many, knowing that you were a master of it and also that you enjoyed it immensely, yourself, from a personal point of view. I recognize fully that you, too, must be going to miss that a little bit, because you could not miss the opportunity today, before we admitted our strangers and visitors, to take an opportunity to make a speech anyway, even though you are not supposed to be doing that in the Chair, as I understand it. But who would I be, Mr. Speaker, to try and tell you how to do your job? I certainly would not even attempt to do the like of that.

I would also like to congratulate the Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees, the hon. member for Trinity - Bay de Verde (Mr. L. Snow), and the Deputy Chairman of Committees the member for Bellevue (Mr. Barrett), on their elections and appointments. I know for sure that they will do a marvelous job in their roles, because, of course, not only the two of them but you, yourself, Mr. Speaker, all come from the ranks of colleagues like myself, teachers. I guess from previous experiences we also know, and I guess the phrase that has been used in this House in the last few days is that the former Premier, and the former-former Premier also came from the ranks of the teaching force and they have demonstrated their capabilities to rise through the ranks and to demonstrate their ability to be true leaders in Newfoundland. I am sure that you people, as they have displayed in their roles, will show a great ability to perform the roles that have been bestowed upon you in the duty of this House. Congratulations to all three of you.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to congratulate all members present upon their election. For returnees, there is no doubt in my mind that it is a tremendous vote of confidence. The side of the House you are on does not matter, in that it means that the people have spoken again and they have expressed a tremendous vote of confidence in the level of representation received from these seated members as the previous members of this House.

I have always firmly believed in the statement that the majority is never wrong. There is no doubt that I sometimes question their judgement and their wisdom, but they are never wrong, and returning members should be honoured by that vote of confidence.

For new members, like myself, I think it was never more evident than just a few days ago, at the opening of the House, what a great honour it is to stand here as one of fifty-two Newfoundlanders chosen by the electorate to represent them in the government of this Province. I find it a great honour, and I am sure that the other new members find it to be exactly the same.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. GRIMES:

Two new members, Mr. Speaker, I must also pay particular note to, the member for St. John's South (Mr. Murphy) and the member for Lewisporte (Mr. Penney), for moving and seconding the Address in Reply to the hon. Speech from The Throne. I was going to say something nice about both of them anyway, but then I realized afterwards that I really had to



for two different reasons.

One, Mr. Speaker, is that the hon. the member for Lewisporte has already been mistaken on a number of occasions, especially by the hon. member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren), as myself. Therefore, I must say something nice about him. Because if he looks that much like me, he cannot be that bad after all, and I hope at least he behaves as well as I do most of the time.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. GRIMES:

Also, Mr. Speaker, I must take a minute to say that my sister advised me that I had better say something nice about the member for St. John's South when I stood in the House, or I would have some family\* difficulties. I was planning on saying something nice anyway, hon. member, but with the few words from my sister, I had to make sure.

Before I make a few comments about the district I represent, Mr. Speaker, and also about the Speech from The Throne, I would like to take a minute in this House to congratulate the Leader of this Government, Premier Wells, on several things: First of all, the terrific job the Premier did as Leader of the Opposition in reorganizing this Party, also the tremendous job Premier Wells did on leading this Party to a tremendous election win on April 20, and also on showing the leadership already in this House and with this government, that is obviously committed to service for our citizens in this Province.

It is a pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to work closely with this fine

gentleman and Leader. It is also a pleasure to be part of a team that is committed, as the Premier is, to fairness and balance in serving the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

I would also like to say, Mr. Speaker, that it is a pleasure to serve with a Leader and a Premier who is not only committed to doing the right thing, which has been stated in this House already, but also in doing the right thing right. I think you will see more and more examples of that in the days ahead in this Legislature.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to congratulate the Premier, and the Leader of this government, on his obvious good choice in choosing me to work so closely with him as his parliamentary assistant.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. GRIMES:

That kind of good sense will also be obvious again in the future in the decision making that our Leader is part of.

Mr. Speaker, about the district I represent: I am very proud to represent the still young district of Exploits. Exploits, for those of you who might not be familiar, is a district that has only been in existence since the redistribution in 1975, so I cannot talk about a long history of this district. However, I am put into the position now of having the somewhat onerous and humbling task of trying to follow, in some small way, in the footsteps of one of the finest gentlemen who ever graced this House of Assembly, Dr. Hugh Twomey.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. GRIMES:

The degree of respect, Mr. Speaker, with which that person was held was evident throughout the district as I travelled there throughout the election. It is understandable to all who have ever met the man, and all who know the man, and it is clear in the district when you speak anywhere in Exploits of Dr. Twomey, the former member, and Minister of Health most recently, that he was not only a gentleman, but the other phrase they use is that he is a gentle man. I find it quite onerous to be put in the position of trying to follow in the footsteps of such a person, but I pledge to the voters of the district of Exploits that that is what I intend to try to do. I am sure that all members of the House, as well, will join with me in wishing Dr. Twomey well, because he is experiencing, as we all know, some severe medical difficulties at the present time. We wish him the very best.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. GRIMES:

As with the former member for exploits, I will certainly attempt at all times to try to avoid any derogatory references to hon. members opposite, even though I am convinced, and they know in my conversations with them, as with others I am pretty sure, that they are a little bit politically misguided. They think the same about me, but that is fair; that is the beauty of our democratic system, Mr. Speaker. For the most part, I was convinced that one of the reasons I ran for the party on this side of the House, now in government, is that I was

definitely convinced that the usually confrontational approach taken to government by the previous administration was in error and was not the way that it should be done, or had to be done, and I am hoping that I can continue to convince, in some way, the members in government on this side of the House to refrain from that approach and to maintain a commitment to fair, open, government, dedicated to balance and fairness for everybody.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. GRIMES:

I might note, Mr. Speaker, that I would be probably a little remiss if I did not mention that in my previous dealings with the government as a Past President of the Newfoundland Teachers' Association, I did find the former Minister of Education (Mr. Hearn) to be a refreshing exception to a general perception I had of how government dealt. The hon. member for St. Mary's - The Cape (Mr. Hearn) displayed much more of the kind of approach that I personally would like to see taken in government, and which I will encourage members on this to continue to take with regard to governing and problem solving on behalf of the people of the Province.

Many of the initiatives outlined in the Gracious Speech from the Throne will be of interest to the residents of the district of Exploits, and the thirteen communities that make up that district. It is short on history as a district, as I have indicated, but it is certainly long and not lacking on heritage and pride. I would like to take a couple of minutes, if I could, Mr.

Speaker, to familiarize yourself and the House with the district of Exploits. There are close to 14,000 people in the district, Mr. Speaker, spread over some thirteen communities, all of them running North of the mighty Exploits River, and stretching into the beautiful Bay of Exploits and into scenic Notre Dame Bay. In that district, you find a cross section of both rural and urban ways of life, and there are many challenges to be found in that cross-section for the government. But not only are there challenges, there are also many opportunities for government in that district.

At the Southern tip, Mr. Speaker, if you look in the district, you come across the agricultural community of Wooddale. In Wooddale, you have genuine agricultural enterprise being pursued in the centre of the Province that has continued there and defied all kinds of obstacles, and continues and persists because of the working commitment of the people in that area.

There is also the tree nursery in the area, the silviculture station for the forestry. There are no voters there, but lots of wonderful trees that are going to contribute to the ongoing good fortunes of the forestry industry in Newfoundland. One thing I might mention to the House, Mr. Speaker, is that someone might consider, again, a further realignment of the voters, because we have a pocket of voters in that agricultural community who have to drive through the district of Grand Falls in order to go into the district of Exploits to vote. It may be a little something that might have been missed the last time, but I will certainly be pursuing with people in the proper

position, to try to have that changed, if at all possible, prior to the next election.

Mr. Speaker, we then get to the community of Bishop's Falls. I guess everyone recognizes Bishop's Falls as being probably the former railway capital of Central Newfoundland. There is no doubt about that, a long proud history relating to the railway. A bit of a sad story, in a way, but also, again, one of those situations where there is not only a challenge but also an opportunity presenting itself for government.

I just might comment, Mr. Speaker, that during the election it was a little sad, in a way, that while the then Leader of the Opposition visited those displaced workers who are now striving for something new to do, that the Premier of the day, on his visit to that community, avoided the workers at the railway and did not want to address their concerns. They have many opportunities that will open up to them because of the fine work of the council in that area, in their managing and handling of the some \$7 million that came in the roads for rails agreement. They will try, if at all possible, to make the best of that particular deal.

With it, they will continue to forge opportunities through the Bishop's Falls Development Corporation. They are working hard to make sure that anything that can be done to revitalize the economic base of that community will be done in the very near future, using the monies available.

There are many examples in that area, particularly with the community of Bishop's Falls in working very closely with the

adjacent -

MR. RIDEOUT:

On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. RIDEOUT:

I am very reluctant to interrupt the hon. member, particularly a new member making his first speech, but did I hear the hon. member say that I refused to meet with a group in Bishop's Falls regarding the railway? If I heard him correctly, I can say honestly and factually that I had no requests to meet with anybody in the district of Exploits. Even though I was in that district three times during the campaign, I had no requests to meet with anybody in particular. That is the truth from my perspective. I would not want the hon. gentleman to unknowingly mislead the House, and I know he would not want to.

MR. GRIMES:

To that point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Exploits.

MR. GRIMES:

If I used the word 'refused', Mr. Speaker, it was a poor choice of wording, in that the Premier of the day was in the district at the time and did not avail of opportunities to meet. I know of no request. And if I left that impression, Sir, I do apologize.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Exploits.

MR. GRIMES:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

To continue, again if I ever, in poor use of words, offend any member, I indeed would like it brought to my attention so that I would be given the opportunity to apologize.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. GRIMES:

As I was saying, Mr. Speaker, there are prime examples in that area, particularly with the close proximity of Bishop's Falls, Grand Falls and Windsor, that are leading examples of co-operation on the municipal level of shared services. Many of those representations have already been made to the current Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs. Previous Ministers of Municipal Affairs are well aware of that, and I am sure that all of them would applaud the councils, particularly the council in Bishop's Falls, in my riding of Expolits, for their efforts and their willingness to share in those kinds of services, rather than each community wanting its own of everything.

Bishop's Falls, also, Mr. Speaker, is recognized as a forestry centre in Central Newfoundland, and we are hopeful that the current plant at Bishop's can continue to expand and provide a multitude of services related to the forestry, for all of Central Newfoundland, from the current existing facility. In Thirteen Mile Crossing, in Bishop's Falls, Mr. Speaker, there are currently petitions being circulated by the residents because they, unfortunately, feel that even though theirs is the oldest

historic part of the community, they have continually been neglected because they are physically slightly removed from the downtown center of the community. Those kinds of things are being brought to the attention of government officials, hopefully to be addressed and redressed in the near future.

Bishop's Falls, Mr. Speaker, I might conclude by saying, is a growing, vibrant community, even though they suffered a major setback with the closure of the railway. But the people have the kind of fiber that will make them refuse to give up, and they will continue to pursue positive outcomes for the future of their town.

Moving on to Botwood, Mr. Speaker: Botwood is recognized as one of the main ports for all of Central Newfoundland. However, unfortunately it is rumored to be in somewhat of a decline, mainly due to decreased use and activity on behalf of the paper mill in Grand Falls. The railway, again, used to truck ore from Buchans and paper from Grand Falls to that very busy, vibrant port. Those activities have ceased. In the matter of ore being transported they have slowed down, and in the matter of paper being transported, and there are rumors that activity is going to decline even more in the near future.

However, that council, again, Mr. Speaker, in representing the members of its community, is doing a very good job of trying to promote the community as a supply base, and in trying to find another niche for it in the fabric of Central Newfoundland and the whole of Newfoundland and Labrador. It is continuing as a

service center of sorts. Although the cottage hospital is indeed closing down, it will be replaced by a new chronic-care facility which will open a little later in this month. Again I might note for this House that the intention, at the present time, is to have that new facility named in honour of the previous member for the district, the hon. Dr. Hugh Twomey.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. GRIMES:

As with other communities in many ridings and districts, Mr. Speaker, there are needs, and the needs for this community, in its hope to expand, include extensions to its water and sewer system, better roads, and, again, a cry for a regional incinerator, another example of communities willing to do things on a regional, co-operative basis in Central Newfoundland.

There are proposals now being drafted to put before government for new usage of the old Botwood cottage hospital facility. I am hoping that as the town fleshes out the details of their plan it will meet with support and approval from government, so that it can be used again as the center of that community.

I would also like to take a minute, Mr. Speaker, to make particular mention of how proud I am of the Boys and Girls Club that operates in Botwood. It is a shiny example of what can happen when parents and young people work together to provide facilities and activities for the youth of our different communities. They have done an exceptional job in the community of Botwood.

Mr. Speaker, moving on to the Community of Northern Arm just outside Botwood, it is a residential community. There are many professionals from the whole central area who have located there, but it is also home base for a number of local operators in the woods and trucking industries. They, too, have a rather exemplary council, which I think rates amongst the highest in terms of effort to collect taxes in the municipal structure and to put services in place for that community. They have already lobbied for continued assistance in extending their water and sewer system, because they are one of the growing communities in Central Newfoundland, where they have many requests for building lots for people to move in, but are not yet able to access or use them because of the lack of proper infrastructure. They probably do have the greatest potential for growth as a residential area, and they have been a model in years past.

If we go down the East side of the district for a couple of minutes, Mr. Speaker, down the Bay of Exploits, you run past Phillips Head, Point of Bay, Cottrell's Cove, Moore's Cove and into Fortune Harbour. Many of the people working on that side of the district are part-time fishermen. That industry, unfortunately, is in a little bit of a decline, but many of them are also part-time woods workers, working for the companies, local sawmillers and the like. They also provide many willing, hard-working labourers for construction work that goes on throughout all of Newfoundland and Labrador.

They, at the present time, have fallen on somewhat hard times and

are a little concerned about possible impacts of changes in the UIC schemes, and many of them, unfortunately, find themselves living at times on social assistance. Their greatest need in that part of the district, Mr. Speaker, continues to be the very basics: safe drinking water, proper sewer systems, pavement.

I was very pleased with the Minister's statement of just a couple of days ago, indicating that further paving projects will go ahead in that part of Exploits District. As with all Newfoundlanders everywhere, their biggest cry and their biggest plea is that they would like to have work. They are proud Newfoundlanders, and there is nothing that would please them more than gainful employment so that they can provide for themselves and their families.

While I am mentioning safe drinking water, I might note for the House, Mr. Speaker, that it was only yesterday that I received a call from the local service district in Cottrell's Cove, indicating that the chlorinator for the only waterline in town had broken down and they had to put in effect a 'boil water' order as is common in many small communities in Newfoundland. I am pleased to say that the Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs had officials on the scene, trying to rectify the situation, immediately.

Many of the local service districts, or community councils, in that part of the district, Mr. Speaker, are trying very hard, but they do, after all, have little or no tax base and it often appears to them to be a losing battle. There is some hope showing in that

side of the district, particularly in the Fortune Harbour area, where there is quite an enterprise going ahead with attempts at aquaculture, in farming mussels, and they are very hopeful about it and very positive. They would like me, on behalf of all the people in Fortune Harbour, Cottrell's Cove and Moore's Cove, to extend an invitation to all hon. members present, if you get an opportunity, to visit the area during the Summer and take part in the mussel festival, which is hosted in Fortune Harbour but runs throughout that whole part of the district. If anyone gets the opportunity, it would be an experience you would all enjoy.

Down the other side of the District, Mr. Speaker, you run through Pleasantview or Pleasantville, depending who you talk to in the community. It registers a certain way in the official government documents, but the residents prefer it be called otherwise. A small scale agricultural enterprise is going on, but, again, there are a number of ready, willing laborers in the area and their greatest plea is for someone to please finish the road. In many cases, it does not take a lot to please the residents of the district, and you you can see that their requests have been reduced to the very basic things, as they see them from their local perspective. When they realize, sometimes, that maybe the road may not be finished, they even then go back to their second position, which is to say, 'Maybe you might even take one or two of the real bad turns out of it this year.' And when they get to their final position they say, Mr. Speaker, 'Maybe you will come down again with those wonderful trucks and at least put the calcium chloride on

it so that the dust stays down.' So you can see that the people have been well beaten down in their expectations, and we would hope that over a period of time, at least I hope as their representative and the member for the district, their needs surface on the priority list in the near future so we can address them for them.

In Point Leamington, Mr. Speaker, again you have a progressive, well-managed town with a fine council in place. They are developing and growing. They are trying their very best. They had one of the most positive experiences recently, mainly because of the impact that residents of Point Leamington made after they travelled away from Newfoundland. Because of the tremendous reputation that Newfoundlanders from Point Leamington made for themselves as workers on the Mainland, in Acton, Ontario, a company in that town decided that rather than have Newfoundlanders uprooted and come to Acton, they would relocate part of their enterprise in Point Leamington and let those native Newfoundlanders do the work for them at home. So that type of enterprise is ongoing now, growing and expanding, and we hope for more of the same in the near future.

They are asking in that part of the District, Mr. Speaker, for further expansion to the senior citizens complex. They now have an expanded list of retirees who would like to be able to stay in good housing, close to their homes, rather than move out of the District. That request is before the appropriate officials at the present time. They are hopeful for this year, as everybody is,

but, again, some people, I guess, will have to wait. But it will not be due to lack of lobbying efforts on their part, or on my part in their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, moving on to Glovers Harbour and Leading Tickles, at the extreme end of the District: Leading Tickles may be the most prosperous fishing community in that whole part of the Island. The Clarenville Fish Company, with its plant in Leading Tickles, has shown a visible presence, and those people, when not active in the fishery, are active in woods work in the Winter and manage to find a fairly high level for themselves year round.

Glovers Harbour is not quite as fortunate, but at least everybody is trying and hoping that their needs and wishes will be presented before the members of the hon. House, and before yourself, Mr. Speaker, by myself as their representative, and then to the appropriate officials in government for actioning, if at all possible.

Both sides of the bay, Mr. Speaker, have enormous untapped tourist potential. But paved roads are probably one of the prerequisites for that, for both in-Province visitors and out-of-Province travellers and visitors. Peyton Inn on the Bay, in Western Arm Brook, is available and, at a future time, possibly members of government might be invited, or any members of the House, for that matter, might be invited to visit and stay at that marvelous facility and visit other sites, such as Bear Cove Park, in Leading Tickles, with its breathtaking scenery from the hilltop lookouts.

That area of the Province, Mr. Speaker, is already a haven for Summer homes and cottages and cabins for residents from all over Central Newfoundland, and I am sure that it could be promoted as the same type of resort for people from all over. The residents of Exploits love where they are and they want to stay there. They hope initiatives undertaken by this government will allow it to happen.

In concluding, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say that I look forward to serving with all hon. members in this hon. House as we try, together, to improve the lot of all of our citizens in all parts of this wonderful Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that you will bear with me, and everyone else in this hon. House will bear with me, as I do everything possible to promote the needs and desires of those who just happen to be fortunate enough to live in the great district of Exploits, which I have been given the tremendous honour to represent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Snow):

The hon. the member for Green Bay.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. HEWLETT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is with a great deal of pride that I speak to this hon. House today as the fifth member for Green Bay since Confederation. I would like to congratulate Mr. Speaker on his election and other officers of the House as well.



Having spent nearly fifteen years as an aide to former Premier Peckford, it is indeed an honour for me to be inside this Chamber rather than passing in notes from the corridor. I remember with some amusement receiving mock military salutes from members of the then Liberal Opposition when I sat in the galleries as Chief of Staff for the Premier. In those days Liberal members were inclined to call my boss a dictator and my quasi-military title seemed to suit them nicely in that regard. I wish my successor in the Premier's Office well, and I hope that the circumstances of his employment do not require that I give him a military salute. Rumours of a tightly controlled one-man government I hope are just that, rumours. However, performance of the government to date gives me no comfort in that regard.

However, Mr. Speaker, this is my maiden speech and I digress from my task, I must speak of Green Bay, a district proud of the fact that my predecessor in this Assembly was a P.C. Premier of considerable provincial and national stature. However, prior to his election in 1972, Green Bay was represented by Liberals all this century. For a number of years we even had former Premier Smallwood's son as our member. But I regret to say that, if anything, that meant the district was taken for granted, and neglected. For the first twenty years of Confederation, Green Bay was treated as if it were not there, except at election time. Before the PCs took over, Mr. Speaker, the only strip of paved highway in Green Bay was a few miles from the Trans-Canada into Springdale. When I grew up, a trip from Springdale to Robert's

Arm was a day's work over very rough roads. A trip to Pilley's Island, Triton or Miles Cove involved a trip in a boat. A trip to Beachside involved hills that only a tractor could climb. And in most communities there were no water and no sewer.

Seventeen years of PC stewardship changed a lot of that, Mr. Speaker. Many roads are now rebuilt and paved. Many places have a decent water system. However, Mr. Speaker, much remains to be done. The water system in Port Anson, the town where I was born, freezes up every Winter. Brighton has no ground water at all, and water had to be delivered door to door by truck. Long Island and Little Bay Islands have water systems only partly finished, as do Beachside, Little Bay and Brighton.

The town of Springdale, for all its public services and amenities, has no sewer system in the east end. The road to Harry's Harbour - Jackson's Cove still needs pavement. And, as I noted earlier in Question Period, they were totally shut out of the road's program this Summer. The South shore of Green Bay has met all the requirements for an arena and received a commitment for same from the Rideout Administration.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. HEWLETT:

As the hon. minister responsible knows, a determined delegation will be to pursue this worthwhile project. As the minister will find out, this group is led by the crowd from Triton, and as Bill Smallwood found out there are not to be trifled with.

A Provincial park has been started at Crescent Lake in Green Bay. This will be a model park in the Provincial system, the first of its kind, with flush toilets, showers and a trailer dumping system. It will be a destination park and a significant boost to the tourism industry of the area. The Liberal candidate I defeated was involved with the local Development Association when the stone walls, with the words "Welcome to Scenic Green Bay," were built on the Trans-Canada Highway. Tourists drive past these walls, Mr. Speaker, and Crescent Lake Park will help get tourists stay in Green Bay and spend money in Green Bay, if this current administration continues to fund this park's development. The Throne Speech put a special emphasis on a regional approach to services. The South Shore arena for Triton area and the Crescent Lake Park near Robert's Arm are regional projects.

Mr. Speaker, I have two islands in my district that are served with ferry systems. These systems were put in place at a cost of many millions during the ten year of PC government. Now the Liberal party has promised to drastically cut ferry rates, Mr. Speaker, and the residents of Long Island and Little Bay Island look forward to these reductions in the very near future.

In short, Mr. Speaker, my district suffered neglect when it had a Liberal government member. With a PC member, one who eventually went on to become Premier, the district made much progress. However, much remains to be done and many of my constituents are sceptical that progress will continue. They fear Green Bay will be punished for having elected another PC member

this time around. They heard Liberal promises during the election about a new policy for the distribution of capital projects, but in spite of all the letters I have written so far, no commitments have been made, no tenders have been called.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I intend to hold this government to its word. The Throne Speech in particular put caveats on a lot of their promises' as soon as possible, - ASAP. We have heard of Aesop's Fables, Mr. Speaker; now we have ASAP's fables.

This government, Mr. Speaker, made many promises in its bid to get elected, promises that were easy to make from the Opposition benches, promises on education, promises on health care, social services, equitable capital spending, promises that are now being called platforms, Mr. Speaker. Platforms sound less binding and as an Opposition we will have to be vigilant that a slick change in words does not lead to a change in stated intentions. I am building a deck in my back yard, Mr. Speaker. That deck is a platform. However, if I tell my wife that that deck will be 4 m x 5 m, constructed of top quality lumber and finished by July 1, that deck is not just a platform, that deck is a promise.

Mr. Speaker, this administration has promised much and raised the expectations of our citizens to new heights. Much pie in the sky was promised, but even pie on the ground has no value if it has no filling, or is only filled with more studies. Immediate relief of the Province's ills sayeth the Liberal Medicine Show. Now the Premier states that re-opening Meech Lake is our cure.

Well, Mr. Speaker, if you are unemployed, you cannot eat Meech. Remember the little old lady in the hamburger ad, "where's the beef?". Mr. Speaker, "where's the beef?" The people of Green Bay eagerly await the budget. Thank you very much.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

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

MR. RAMSAY:  
Mr. Speaker and hon. members of this most historic House, I prepared my maiden speech as well today, and I hope to go a little further than some of the other members in their first attempt at this. It is not something that I am new to, in most respects, but I feel that I am privileged enough to be here, possibly a poor choice of words, but privileged to be here in this House as a representative of the district of LaPoile.

Today I will speak to the Speech from the Throne, the content of which is highly imaginative, of course, it is well thought out, and most importantly, fiscally responsible. Now this fiscal responsibility I speak of is the primary objective of this government of which I am a member. We seek a balance, a balance of fiscal and social responsibility to our efforts, Mr. Speaker.

These efforts will succeed, as we plan to keep our objectives as the primary goal towards which we will work. Hon. members opposite have tried, and tried hard, I might say, in the past, with their efforts towards making Newfoundland a better place. But

in the world of business, efforts alone are not rewarded, as we can see by the public's choice of a majority of members on this side of the House. One should concentrate, Mr. Speaker, on keeping the objectives in mind, and not the problems. We often fall into a trap of speaking about problems incessantly thereby forgetting where we are going, and what we are trying to. This is something that I feel we possibly have done quite a bit in the past. We have to concentrate on our objectives, some of which His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor mentioned in the Speech from the Throne, and some of which I will elaborate on a little later.

Why, we might ask, are we speaking about the Throne Speech, the one bound in the colour red as opposed to the colour blue? Mr. Speaker, I feel the reason is because the public lost confidence in the party of the members opposite and their ability to manage the affairs of this Province. I have some personal objectives in mind myself for this government, in full concurrence, of course, with my Leader, the hon. the Premier, a man I firmly believe, and I say this with conviction, will go down in the history of this Province as the most capable Premier Newfoundland and Labrador has ever seen.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. RAMSAY:  
Mr. Speaker, I know only too well that there are problems here in the workings of government. We all stand around and speak about 'why', what are the reasons for the problems we have. Well, I do not purport to be an expert on all topics, but there are possibly a

lot of different reasons as to why the wheels of government do not turn as quickly as they possibly should, and why we sometimes spin in the mud, to use a phrase.

Over the past few days I have been researching quite a bit for this speech, and one book I came across tended to use a comparison about an electric fence. Now, if people have an electric fence, for instance, a farmer to prevent his cattle from going outside the fence, then, regardless of whether there is any electricity in that fence or not, because of the constraints of this fence, the cows will not go near the fence. They will not go outside their boundaries, they will not expand on their efforts to further things, to go further than the possible drudgery of their little field. Mr. Speaker, that is the epitome of people lacking a bit of creativity. I do not say that in a derogatory sense to anybody. Leadership brings about good things in other people, good leadership. I, as the member for Lapoile, my leader and other members here on this side of the House, I am sure we will receive good things from members on the other side as far as criticism to our policies goes, and what have you. We look forward to that. But, Mr. Speaker, this is the kind of constraint that we have to see; we can allow people to work within the confines of certain rules and regulations, sure, but not to say, no, it cannot be done.

When people say things cannot be done, those expectations, Mr. Speaker, are the limit of what they end up doing, they will not go outside that. People who are told that they only need ten sales a month, say, in business, very rarely will go beyond that ten

because it is an artificial limit.

So we have to expand and, as the Speech from the Throne says quite clearly, we are up to the task. We hope to bring in the policies, with new legislation and what have you, that will allow our government to realize its goals down the way. I might add that some of these things take time. Members opposite sometimes want things done right away, but we take our time when we do things over here. We think them through properly and we make sure that these efforts are all put forth with proper thinking and the proper amount of research.

Mr. Speaker, back to a little something which I ran across as well in researching for this speech.

MR. TOBIN:

You researched for that?

MR. RAMSAY:

Yes.

We tend to make sure that we do not get up and speak extemporaneously, Mr. Speaker, like some other hon. members of this House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. RAMSAY:

Mr. Speaker, back to something which I ran across, and it surrounds a problem versus the solution. As I mentioned earlier, the problem with the previous administration possibly was, I feel, a tendency to concentrate on this problem and not on the solution to the same problem. An example, of course, is the Sprung greenhouse. Initially this ill-fated venture got off to a

roaring start, Mr. Speaker. Just before the momentous election call of this Spring, while I was driving back to my district from being in here in St. John's for some meetings with the Premier, Dawn Sprung was on VOCM Radio at that time and she mentioned at that time that initially - and I will paraphrase her somewhat - the cucumbers were growing so quickly and the yield was so high that the grid system in place at the time was not capable of handling the weight. Now, this of course was something positive. I listened to this and I thought, 'Well, what happened? Why?' Now, it was looked at in the media, and we tended to look at it as well, that if they could have sold us on the idea maybe we would have seen it as a positive, but that capability of selling us on the positive effects was lacking. That, Mr. Speaker, is possibly why this effort failed. Because not only does something have to be a good technology, we also have to sell it to someone. You can have great products and great ideas, but unless you can make sure that people understand the greatness of these products, Mr. Speaker, and these things we create, then no one will buy it and no one will buy the idea.

I have been speaking about a problem but, so much to the Opposition's delight, I am certain, we should not talk about the past. That is over and done with. We should bury the past every day, they say. Use it for reference, but bury it. The members opposite, of course, in the House today may never have the opportunity, as was mentioned yesterday here in this hon. House, again, these particular members, to sit on this side. That is a possibility. I just offer that

for a bit of reference to the hon. member for Burin - Placentia West.

Now, let us look at the objectives. What do we plan to do as a government? Well, recreation is, of course, something that we look towards. Just if I can find this here - it has escaped me. Anyway, I will get back to this.

Our main objective is to help Newfoundland -

MR. R. AYLWARD:  
And Labrador.

MR. RAMSAY:  
- and Labrador - I was going to mention that afterwards - to become a fully participating member of Confederation. Another thing, of course, is to hopefully have, even though it is a mouthful, Newfoundland and Labrador said all the time, as the hon. Leader of the Opposition did so well during the election campaign. He was very, very careful to make sure that he always mentioned Newfoundlanders and Labradorians as opposed to just Newfoundlanders.

Now, the Opposition has chosen to pick at us about how we intend to achieve success, Mr. Speaker. If the way we defeated them in the election is any indication, then success is definitely within our grasp.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. RAMSAY:  
The beginning of efforts towards a better Newfoundland and Labrador are underway under the capable leadership of the hon. the Premier. We have already set a course for prosperity and this can only be achieved in one way. We

must not condone incompetence, as our colleagues of the blue persuasion have in the past. That was a fatal error.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. RAMSAY:

We have to, as I mentioned earlier, concentrate on the objectives rather than the problems, as outlined in His Honour's Speech from the Throne.

Speaking of incompetence, but to use a better phrase, possibly, speaking of people and the training of people, staff of government or what have you, many people spend 90 per cent of their time dealing with problems that only influence 10 per cent of their productivity. Now, in many instances, the previous government became so involved with problems that they totally lost sight of their objectives, a case in point being, as I mentioned earlier, the glowing apparition in the district of Mount Pearl. It is a clear case, Mr. Speaker, of not being able to see the cucumber patch for cucumbers. Studies, which supposedly were done, I will mention, the whole Sprung affair, shows the management ability of the members opposite minus, of course, the ex officio guru of cucumbers, the gentleman who now is anxious to consult business and industry on how to tap into government programs, and political parties on how to win re-election.

We, Mr. Speaker, the members on this side of the House, prefer to consult with the Guru Ghiz of P.E.I.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. RAMSAY:

Another problem, Mr. Speaker, a fatal error we could call it, is the refusing to accept personal responsibility for the actions that have been taken in the past. It is very obvious, as has been mentioned in the past, and also as has been mentioned here since this Forty-First Session of the General Assembly opened, that members opposite do not want to accept personal responsibility for the situation the Province is now in. They want to blame it all on outside sources, blame it on the federal government, their colleagues in Ottawa, the colleagues of the members of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, and other outside forces. Now, to get anywhere with our quest to improve the situation in Newfoundland, we have to accept personal responsibility for what we do. That is a fundamental aspect of government: We have to be accountable to the people.

Ladies and gentlemen, I assure you that accountability has returned to this hon. House. We will be accountable to the people of this Province, as was stated in the Speech from the Throne, for the efforts that we undertake to help improve the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Mr. Speaker, also there is leadership. Leadership is accepting responsibility for one's errors. If we make a mistake then we should admit to it, as opposed to sliding outside the question and saying, 'Well, that happened;' not saying it was my fault. To be able to say it was my fault is an honourable thing, Mr. Speaker. It is also more than that. Besides the ability to accept responsibility, it is having the will to change things and the

ability to take a task, difficult or not, and get it done.

Mr. Speaker, the people of our great Province have seen fit to entrust the stewardship of this Province to the members on this side of the House. It is a task that is both humbling and challenging. Mr. Speaker, I promise the people of this Province that this government cannot, shall not and will not abdicate its responsibility. We shall provide leadership, real leadership for this Province for at least the next four years. Some of the hon. gentlemen opposite when difficulties sprung up chose to take solace in the bright glow of the natural Florida sunshine. Well, the sun is here now, Mr. Speaker, the sun is shining.

Mr. Speaker, the members of this side of the House shall not disgrace this hon. House by running away from problems so as not to be accountable to the fine people of our Province. I remember well, during the election campaign, seeing many people who were very distraught at having to consider leaving our great Province because, even to say it as it was, their unemployment would run out and there was no program in place for them. They could not wait to see what would happen, and several people in my district have left. They left because they wanted something secure, something solid, and they did not get that answer from members opposite when they were in government, when the problem arose in January, up until April, the time of the election. My heart went out to them. I told them, I promised them that we would act responsibly and make certain that if the situation was the same we

would definitely have addressed their problems and not left them out in the cold.

Mr. Speaker, this government shall lead by leading, not lead by running away. The confrontational attitude is another thing which comes to mind. The attitude of the past administration with Bill 59, the Construction Trades Agreement, and other things that happened through the years, shows the way that things should not be done. I concur with the hon. member for Exploits (Mr. Grimes) on that one, as he mentioned earlier. The approach, a good approach, I should offer - I cannot say the approach should have been I do not suppose - but the approach possibly to negotiate with a common objective in mind, not two different objectives, one for government and one for labor, Mr. Speaker, to try to create a harmony, a harmony with a common purpose in mind that would possibly have alleviated a lot the difficulties that were brought up in these areas when hon. members opposite were in power.

There is another area which is lacking within the halls of government, that is in the area of people skills and human development. The wheels are starting to move in that area, Mr. Speaker. It is here, though, that you see a bureaucracy, and I do not even like to use the word bureaucracy because it implies something that is not working well by convention.

Mr. Speaker, we are taking the initiative to make certain that any of these problems within government, so that people within the bureaucracy, as I mentioned, do start to work better together, that they enjoy their jobs and,

hopefully to this end, government starts functioning better our districts will be much better off, all the districts, the fifty-two districts of this great Province will be better off if we start to get things here moving in a much more quick and professional manner. Not to say that it is not professional, Mr. Speaker, but certain things that happened back and forth within different departments, with political appointees, in some cases, people without relevant training in the area where they were placed in government. That happened quite a bit. Being parachuted into a department and placed, of course, on a pay scale above the majority of career civil servants, people here and throughout the Province who toil in the trenches daily for the good of this Province, people who give their all to it. Now the past administration killed the ambition of some of these career civil servants. They are ready for a promotion - no, it is not call promotion - a competition to move up the ladder, as we would all like to do, and some of these people had others parachuted in front of them. Some of them who were, of course, capable, others who got there just because of their stripe or their colour.

Mr. Speaker, people in the past had to deal with an arrogant philosophy, which they so delightfully accuse us of - that is the amusing thing; an arrogant philosophy that we now stand accused of - but which obviously existed before we came to power, Mr. Speaker.

Smoke and mirrors, I mentioned occasionally. Well, it is no wonder we found the Province's affairs in the state they were, Mr. Speaker. Look at some of our

objectives directly from the Throne Speech here: The right to good paying jobs; educational opportunities; health care improvement; strengthening parliamentary democracy; limiting of Special Warrants; providing proper functioning of the Public Accounts Committee; establishing other committees, as required, and, of course, the last one, television and radio being brought into the House.

We also within the Throne Speech, wanted to ensure maximum return and benefit from all taxpayers' dollars. Conflict of interest legislation, making sure that that was tightened up. We would address an act on all issues pertaining to family, family violence as well, women's issues and social programs. Another: through sound management of the Province secure future for our most important resource, Mr. Speaker, the resource of our youth, who leave regularly, and still are, until such time as we get a better hold on this thing, Mr. Speaker, and start to improve the future of this fine Province.

We had an unsettled labour climate in the past. Well hopefully that will be a thing of the past. Some environmental problem; things that are done for the sake of what is fiscally responsible in the past - not fiscally, I am sorry, that is the wrong word. Things that are done because they are politically responsible in the past, that in regard to environmental issues.

An enhancement of municipal government. As we mentioned, we are a bit overburdened with our municipal system as it now stands. Members opposite criticize us for considering changing this. Mr. Speaker, I



feel that we have to look at it, as was noted in the Throne Speech, and hopefully look at some consolidation and what have you. Hydroelectric power is ongoing. The fishery, which is all-encompassing to us, Mr. Speaker, my district especially, although not possibly one of the larger fishing districts, every community, of course, does have a stake in the fishery. For three or four their only source of income is the fishery.

Hibernia, the oil deal; of course, we all hope that this will succeed. My district, at one time in the past, was privileged to have the former Minister of Development visit, along with the Premier at that time, and announce an effort to construct a fabrication yard in Port aux Basques. These efforts are ongoing and it should see fruition very soon.

Transportation: Well, transportation is something that sent a lot of people away from my district, Mr. Speaker. People left because of the railway deal, they were displaced. The resolution which I brought before the House a while ago, which we hopefully will get up for debate soon, as to the validity of the said agreement and also, too, the quality of negotiation which was given on our behalf by the previous administration.

Defence: Well, the NATO issue. Of course, we call it an issue, but I think it is an opportunity, Mr. Speaker.

Senate reform will hopefully give us better ties with the federal powers. It seems that in the past, regardless of the party in power, we still did not manage to

get the necessary co-operation between federal and provincial, as was evidenced during the election campaign between the federal and provincial parties.

Restructuring different departments is something that is going to streamline our operation. The Loan Guarantee Act has to be changed, of course, because of some of the things that happened with glowing things in the night.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. RAMSAY:  
Also, provincial control, things that we require control of and also input into areas like the fishery. We need that input. We cannot say we cannot do it. We cannot say that the federal government is all encompassing over that issue. We have to have some input, but we will never get that input by saying we cannot do it. If we keep saying that it will do nothing but end up being true.

Mr. Speaker, just to finish up here, I want to complement His Honour on a fine Speech from the Throne. Also, I would like to thank the people of LaPoile district for this opportunity to represent them and their interests in this hon. House of Assembly. It is a responsibility which I take most seriously and one which I will perform to the best of my ability. The people of my district, Mr. Speaker, are a proud people, people who have not only survived but flourished, in spirit, mainly. Economically, it has been difficult. They have flourished in spirit on the rugged Southwest Coast of this Island. I make this promise to my people:

Today in this hon. House I promise that I will not just survive in this House but I will grow and flourish just as they have, and will provide them with the quality of representation which has been lacking in the past.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. PARSONS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. PARSONS:

Mr. Speaker, although I was up on my feet before, it was only for a very, very short period and I did not have the opportunity to congratulate you, Sir, Your Deputy and the Chairman of Committees. Since I am in this mood now, I might as well congratulate, too, all the new members of the House who spoke me. I have only been here three years. You did a marvelous job, especially the ones on this side.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. PARSONS:

They were pretty good, I must say, even the last gentleman. He laughed a bit at the end, but I think that was because of the Mariners.

Mr. Speaker, my few words are going to be sort of concentrated on one aspect of the Speech from the Throne. I was disappointed, really, and surprised, that more emphasis was not laid on our most valuable industry, the fishery. When we all look around this House

and outside the House, in fact, it involves every person in this Province. Our ancestors came from many areas: Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales, the Scandinavian countries, and they came here for one reason, Mr. Speaker, and one reason only, and that was to fish the inshore. There was no offshore, Mr. Speaker, it was the inshore. I suppose I was blessed with my ancestry. One of them, my great-great-great-grandmother, came from Cork, and my great-great-great-grandfather came from Devon. I used to be really proud until I found out about my Irish ancestry.

AN HON. MEMBER:

They were pirates.

MR. PARSONS:

I do not know if they were pirates or not, but I finally found that on one side there was England and on the other side there was Ireland, and they are still far apart.

But, Mr. Speaker, our fishery was then and is today our greatest industry. If our fishery dies, so does the Province. I think our fishery is now in the danger zone. Fishermen have told us year after year that there were problems out there and no one listened. I was down on the wharf in Torbay this morning and on that point of land in Flatrock, and out of the two communities and ten cod traps they had approximately a thousand pounds of fish -- not fish, Mr. Speaker, tomcods, fish that years ago would go under the stages, fish that would not be looked at. It is a problem to get one to bring home for breakfast. I suppose you have to look at it, Mr. Speaker, and ask, what caused the problem?

We all know that Newfoundland was noted for its abundance of fish, and so it was. But in the sixties people began to wonder about what fish was out there and how long it could last with the technology that was available, and, Mr. Speaker, they created a study called the Kirby Task Force on the Fishery. Mr. Speaker, he showed everything rosy. Fish stocks would be at an FO.1 of four hundred to four hundred and forty thousand metric tons. But, Mr. Speaker, I am sure that that man must feel sick on rising in the morning and looking at himself, because he deceived Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. I often wonder where he got his information. From the scientists? I wonder if he sort of twisted their arms to get them to tell him what he wanted to know? Our destiny was assured, but, Mr. Speaker, the bottom fell out. Kirby did not know what he was talking about. The fish stocks that Kirby assured Newfoundlanders and Labradorians were there were just non-existent, so in 1986, fishermen, plant workers, plant owners, everyone, saw on the horizon a grave problem, yours truly included. We formed an association called NIFA, Newfoundland Inshore Fisheries Association. Although it has been said, and said lately, that those people were people who did not know what they were talking about, Mr. Speaker, that is not true. At that particular time, NIFA engaged the services of three prominent biologists, Dr. Keats, Dr. Green and Dr. Steele, from Memorial University, and they questioned the validity of many things that were previously stated in the other report. What they said in essence was - I am going to read from this a little. I will table it if you want it tabled -

'Another major aspect of this scenario is, of course, the size of the TAC being set by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The TAC being used by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans is undoubtedly inflated and has been since 1977.' Now those doctors presented this in 1966. During the by-election of 1987, the hon. the Minister of Fisheries, the hon. Tom Siddon, came down to Newfoundland and I had the pleasure and the privilege to take him to some of the communities on the Avalon and show him firsthand what was actually happening in the fishery.

During the time he was here, he came up with the idea of appointing another commission, which became the Alverson report. They, like the previous biologists, and I can see the House Leader over there - I think he told us at one time that he was a biologist, so he, perhaps, would know the gentleman I speak of. But, anyway, Dr. Alverson said the methodology used was questionable. But we did not have to wait for him to tell us that. Dr. Keats told us that in his report, that the method being used, the scientific research, was not up to date.

I heard the Minister of Fisheries say the other day that he spoke with the President of the Fishermen's Union, and with both FPI and National Sea. But when I think about it now, they recommended at that particular time that there should be 300,000 pounds available through the TAC. In its wisdom, the government put that to 266,000.

Now we have another report. Dr. Harris' report is in. It is not finalized, but we have the first

part of it. Dr. Harris states that there is a crisis - the fishery of Newfoundland is at a crisis stage. One of the things he mentioned in that report was that the number of three year old fish had decreased. Those three to four year old fish, closer to four, are the fish that we thrive on, the fish that we catch. Seven year old fish are the ones that are the spawning fish. Fish, believe it or not, have to be seven years old before they spawn.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, from my point of view and from the point of view of those scientists and -

AN HON. MEMBER:  
(Inaudible).

MR. R. AYLWARD:  
We picked one that was electable.

MR. PARSONS:  
That is right, we picked one that was electable.

Mr. Speaker, I think we are killing more fish than are being born. And the truth is, instead of the 235,000 the TAC was cut to this year, it should be anywhere from 150,000 to 200,000, no more. Even that might be a bit high. Perhaps it should be 150,000 to 175,000.

I also heard people talk about the Nose and Tail of the Banks. Well, the Tail of the Banks does not make a great lot of difference in this situation. The one we are really interested in is the Nose of the Banks.

They say the problem that exists today was caused, perhaps 20 per cent, by overfishing on the Nose of the Banks. I say to the Minister of Fisheries that I think if Canada had control over the

other 80 per cent - I know there is no fence across, you just cannot say how many are going to go in over the Nose or stay out - of the fish that is out there, that we could have a real comeback in the fishery, I think the fishery could again become viable. There is one real cure as I see it, and I am sure the Minister of Fisheries, whom I respect very, very much -

MR. SPEAKER:  
Order, please!

I would ask the hon. gentleman to take his place. Although he is not in contravention of any of the rules or regulations, it is the Speaker's duty at this point to indicate the topics for the Late Show.

We have received three questions for the Late Show which are as follows:

We have a question from the hon. the Opposition House Leader, the member for Grand Falls. His question is related to a question asked the Minister of Forestry in connection with the aerial spray program for this year.

The second question, raised by the member for Mount Pearl, has to do with his dissatisfaction with answers from the Minister of Energy related to negotiations with Quebec for the development of the Lower Churchill, postponement or cancellation of a certain meeting with the Quebec Energy Minister, and items tied in with the Island intertie. These are the topics that the member for Mount Pearl wants raised.

Lastly, the Leader of the Opposition is dissatisfied with an answer given by the Minister of

Municipal Affairs and the Premier to questions raised by him re the funding of various recreational facilities throughout the Province.

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

MR. PARSONS:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

As I was saying, I think, and I direct this to the Minister of Fisheries, that we can say what we like about overfishing as far as the foreign trawlers are concerned, but our biggest problem is our own trawlers. I think it is time, if we are to save the fishery, that someone has to bite the bullet, and the bullet has to be bitten by the offshore draggers. There has to be curtailment.

I think, perhaps, there might be a solution to it. If we looked at the underutilized species out there, I do not think the companies would make as much money, but at least it would be viable and it is better than other programs that we can come up with. I think they are going to have to look at that, and I think the minister, and I am sure he is, is going to have to take a really sincere look at those underutilized species. - There is red fish out there and there is silver hake. I have often eaten red fish. It is good. There is turbot out there, and certainly it could supplement the loss of cod for the draggers.

Mr. Speaker, really and truly, we have all had our heads buried in the sand. In the midst of this delusion, someone suggested that we take some of the fish from the inshore allowance. They are saying, 'If they cannot catch it,

someone else should get it.' But, Mr. Speaker, how can they catch it when it is not out there to come in? They cannot catch what is not there.

Now last year, I believe, they caught, out of an allocation of 115,000 tons, about 108,000 or 110,000 tons, up from 70,000 tons a few years before that. But that can be explained by saying that there are bigger boats going further out and utilizing the areas of water that were never fished before by the inshore.

To say that they are going to give away some of the allowance of the inshore, I think pretty well everyone in this House will agree that that is blarney. It cannot be done, and it should not be done. I am sure the Minister of Fisheries will not let that happen. No way!

Can you imagine a fisherman in Twillingate, or in Fogo, or up the Southern Shore, or in Cuckolds Cove off here, or down in Blow Me Down off of Torbay, or in the Black Gulch in Flatrock, or the White Rocks in Cape St. Francis, if someone came there and told them to take up their traps because they caught their quota? There would be fighting in the streets. It can never happen. And that is what some of the people are thinking about. That is what is been said, 'The inshore fishery, there is no place for it. We can make more money offshore.' We are speaking about hundreds of communities. Every community from one Cape to the other - from St. Mary's to Cape Chidley.

Everyone has some involvement in the fishery. I place great emphasis on it, because my

ancestors fished. I fished myself. I have sons involved in the fishery today. Every day I visit, perhaps, eight or nine communities, still pertaining to fish, and I can see what is happening out there. It will be drastic. It will be something. No one can visualize or realize the extent of it, if we do not do something about it. I go back to what I previously said. Yesterday, some emphasis was placed on the Russians' by-catch. I think their by-catch in cod is about 0.2 percent of their total catch, which is very, very minimal to say the least. I do not think that would decrease our stocks or put them in a danger zone, I really do not.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know if all the answers can be given here in this House of Assembly. I am sure the Minister of Fisheries is going to look into all aspects of this dilemma, and perhaps with everyone putting their heads together, we might come up with a remedy. I do not think it is going to happen tomorrow, I do not think it can happen tomorrow, but I still think there is a future in the fishery. We have to make some adjustments and we have to do things sensibly.

You know the days of 'everything is out there, catch it' are gone. It is not out there. It has been proven it is not out there. So I think the time is right, the time is now. I think we have to do something about it, and we have to do something real about it. I know we do not have jurisdiction over the fisheries, everyone knows that, but I think we can put pressure on in the right areas. I think we can say to Fishery Products and to National Sea that the time has come for restraint. I have friends over here,

colleagues of mine, who have plants on the Burin Peninsula, on the South Coast, and they are upset over people being laid off at certain times during the year. But when you look at the inshore fishery, that has been going on since eternity. There is only a certain time of the year they work, and that is all that is there for them.

MR. GILBERT:

(Inaudible) bad investment.

MR. PARSONS:

I will get to the Minister of works, Services and Transportation in a moment. I have plenty of time.

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible) the past government.

MR. PARSONS:

You are not going to be.

I would also like to issue a word of caution to the Premier. Although I did not hear him say it, I think he said that there are too many fishermen and too few fish. I do not think that is the answer to it. I heard that hon. gentleman say for the last two and a half years, over and over, that he wanted to increase the potential of employment in Newfoundland. And I do not think that by even thinking along those lines you can do that. We can increase the potential by, perhaps, secondary processing.

You know, Newfoundland has taken a slide backwards. Historically and traditionally, everyone participated in the fishery. I can remember when my father used to put out salmon nets in April. And you would catch fine big salmon in May and up to the first of June. Then you would look forward to

what they call the caplin salmon, which were very very small.

All that has gone by the wayside. They are not allowed to set their nets now, I suppose because of the economic situation. Looking at the monetary side of it, there is more money involved in the sports fishermen side of it than in the commercial side of it. But, at any rate, That has been taken away from our fishermen. How much more can they go along with, can they abide with, can they live with, can they survive with?

To say that there are too many fishermen after too few fish would almost tell you that we are going to create more unemployment.

AN HON. MEMBER:  
Head for Toronto.

MR. PARSONS:  
Head for Toronto, yes. I think that is really a Mainland theme, and I do not think we should apply ourselves to it.

Again, the secondary processing thing: There is a lot of room for that. It was suggested to me, and I say this for the Minister of Fisheries, that FPI and National Sea have consortiums in the States - I think there is one on the other side of Boston. I remember seeing it there - where they use secondary processing to do the cod blocks that come out, or their own fish that comes out. I am suggesting to the minister that perhaps there might be a way that the cod block from the local plants could be utilized by National Sea or FPI. Really, I think what National Sea and FPI are doing is looking for part of the inshore catch. I do not think there is any doubt about it. But what I am saying is, if they want

to supply their markets down in the States, is it possible for them, and I think it is, to buy their product from the local plants, and send it down to the States or wherever they do their processing? I mean, they do quite a bit of it here in Newfoundland now. So, if they are short of fish and our own plants have the fish, I cannot see any problem there. I do not see any reason why our people would not sell National Sea or FPI their fish.

I mean, here we are cutting quotas, and here is the federal government giving France extra fish from our Northern cod. Now no one likes it. Everyone despises it. But the fact remains that it all started in 1972, when the government allowed France a quota. And it is there in black and white. There are no ifs, ands or buts about it.

Let me just repeat what Keats said again: 'The French request for a share in fish from the 2J+3KL holds its ground under this agreement. They have a right to request a quota in 2J+3KL whether we like it or not. It is there.' I suppose why they did not go after it before was because they were getting plenty of fish in 3Ps. But now that that has been squandered, depleted, they have to look further afield. And the thing that frightens me about it, is that it is there. I mean, if I were doing it, or a lot of Newfoundlanders, but we do not have the power to do it, I would tear up that old treaty. I mean, those people have been thrown out of Africa and they have been thrown out of everywhere else in the world, yes they are coming back here to Newfoundland saying, 'We have a treaty.' This was the one that was signed in exchange

for the one of 1904 where, up until then, we did not have the right to live on the French shore. You know, big deal! Now they have the right to use the cod that is not out there. They have every right under this 1972 treaty.

I know the federal government have to negotiate and look for jurisdiction from our point of view - we do not have the capabilities. When you let the French in there and they are to take X number thousand tons, how do you know how much they are taking? You are not going to be there everyday. They say they have observers on certain boats, but there are ways and means. Nine thousand tons could be 18,000 tons. I do not think there is any real way to control it.

AN HON. MEMBER:  
Or 68,000 tons.

MR. PARSONS:  
Or 68,000 tons, as you say. I do not think there is any way that can be controlled. We talk about surveillance. To have surveillance in the territorial water we have out there is non-sensical. I mean, there is no way we can do it, and there is no way Canada can take on the EEC, either - there are 300 million of them and there are 25 million of us. In a military way, I do not think it is there. Perhaps we could try it. Iceland did it, but I think Iceland was looked on as a little small place and not at all in the context of the way that Newfoundland or Canada would be looked on - Canada as a country, Newfoundland as the one that is being affected. There does not seem to be any real way out of it. But, again, perhaps, there could have been trade agreements or trade reductions on our part,

or whatever, and perhaps that may have forced their hand. I do not know.

The only plus we have as it relates to the Canada/France agreement, as it pertains to 2J+3KL, is that it only lasts for three years, while they are negotiating. After the three years, that will be non-existent, we hope. But once they get their foot in the door, it is pretty hard to get them to take it out.

Mr. Speaker, the other thing is we all talk about the problems, and we talk about the seal fishery. I suppose I am unique in the sense that I did - I am not sure of anyone else - prosecute the seal fishery.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. PARSONS:  
I went to the seal fishery with some great Newfoundlanders and I am proud to have been part of it.

AN HON. MEMBER:  
You were up with Captain Kean, were you not?.

MR. PARSONS:  
No, I was not. One of the trips I made was with Captain Wilf Barter. His name is well known all across Newfoundland. He is a great Newfoundlander.

I saw what seals can do. We do not know how many seals are out there. Some people say they eat thirty pounds of fish a day. They do not only eat it, they destroy. God only knows how much by taking bites out of the bellies, or whatever. We do not know what destruction is being caused by the seals.



MR. DOYLE:

They say one seal eats and destroys 1,500 pounds a day.

MR. PARSONS:

What potential is there for seals out there? Again, looking at the parasites. We haul fish. That is part of the business. I remember we used to have a wooden-bodied truck. You could haul a load of fish to Cape Pine, or up the Southern Shore, or wherever, and you would never see anything in that truck until about four or five years ago, when you would see the worms and the parasites. That increased unbelievably. And you could go down on the wharf and see a guy filleting a fish, and they were there. But I must say one thing: Last year it was not as evident as it was a couple of years previous. It seemed to decline last year.

AN HON. MEMBER:

No, no! It increased out my way.

MR. PARSONS:

Oh, it increased out your way. I think, perhaps, it is different schools of fish or whatever. But it seems in the area that I have been involved in that there was a decrease in it. But the Bridget Bardots and the Loretta Swits, they had the money. But when you think of it, how crazy it is. Here is an industry that can supply the highest protein food and work for people. It is creative in the sense that the skins are so valuable. But a few people who are making money off it, they can convince other people about the little crying seal and whatever. I mean, it has to be looked at, and I am sure the Minister of Fisheries is going to have to look at it. The industry is out there. People are crying for food all over the world, there

are starving countries, and here we are doing nothing about it.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation, as I told him the other day, I was pleased that we did receive some funding in my area, but there is an awful lot of funding needed yet. I was watching them down there yesterday - talk about filling up potholes! They filled up the potholes, but it was not a really good job. So I am going to get you to come down again to have a look at it and perhaps put some more in.

MR. DOYLE:

I thought I paved everything down there.

MR. PARSONS:

No, it was not. The ex-minister said he thought he paved everything. He did not, because we could not get the money from him.

I only have a few minutes left. The Minister of Health is not here, but I will get a shot at him someday.

On the tourism aspect, and I see my friend is over there getting his answer ready - Who is in Tourism?

AN HON. MEMBER:

The hon. the member for St. Barbe.

MR. PARSONS:

Oh, the hon. the member for St. Barbe. We will have a few words to say to him, as well.

The Minister of Environment, I find it really difficult when ministers are here to speak to.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Say it to me.

MR. PARSONS:

Okay, I will say it to you.

The other thing that pops up in my mind today does not concern my district, but when I was on that side of the House I went with several fishermen from the St. John's area to meet the Minister of Environment as it pertains to Prosser's Rock. There are monies out there that the federal government are prepared to spend, and a lot of money. Studies have been done, but there were some people, only a few, who were against it. No matter what you do in this world, I think you will find someone who is against it. There was an EIS proposed, and supposedly it has been finished for sometime. I would like to know, and if the minister had been here I would have asked him, what status that EIS has. Because we are losing is money that is federal money. We talk about the unemployment issue, we talk about federal participation, and this is money out there that has been allocated. The only thing holding it up is our government here, because of pressures put on government to have the EIS done.

MR. SPEAKER:

I would remind the hon. member that his time has elapsed.

MR. PARSONS:

Okay, Mr. Speaker, I will clue up by saying the council was not against it. There were some members of council who had misgivings.

AN HON. MEMBER:

The Deputy Mayor.

MR. PARSONS:

No, I do not think the Deputy Mayor was against it. I think that when she looks at the facts

she will support it. There is no doubt in my mind.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you very much.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Stephenville.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

Mr. Speaker, thank you very much.

It is a pleasure to be part of the new government of Newfoundland and Labrador, whereas I was in Opposition before.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. K. AYLWARD:

It is also a pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to see the red color on the Throne Speech binding, whereas it was blue for the last seventeen years.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. K. AYLWARD:

It is also good to see, Mr. Speaker, that this Throne Speech has a lot in it which is going to offer a lot of solutions to the people of this Province, something that the previous administration maybe tried to do, but probably were not too successful in, and the people of the Province obviously spoke very well on April 20. So we are looking forward, Mr. Speaker, to trying to do what they tried to do, but becoming more successful with it, and hopefully within a much shorter period of time.

We also have, Mr. Speaker, I feel, one of the most credible new

governments in Canada provincially. We had great candidates in the provincial election and the results again, showed. I think there is a great deal of confidence of the people of the Province right now in this new government and this new administration.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. K. AYLWARD:

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the great people of Stephenville for returning me, again, to the hon. House of Assembly. Their good judgement and good sense came through again, and I thank them for the privilege of serving in this wonderful House.

It has been, Mr. Speaker, a great pleasure indeed during the previous four years, and I look forward to the next four to being able to do some things and have an impact in the Province, things that we have been working on over the past number of years. When I look around at the people we have, Mr. Speaker, I am very sure of that.

I must say, Mr. Speaker, it has been a long time since I have seen the hon. House of Assembly. As a matter of fact, when I came in just the other day my neck was kind of stiff after I had left, because I had not been here in so long as a member, it was kind of painful, because it has been almost a year since we were able to stand up and talk about the issues of the Province. Unfortunately, the members opposite, some of them anyway, the former administration, could not find it in them to come into the House and present a budget et cetera, et cetera, to discuss the

important issues of this Province, Mr. Speaker, which they obviously did not want to do and face the good Opposition that there was before. I only hope, Mr. Speaker, that the Opposition we have now is as good, or comes close to being as good as the one that there was previously in the last session.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. K. AYLWARD:

Mr. Speaker, we have a big task ahead of us. There is no doubt about it, we have a great deal of work to do. I am looking forward to seeing this government make some changes. It is going to take some time, Mr. Speaker. We have had a chance to peruse the books and peruse everything else.

I have only another five minutes, according to the note from the Table, Mr. Speaker, and I am just getting into it, but you can just bear with me until tomorrow.

Before I go on, I have to also congratulate the Speaker of the House on being appointed to that position. I think that the hon. gentleman, whom I had the pleasure of serving with during the past four years, was an excellent selection. I am sure he is going to do an excellent job as he has done as a member of the hon. House during the past ten years.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. K. AYLWARD:

I look forward to his fairness and balance in the hon. House of Assembly, and to that being shown every day to every member of this hon. House.

Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of

things that we are going to be doing, a lot of things that we are hoping to do, and I am sure that the people of the Province are going to back us up and support us in our endeavours. With the new mandate that we have, the new administration with new ideas, with a new Throne Speech, I think that people out there now see that there was a blueprint - or a 'redprint? - to carry on in the future. So I look forward to seeing some of these things coming very fast and other things, as they evolve, to see the long-term solutions to the problems that we face.

Mr. Speaker, one of things that we now have to battle is the federal government in Ottawa who are trying to push Newfoundland, again, a little further out in the Atlantic Ocean. Fortunately, thank God, we have a Liberal administration in this Province that is going to deal with the federal government on the basis of how they should be dealt with. Many people should remember that some of the hon. members across the way, and this party across the way, helped get that administration in Ottawa that is presently there. That is a discredit, I think, to the PC Party of Newfoundland, because the PC administration in Ottawa has really done a lot of harm to this Province and they should be taken to task for it, when it is needed. When they do good things we will give them credit. That is the way we have always operated and that is the way we will operate in the future. No doubt about it!

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. K. AYLWARD:

Mr. Speaker, there is one thing that should be known in this Province now. For many months Hibernia - remember the Hibernia announcement down at the Raddison, I believe it was, Mr. Speaker, a number of months ago? I remember there were 800 people. 'Everything is going to be done. She is signed, she is sealed, and she is delivered. It is only a matter of signing the papers. No sweat! No sweat! I will dot the i's and cross the t's, whatever there was. No problem! Come into the hotel, wherever it was, and let us have a good party because Newfoundland is on the go. Go ahead and sign all those contracts. We are going to let the tenders. Everything is coming.'

Well, Mr. Speaker, as we see again, unfortunately -

MR. MURPHY:

Some day the sun will shine!

MR. K. AYLWARD:

'Some day the sun will shine and have not will be no more.' The sun, Sir, will shine again, but the Liberal administration is going to have to straighten out the problem that there was and try to get it going.

Again, Mr. Speaker, hydro: 'Well we have an agreement, it is coming. We are going to have it pretty soon. Anytime now you are going to see it. No problem!' As a matter of fact, they used to bait you, Mr. Speaker. You know, they always bait the Opposition. 'Well, do not worry. We have that and we are coming.' They built up the expectations of people, I must say, Mr. Speaker, but, again, it did not work. Thank goodness for that, because at least now we have a government here that is going to

try and resolve those problems.

I look forward to seeing those problems resolved, Mr. Speaker, and dealing with those problems in a fashion which again, shows fairness and balance in the sense of letting people know what the truth is, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. K. AYLWARD:

I mean, if we are only getting so far with it, we will say we are only getting so far with it. If we are working on it, we are working on it. We are not going to say we have it there if we do not have it there, Mr. Speaker. That is one thing the hon. Premier will make sure is done with this new government. So it is good to see it, Mr. Speaker, and I am looking forward to seeing some of these problems resolved in the future.

I also want to note, Mr. Speaker, the election of the hon. member for LaPoile, Mr. Bill Ramsay, who is twenty-six years of age, the youngest member in the House of Assembly. I think that is very noteworthy.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. K. AYLWARD:

He also displaces me as the youngest member, Mr. Speaker. So on that point I can start feeling like a veteran in the hon. House. So I feel very good about that.

Mr. Speaker, since it is getting very close to the time for the Late Show, I will let go of the wonderful speech that I am giving and wait until tomorrow to let the people of the Province know what I

have to say.

I thank you for your patience.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, I adjourn the debate.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

It is my understanding that the member for Stephenville adjourned the debate.

MR. K. AYLWARD:

Mr. Speaker, you see, I get kind of enthused when I get up to speak but it is up to the hon. member. I will have another opportunity.

MR. WARREN:  
I withdraw.

MR. K. AYLWARD:  
Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

It now being 4:30 p.m. I call upon the Opposition House Leader, the member for Grand Falls, to debate his question.

MR. SIMMS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMS:

I am disappointed that the

Minister of Forestry and Agriculture is not here. I did give him notice that I would be raising this in the Late Show. I presume he is within earshot. Perhaps he is in the Common Room listening, or perhaps he is getting a lecture. Who knows?

In any event I will try to summarize my disappointment with the responses that the minister has given me over the last few days with respect to questions that I raised concerning the Aerial Protection Program announced by the minister back on Tuesday.

It was clear to anybody in the Chamber who was listening, or anybody in the gallery, and certainly clear to the press, who commented to me frequently, that the minister was very evasive with his answers. In fact, there were a number of questions that I asked him and he did not answer a question directly. He skated around the questions and it leads us to ask the question: Why is he not answering the questions? I hope when he gets a chance to speak in this debate that he will respond and elaborate. What we want to know is why is it that the minister will not come clean with the people of Newfoundland and Labrador? Why will the minister not explain to the people that he in fact asked his officials for a set of recommendations, and a set of options - a set of options - as opposed to a single recommendation? It is normally the case, in the preparing of a Cabinet document, that the department and the officials put forth a single recommendation. In other words, they did not make a recommendation, from what we can gather. He has said his officials gave him a number of options, and

that is highly unusual. I want the minister, when he stands, to answer these questions, if he would, please.

In view of the ministers saying on Monday that he would consult with the industry people, in view of that, and in view of the reaction from the industry people, can he tell us, if he did indeed consult? And if so, why did he not listen to what the industry officials put forth?

He also said yesterday that he was not aware of any negative reaction by the industry. Now, anybody who would say that, obviously, has blinkers on or has his head in the sand. Everybody in the Province knows that the industry people are totally negative about the decision and the announcement. In fact, on an interview last night the spokesman for Corner Brook Pulp and Paper, when the reporter asked, Are you going to pay for this program? because they are suppose to pay two thirds of the cost, indicated they had not made a decision on that and they hoped to talk to the minister about his decision, because it is a terrible decision from their perspective. I want him to tell me if he still stands by his statement of the other day? Does he deny that his officials made a recommendation to him for a combined spray program? I want him to tell me if he stands by that statement. Or perhaps, better put, will the minister tell me, and tell the House, will he categorically say that his officials made a clear recommendation that he undertake a spray program this year with Bt? Will he categorically state that that is the recommendation his officials put forward?

Secondly, I want him to tell me

about the budworm. Did the minister's officials, the Federal Forestry scientists and the industry's professional foresters make a recommendation to undertake a spray program this year against the budworm using matacil? I want him to tell me that. And I want him to explain this for me: Yesterday in the paper he said that there would actually be a savings because of this decision, because there would be no need for an environmental program to follow ensuite with the spray program this year, which would have cost \$100,000, because you are going to use Bt alone. Will he not admit that there was a recommendation by his officials to curtail the environmental program in any event even if it had been a double program? That is the fact, which meant that we would have had \$100,000 savings as opposed to \$50,000 saving. The minister will admit that.

Now will the minister admit, because of the minister's personal bias on this issue, fostered and festered by his old buddy, old Bt Baker himself, they call him, who was pushing this for a number of years, trying to save the face of his party because of their longstanding position, that in fact, as I said this means an additional cost of \$50,000 to the taxpayers of this Province, not a savings at all?

And, finally, while the minister is on his feet as well, would he please tell us when is he going to make the public aware of the very serious situation with respect to the wood supply of this Province? I expect him to make a public statement on it, because it is devastating news, and mostly because of the infestation problems that we face.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. FLIGHT:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture.

MR. FLIGHT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the hon. member for Grand Falls for his very civil presentation today as opposed to his presentation yesterday and the tenor of his questions yesterday.

Now let me take the House, Mr. Speaker, very quickly through what our forests have gone through in the past ten years. In the late 1970s there was a budworm infestation in this Province. It was an onslaught. In 1978 in excess of 300,000 hectares of forests were sprayed by this administration using matacil.

And, Mr. Speaker, as we all know there was a great public debate and a great public outcry and it was based on the concerns of the people. Even the people using the stuff, you know, wondered is this environmentally safe? Is there any danger to people?

So, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member accused me yesterday in the House and in the media of playing Russian roulette with the forest.

Well, me draw this to the attention of the hon. House. Having sprayed 375,000-odd hectares in 1978, in 1979 there was an election called by my hon. friends on the other side, and there was no spray program in 1979. We came from a need to

spray 375,000-odd hectares to no spray program, and a royal commission was set up, Mr. Speaker, in 1979.

MR. SIMMS:

What did you recommend?

MR. FLIGHT:

Now, Mr. Speaker, in 1980 there was still no spray program, but indeed 12,000 hectares were sprayed with Bt. The Royal Commission recommended that the government of the day take every precaution, using whatever acceptable means available to protect the forests. And in 1981 then, Mr. Speaker, we went back and sprayed 238,000 hectares. So it went. Then during the 1980s the spray program against budworm came down and the budworm eventually collapsed. In 1984 the Province was hit with another onslaught, not as great, but it was an onslaught of the hemlock looper, and a spray program began in 1987 and we sprayed 169,000 hectares. Then in 1988 it was down, and we only sprayed 69,000.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in 1989 we are spraying 6,000 hectares with Bt. In 1988, we sprayed 23,000 hectares with Bt. And I asked the question yesterday and I will ask it again, if it was so right to spray 23,000 hectares in Newfoundland last year, why is it so wrong to spray less than 6,000 this year?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. FLIGHT:

Let me tell the hon. member, insofar as the industry is concerned, I am hearing today that various spokesmen for the paper companies are making comments, which they are entitled to do.

Those companies got great responsibilities and great concerns about the forest. I tell the hon. member I have had one conversation with a representative of one of the paper companies in confidence, and it will remain in confidence, but insofar as officially presenting me with concerns to this point in time, no, Mr. Member, I have no official word.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes I will deal with it very seriously and give it every consideration, and they know that. Now, Mr. Speaker, let me tell the member to be very careful, because he talks about the influence that I might have had on the spray program, and he talks about whether or not there was supposed to have been a budworm spray program in 1989.

MR. SIMMS:

I asked you that.

MR. FLIGHT:

He talks about, Mr. Speaker, was there not a budworm spray program. He may not know as much as he thinks he knows about the spray program that was proposed by the official. And not his officials, because he was not the Minister. The hon. member for Torngat (Mr. G. Warren) was the Minister of Forestry that a Cabinet paper may or may not have been prepared for.

So, Mr. Speaker, the member better get his facts straight about what Forestry officials were recommending about a spray program against budworm. Mr. Speaker, as to the woods supply -

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

I remind the hon. gentleman his



time has elapsed.

MR. FLIGHT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Mount Pearl.

MR. WINDSOR:

Mr. Speaker, first of all may I take a moment to congratulate Your Honour on your election to the Chair, and to the Deputy Speaker, and I particularly want to mention the Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mr. Barrett) who was seated in that Chair a few moments ago, as a resident of the great historic district of Mount Pearl. It is the first time that a resident of Mount Pearl has sat in that Chair, and I want to congratulate him.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. GREENING:

Pardon me! You are now lying to the House.

MR. WINDSOR:

Having said that, I will now apologize to my colleague for Terra Nova, who lives in the great historic district of Mount Pearl. I was about to mention, Mr. Speaker, that I think we have five members of the House who live in Mount Pearl. The member for Mt. Scio (Mr. Walsh), have you moved out?

MR. WALSH:

Do not mention that.

MR. WINDSOR:

He is ashamed of the fact that he lives in a Tory district. And of course, the hon. member for Port au Port (Mr. Hodder) is a constituent, the hon. member for Torngat, so that is six. The hon.

member for the Straits (Mr. Decker) used to be a resident of Mount Pearl. The hon. gentleman for Fogo spends half his time there, his brother is a resident and he spends his time in the city.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I want to get on to the development of the Lower Churchill, the important issue at stake here. And the first thing that has to be looked at, of course, is the inequity of the existing contract that we have suffered under, which was signed by a previous Liberal administration, and is probably the most inequitable, unconscionable contract that the free world has ever seen, Mr. Speaker, saddled with that for some sixty five years to the year 2041.

I might mention, Mr. Speaker, that the existing Churchill Falls Development produces some 34.5 billion kw hours of energy a year. That is the equivalent of 55 million barrels of oil per year. And we are selling it to Quebec at the equivalent of \$1.80 per barrel. That is what we are being paid by the Government of Quebec, and that de-escalates to \$1.50 a barrel over a period of time. The most inequitable and unconscionable contract that anybody has every seen!

Well, Mr. Speaker, I have a gentleman opposite who would ask why the Tories vote for it and why the Tories in Ottawa not give us the right to transmit power through Quebec. That is being dealt with. Let me quote the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker, "The amicable settlement of the Churchill contract would have dramatic consequences. It will unfreeze huge amounts of money and would bring about an historic

development in Labrador and new Quebec."

That is quite in contrast, Mr. Speaker, to the position of the previous Liberal administration. In a letter from the former Minister of Energy for Canada, Mr. Lalonde, in responding, by the way, Mr. Speaker, interestingly enough, to the Minister of Energy of Newfoundland at the time, who subsequently became Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Barry), and Mr. Lalonde said at the time that he was "unwilling to adopt legal and constitutional methods of facilitating a settlement." Now there is a different approach. That is what we have been saddled with, Mr. Speaker.

The question now is what are we going to do about new development. What is the minister opposite doing? Why have we not had meetings with Quebec? Why was the meeting cancelled? What is happening? What are we talking about here? We are talking about a megaproject, Mr. Speaker.

Development of Gull Island at some \$4.5 billion; Muskrat Falls at \$2 billion; upgrading of Upper Churchill at \$750 million; transmission line to the Island, if that is still a priority. I ask the minister when he speaks to tell us is the intertie to the Island still an important component of the negotiations with Quebec, or has that been scuttled? Does he propose to sell all of the energy that is developed in the Lower Churchill to Quebec to markets West? Or is he still determined to ensure that energy prices on this Island are stabilized by the bringing of energy to the Island? The cost of the intertie is \$2.4 billion, and improvements in Quebec, that will

be required to sell energy West, of about \$2 billion, total project of \$11.7 billion.

Mr. Speaker, why was the meeting cancelled? Does it have anything to do with his Leader's position on Meech Lake? Was the meeting cancelled by the Government of Quebec because of the Premier's position on Meech Lake and the negative implications of his position as it relates to the Government of Quebec and the people of Quebec?

Or was it because of the Premier's position on developing in this Province - when he says 'concentration will be on small scale development rather than natural resource megaprojects'? Now, is that the government's position? Is the Premier actually saying that he will not look at development of Churchill Falls? That he will not look at the other energy intensive industries that could be attracted as a result of that great development? That he is not interested in an \$11.7 billion project and the thousands of construction jobs that would be created during a fifteen year period, and the thousands of jobs that would be created in industries in this Province subsequent to that development, and the strong benefits of having stabilized energy prices in this Provinces for the foreseeable future, and the economic rent that could be realized from selling that energy West? Is the Premier saying that we are not going to bother with that? Is that the position of this government, Mr. Speaker?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Mines and Energy.

MR. GIBBONS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. GIBBONS:

I thank the hon. member for another opportunity to speak on this issue. I gave my answers previously on the meeting and there is nothing to add to that. But to discuss the Lower Churchill, all of the Churchill, all of the power potential of Labrador, I am glad to be able to speak to the minister about it and to the House about it.

MR. WINDSOR:

Just a member.

MR. GIBBONS:

The member. Sorry. The former Minister of Energy.

He well knows the value of the Hydro resource in Labrador.

We well understand, as well, the value of that resource in Labrador. He made the points. It is a huge megaproject. It is a huge resource project that would take several years, a decade or more, to complete.

The other thing, it is something that we as a Province need. In terms of the hydro resources that we now have available to us on this Island, we really have very little left on this Island to develop. What is left is very high value. The Churchill power, as has been said in many reports that we have seen in the last few years, and the last year in particular, the Energy Options Report, identified Churchill power

as a major source of power in North America, and probably the cheapest source of power in North America to be developed.

We as a Party, we as a government want to see that power developed. We want to see it developed as quickly as we can make an appropriate arrangement with the Province of Quebec, since, naturally some of the power that is surplus to our needs will have to go West. Whether it is used in Quebec or West of Quebec or South of Quebec, it will have to move through that province, otherwise we will have to have another route.

The point that the member made about the intertie, of course that has to be the top priority, because first and foremost we want the power from the Lower Churchill for this Province. First and foremost, we want this power to come to the Island of Newfoundland and to be used on the Island of Newfoundland and in Labrador.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. GIBBONS:

So there is no question in our minds that we are going to persist in getting this development going as quickly as possible. The member knows the time frame. With his involvement in the past he knows the exact time frame that it would take, and we are talking a minimum of about six years to get the power to this Province. By that time we will desperately need it in this Province. So we are going to move as quickly as we can to get that moving.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday of this week we set out to try to find the missing cheques and we set out to try to find the grinch that was trying to steal the ice from the children down in Fogo and the children in Harbour Breton and, Sir, the children in your constituency. We were trying to find out where had the missing cheques gone. Finally we got a trail of the missing cheques, Mr. Speaker, and we got a trail of the grinch. The grinch was none other than the Premier himself. He had given the order that the cheques be held.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:

Now, the first defence, Mr. Speaker, was that there was not a Minute in Council. The Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs told a delegation from one of those communities just a week or so ago that this was only a promise, it was only an election commitment, there is no Order in Council, we cannot find an Order in Council. Well, Mr. Speaker, we found the Order in Council. We produced the Order in Council. The Premier had to admit there was a legitimate Order in Council. We found the grinch, we found the cheques and we found the Order in Council.

Now, the Premier's last defence was, 'The cheques were written but they expired in thirty days.'

'They lapsed, he said in Hansard on Tuesday, 'in thirty days.' Now, Mr. Speaker, everybody knows that if you give me a cheque today I suppose sometime between now and Christmas I can cash it if I like. There is such a thing as a stale-dated cheque, but it is not thirty days stale-dated.

So, Mr. Speaker, the bottom line, the answer, 'We could not send them out because the order came from the Premier elect to the Deputy Minister through the Executive Council not to send them out. The order came from the grinch. The grinch was the Premier of this Province.'

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:

Now, Mr. Speaker, what I want to know, and what the people of Fogo and the people of Harbour Breton want to know and, I am sure, the Speaker himself wants to know, is simply this: Is the government going to release those cheques, those cheques that were issued and drawn on a legitimate vote authorized by this Legislature for the fiscal year 1988 - 1989? This program is an installment program, Mr. Speaker. Sometime before the next election comes around and the hon. crowd opposite are defeated, they will, too, issue cheques on an installment plan, and some government will have to honour them because the Recreation Capital Grants Program is an installment program. Some of the payments are stretched over five years. Some are over three. Certainly two, three, four and five years is quite normal.

So it is no good to say, 'We have a commitment two years down the road.' Of course you do. That is

the normal flow of funds under that particular program. But the bottom line is, the point is, that once the consultant studies were in, once the recommendations were in from the engineers - and that came before Cabinet in March - we made legitimate decisions based on a legitimate vote voted by this Legislature for the fiscal year 1988 - 1989. We issued Orders in Council. They were issued before the election was called, Mr. Speaker, and, therefore, there is every onus and every responsibility on the grinch to stop being grinchy and deliver the stadiums.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs.

MR. GULLAGE:  
Mr. Speaker, to repeat my answer of a few days ago when this question was first raised, we presently have under examination all of the regional facilities that he speaks about. There are some eight or nine of them, actually, that were prioritized. At the time of taking over this government we made a decision to re-examine, as a government, the policies and the priorities and the decisions of the previous government. One of the decisions, based on a Green Paper that was prepared some years previously, was to establish regional facilities - an excellent idea - in various parts of the Province on a priority basis after evaluations were done, feasibility studies were done, submissions by councils in the regions, and reasoning is still sound. However, as a new government we decided to examine that policy,

examine the feasibility of it, to add our own input to it, and that is presently being done.

In the meantime, while that process is being carried out, naturally we would not issue cheques. We do not want engineering studies and construction to start on a mandate that is not our mandate. We may decide on a new set of criteria that will allow more facilities to be built.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. GULLAGE:  
We may decide that more facilities than were recommended in this current fiscal year would be recommended than by the previous government.

So the process of evaluation will eventually bring a recommendation, Mr. Speaker, to this House on regional facilities on a priority basis after we receive a report from the officials on a new mandate that will be decided by this government.

So for the Opposition to say that we should issue cheques in the meantime based on their mandate, based on your mandate, Mr. Speaker, is just totally ridiculous.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:  
That was the first Wimp of the Week, there is the second Wimp of the Week, and there is the Phantom of the Week.

MR. SPEAKER:  
Order, please!

The motion is that this House do now adjourn until tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. of the clock.

On motion, the House at its rising adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, June 2, at 9:00 a.m.