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***VERBATIM REPORT***  
*(Hansard)*

*Speaker: Honourable Thomas Lush*

Friday

[Preliminary Transcript]

23 June 1989

The House met at 9:00 a.m.

MR. SPEAKER (Lush):  
Order, please!

Oral Questions

MR. SIMMS:  
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. SIMMS:  
I want to ask a couple of questions of the President of the Council, (Mr. Baker), who is in charge of the Cabinet, of course, when the Premier is not here, and I understand the Premier is not going to be available this morning.

I would like to ask the President of the Council: In view of the admission or confession by the Premier yesterday in the House that there was another minister in his Cabinet with a conflict of interest or a potential conflict of interest, i.e., the Minister of Justice (Mr. Dicks), can the President of the Council confirm for us that the Minister of Justice did not, in fact, inform the Premier of this conflict of interest upon his being invited to enter the Cabinet?

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

MR. BAKER:  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

First of all, the premise on which the question is based is not correct. There was no conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest or possible conflict of

interest. My understanding of the situation was that the minister in question, once he became a minister, took steps to take care of what members opposite perceive to be a problem. I think the Premier's response was that it was probably an oversight that it was not mentioned to him before, and the Premier is willing to accept that simply because all things in connection with this were done in a proper manner.

MR. SIMMS:  
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. SIMMS:  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is rather interesting to hear the President of the Council use the word 'oversight'.

I want to ask a supplementary, if I could, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Justice. I understand, from news reports, at least, that the lease that the Minister of Justice holds now with the Newfoundland Liquor Corporation actually expired at the end of March. Can the Minister of Justice, first of all, tell us what kind of a deal or arrangement he has made with the Liquor Corporation? Because obviously they are still renting his premises, even though I understand they are advertising for space. Since the end of March, I understand, some kind of a deal or arrangement or extension or option has been exercised. That is question number one.

While he is on his feet, could he also tell the House why he did not, in fact, inform the Premier

of this conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest upon his being invited to enter the Cabinet?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Justice.

MR. DICKS:

Mr. Speaker, in reply to the question raised by the hon. Opposition House Leader, I would just like to point out several things. First of all, there is no conflict of interest as such. A conflict of interest arises when a person with a vested interest negotiates, with the government, in this case, to obtain a benefit. So there is no conflict of interest. Now, to be quite frank, I have been a lawyer in this Province for twelve years, I have certain business interests, and it is not something that one vacates immediately. What happened in this particular case was I have a building in Corner Brook that has seven tenants. One of them was a long-term tenant, for the last four years, since 1985, which happens to be the Newfoundland Liquor Corporation. The rental for that premises had been negotiated at that time, in 1985. It was on a two year term and had not been increased for that period of time, it was all-inclusive and was very reasonable rental to the company in question.

Prior to March 31 and the lease expiring, I had some discussions with the regional manager on a casual basis to find out if they would be renewing or not. They indicated to me that they would be renewing. As a matter of fact, in mid-March I went South on a vacation with my family. While I was there the election was called and at that time I decided to

run. I came back, ran, and was fortunately elected and invited into Cabinet. During that course of events, Mr. Speaker, I did not have any further, to any great extent, discussions. Upon being invited into Cabinet, I was aware that this could form a potential conflict of interest and I took attempts, and I instructed people associated with the company to see about terminating the lease. And that is in fact what has been done.

I just say, in answer to the hon. member's question, that I appreciate that a person in public life is under scrutiny. I think that what has to be recognized in a case like this is that it takes time to order one's affairs. What I have done I think is within a reasonable period of time. I have attempted to do that and the lease is in the process of being terminated. But at the same time we are looking at a two month period. The election was April 20, I was invited into Cabinet May 5, and I have given the Newfoundland Liquor Corporation reasonable period of time to find alternate premises. There is not a lot of vacant office space in Corner Brook. They are attempting to find something suitable and I expect that within a reasonably short period of time those arrangements will be concluded and that will be the end of the matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker,

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Opposition House Leader.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, I would say to the Minister of Justice, if he expects this to be the end of the matter, it is strictly wishful thinking on the part of the hon. Minister of Justice. And I might add, by the way, it is not up to the Minister of Justice to determine whether or not there is a conflict of interest. It is not up to him to determine that. We will be pursuing this matter, Mr. Speaker, next week again. There is a lot more information coming forth.

Since the President of the Council and the Minister of Justice now have both confirmed to the House that the minister did not, in fact, inform the Premier of this conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest, I just conclude with a final supplementary to the President of the Council: Can the President of the Council advise the House whether or not there are other ministers in a potential conflict of interest or a conflict of interest, who did not make this known to the Premier upon entering the Cabinet?

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

MR. BAKER:  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have to remind the Opposition House Leader that so far, in terms of what they have talked about and we have talked about in the House, there is no conflict of interest, there is no potential conflict of interest. Therefore, obviously, in terms of this question, I cannot answer in the context that he asked it, "Are there any other?" because there were none to start with. However, I will say to him that I believe, to the best

of my knowledge, that all positions which could potentially be conflict of interest were given to the Premier, the Premier knows about them, and if, for instance, there is something that I do not know about and the Premier does not know about, then I cannot possibly answer the hon. member on that basis anyway. Everything that has been discussed with the Premier has been satisfactory to him. You see a Cabinet before you with no conflict of interest and no potential conflict of interest.

MR. SIMMS:  
You are saying the Cabinet has no conflict of interest and no potential conflict of interest — as far as we know.

MR. HEARN:  
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. the member for St. Mary's — The Capes.

MR. HEARN:  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question is to the Minister of Fisheries. The very first day we came into the House we raised the question of preparation for the cod glut. Last weekend it was arranged to have a boat go into St. Mary's Bay to address the upcoming problem in selling fish that we knew would be there. On Monday and Tuesday the boat took in a relatively fair amount of fish. On Wednesday, it was a down day, as you always find, and Thursday morning, when the fishermen came in from their traps laden with their boats filled with fish they found out that during the night the boat, under cover of darkness, had sailed away to parts unknown. I ask the minister, now that the fishermen up there have

plenty of fish, because arrangements had been made on the weekend to sell the fish, so they thought, but now that there is no market, what are his plans today to handle that situation?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

There was a slowdown in St. Mary's Bay, as the hon. member pointed out - I believe it was on Wednesday, but some last the week - and that boat was then sent to Petty Harbour, where there was a glut. In fact, I believe in Petty Harbour it procured something over 200,000 pounds that would otherwise have been dumped. The boat is trying to serve both areas. In fact, no later than this morning I talked to my Deputy Minister about the incident, and as soon as they find it necessary that boat will be deployed back to St. Mary's - The Capes, hopefully today sometime.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for St. Mary's - The Capes.

MR. HEARN:

Mr. Speaker, I can appreciate what the hon. the minister is saying, but a slowdown for a day in the fishery is not what we term a slowdown. The ability to truck fish is always there, and sometimes the mountain has to go to Mohammed, and I guess the St. John's area sometimes has to come out around the bay rather than the bay always coming to St. John's. When I asked the first question I said 'it was arranged.' I did not say the minister 'arranged' even though at the time he took credit, and I gave him credit, but since

that time the union has taken credit for moving the boat. Then we hear FANL, or the Newfoundland Resource Group of Companies also claiming credit in the decision making. I would like to ask him who is calling the shots on where the boat goes?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER:

To set the record straight, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Fisheries is, in consultation with the union and with FANL, but we have the final say in where that boat goes. In fact, the move from St. Mary's Bay to Petty Harbour last week was done in full consultation, with agreement by the other two parties. But the hon. member will have to understand, Mr. Speaker, that it is impossible to have an over-the-side type vessel, a freezer trawler, in every bay in Newfoundland. We were lucky last week in getting that one on what we think is a reasonably good arrangement, and we are trying to make the most of it. If there is a slacking off in one area and a glut in another, surely it must make sense that we move it to the area where it is needed. They are Newfoundlanders, too, and they have to make a living. I make no apology for having agreed to move the vessel from Riverhead to Petty Harbour because in so doing we saved fishermen in that area a lot of money and a lot of fish that would otherwise have been dumped.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for St. Mary's - The Capes.

MR. HEARN:

The fishermen in St. Mary's Bay, as the boat was leaving, were

losing fish and have been continuing to lose fish ever since. I ask him, in light of the fact that the caplin processors and the cod buyers are one and the same, the people who have the freezers blocked are the same people who handle cod and will be crying for cod, who are complaining because they fear they are going to lose some of their quota, because they are one and the same, in the same bed, because the union is in bed with them, because the same merchant mentality that existed over the years is still there — get it while you can and forget the fishermen — and in light of the fact that the distribution desks are completely inefficient because there is nowhere to move fish, in light of the fact that the allocation to the union to set up a distribution desk is a waste of money, and in light of the fact that the fishermen are paying the price for this lack of organization and concern, and in light of the fact that the politicians, the minister and all of us, will get the blame when fish cannot be sold, I ask him when he is going to use his power, and government use its power, use the only lever they have, and that is control on the licenses issued to buyers so that they will have to buy cod when the caplin glut is there rather than going out making a quick grab and leaving the fishermen there with their nets high and dry?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

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

MR. W. CARTER:  
Mr. Speaker, I was going to ask the member to repeat the question

but we only have twenty minutes left.

Mr. Speaker, it is not as simple as the hon. member makes out. I am sure he understands and I can appreciate why he is asking the question, that it is not a simple matter of instructing the fish merchants to do certain things. Fish merchants are business people and the bottom-line, sometimes, in fact at all times, is important to them.

But certainly I have been advocating now for some time that maybe one of the conditions of the licencing of a fish plant operator should be that he be required to provide certain facilities to enable the fishermen to split and salt and store their fish. That is one requirement I believe we can impose on them. But to try to tell a person in the private sector that he has to do certain things at a certain time in the year, even if it means jeopardizing his business, as might very well be the case because caplin right now is the big money maker? Every fish plant operator in the Province that has access to caplin is endeavouring to freeze caplin.

But it is something we are looking at and it is not a matter of using my power as Minister of Fisheries. I think the hon. member will appreciate we have done all we can do this year to alleviate the problem. We have arranged for trucks to pick up the fish, we have arranged for vessels, in fact, just a few days ago we authorized the Cape North, a large factory-freezer trawler owned by National Sea, to operate in a part of Placentia Bay. So everything that can be done is being done. And hopefully

next year when we have more time to think about it we will have a much better system in place.

MR. HEWLETT:

It is the merchant's party, not the people's party.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. W. CARTER:

Oh, listen to Sir William Coaker.

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN:

My question is to the Minister of Social Services. On Tuesday evening in estimates, the minister, in response to a question I posed to him at the time, said he was aware of an alcoholic problem in Northern Labrador. To quote the minister, he said his government was the first to take steps to address the situation. I would like to ask the minister what steps his department and government have taken to alleviate the serious problem of alcohol in coastal Labrador?

MR. EFFORD:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Social Services.

MR. EFFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The hon. member for Torngat Mountains is quite correct, there is a very serious problem with alcoholism -

MR. MURPHY:

In all Newfoundland.

MR. EFFORD:

Yes, you are probably correct.

- not only in Labrador, but especially in Labrador. It has been pointed out by the hon. member, but we were also aware of it before we became the government of the day. What we are surprised at is that the former government did not do anything to alleviate the problem or to correct it. What we are doing is we are checking into the situation. The Minister of Health (Mr. Decker), the Minister of Finance (Dr. Kitchen) and all ministers of the government are finding out the causes of the problem and steps are being taken to correct it. The Department of Social Services instructed their Social Workers to take steps to work more closely with the community and with the people who have the problem. But it is not something that you can flick your fingers and stop overnight. The problem has been growing over the last number of years and it is going to take a while. But we are taking steps in the right direction to ease the problem, especially for the people who have already become victims of alcoholism, to work with them, and especially the children of those families.

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN:

My supplementary to the minister, Mr. Speaker: The minister has been quoted as saying that there are concerns with activities of an

unnamed club in Nain. I would like for the minister to tell the House what is he talking about concerning this particular unnamed club? Have charges been laid against its owner? If so, will the minister kindly tell us?

MR. EFFORD:  
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. EFFORD:  
Mr. Speaker, the unnamed club in Nain - that is something else. We are not talking about downtown Toronto. But there is a club in Nain, Mr. Speaker. Let me say at the very outset if I had the \$100,000 that was spent by the former minister in travel last year, I would be able to put another four or five Social Workers in Nain, Labrador, to work with the people down there.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. EFFORD:  
And the \$25,000 washroom would be another Social Worker, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. EFFORD:  
But, Mr. Speaker, yes, I have been made aware of some concerns. I cannot lay charges. I do not even know if there is room for charges. The concerns have been passed on to the proper officials. An investigation is being done. If and when those concerns are proven to be true, then it is up to the law enforcers to lay charges. But at this stage I have only been made aware of the concerns, and that is pretty good

in the short time, a week, that I was made aware of them, considering the MHA for the area down there has known it for the last ten years and did not act upon it.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:  
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. the member for Torngat Mountains.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:  
Order, please!

I have noticed in the past couple of days that people have been coming out with explosive verbal punctuations after people have asked questions or during questions. I think Your Honour is only instructed to recognize people who are recognized by the Chair and asking the question. Please in future I would ask that we stop these, what I call, explosive verbal interruptions which, in my view, are doing nothing to enhance the debate. Thank you.

The hon. the member for Torngat Mountains.

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

My final supplementary to the minister is: Considering that the minister said he is aware of the problem, and considering that he said the problems have been there for years and years, and we can probably go back to 1949 - I think, Mr. Speaker, having worked



up there as a public servant and also for the last ten years as a politician I believe it is more serious than the minister is really saying - I would like to ask the minister: Other than just checking into it, as a new government now planning to do new things, would the minister seriously consider setting up a Commission of Enquiry to evaluate the problems that are associated with the North and, if possible, consider similarly what is happening in the Northwest Territories where there are some communities that we call dry communities?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Social Services.

MR. EFFORD:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

That is a very good question, but let me say to the hon. member that anything we will do will be new because there was nothing done in the past. So what we are doing is new steps in the right direction, Mr. Speaker.

Will I set up a Commission of Enquiry into the situation? This government will decide its own mandate. This government will decide the proper thing to do. We have already started to work with the problems on the Labrador Coast. We will decide what to do. The hon. member had his chance when he was in Cabinet to do something about it, and he did not do it. We are looking into the situation to find out exactly what the source of the problem is, what the cause of the problem is. In fact, we have already recognized there is a problem there, so now we are looking for the solution. I can assure the

people of the Labrador Coast that we will not forget them, that we will work towards helping them and try to find what the cause of the problem is and answer the questions to the problem.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WINSOR:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Fogo.

MR. WINSOR:

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs.

The thrust of this administration is the servicing of municipalities through regional services. The previous administration begun this concept in recreation with the concept of regional recreational facilities. Can the minister now tell us if his department still endorses that concept?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs.

MR. GULLAGE:

Mr. Speaker, I assume the thrust of the question is whether or not we endorse the concept of providing recreational facilities on a regional basis. If that is the question, the answer is, yes, we do. As the member knows, I said in the House that we are presently examining the policy that has been in place, looking at the whole concept of funding for regional recreational facilities, how best to set up those regional facilities, how best to interrelate with the communities involved and see that we can provide funding from our end in

co-operation with the communities that would be part of that regional facility and cost-share on a per capita basis.

So we are examining that whole question now and hopefully we will have a solution very soon.

MR. WINSOR:  
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. WINSOR:  
Mr. Minister, since that program had already been started in recreation, how can he tell the people of this House and this Province that this administration is serious about this when they undermine the program by pulling the skates out from under the people of Fogo, the Connaigre and the Wesleyville area -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. WINSOR:  
- by cancelling the stadiums for Fogo, for the Connaigre and the Wesleyville area? Furthermore, is it true that all applications for regional recreational complexes are now under review?

Does this mean that new feasibility studies will have to be done, despite the fact that senior bureaucrats had already prioritized a list of stadiums to be built?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. FLIGHT:  
We are reviewing everything. Everything. Everything is under review, and why should it not be?

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

MR. GULLAGE:  
Mr. Speaker, that is a very fair question and I think it gets at the heart of the matter, which is whether or not the communities involved in planning and making submissions to government are fully aware of the future liability they may be taking on. I have talked to many of these communities that are attempting to co-operate, four, five and six of them in some cases, in providing a regional facility in their area, and I have reminded them that it is one thing to put it there, one thing for government and the communities together to put out the capital cost, but the big problem is maintenance of the facility and ongoing operational costs. When reminded of that, they agree that we do have to re-examine the whole policy, making sure that when these facilities are put in place, the communities involved can afford to maintain and operate them.

So, yes, in some cases, the submissions that are in to government will have to be reviewed, reflecting the new criteria which will see these communities being able to sustain and operate these facilities once they are put in place.

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

MR. WINSOR:  
A final supplementary.

The feasibility studies should have, and indeed, did examine that very question. Can the minister now tell us what will happen? We know what happened. What will

happen to the missing cheques that were issued to three? And how much of the \$4 million-plus for capital expenditure is for new construction this year, not for ongoing projects that have been on the go for the past three or four years?

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. the minister.

MR. GULLAGE:  
Well, obviously, any cheques that were issued previously and not subsequently honoured and sent out, and so on, and used for the original intent of the previous government, are no longer valid cheques, needless to say. I do not know why that question comes this way.

MR. SIMMS:  
What do you mean by 'no longer valid'?

MR. GULLAGE:  
Well, obviously, if you are not going to have a cheque presented and used, it is not valid. What is your point?

MR. FLIGHT:  
What is your point? Make your point.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:  
Order, please!

I have just mentioned that the Chair will only entertain one questioner. If the question is going to break down and someone is going to be asking a question while a member is in the process of answering a question, then Question Period is going to become a total farce. The Chair is not going to permit that kind of

interruption.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. the Minister.

MR. GULLAGE:  
Just to repeat myself, Mr. Speaker. Obviously, if cheques are withdrawn and not being used, to me, very simply, those cheques are no longer valid. I mean, that is just common sense.

As far as financing is concerned in the government's participation in these regional facilities, we will be proceeding, at the time of my announcement, when I make it, as to what the criteria will be to re-examine the applications that we have in place and if, indeed, the criteria require a change in the application, we will go back to the communities and recreation committees involved, and ask them to reconsider, using the new criteria, and we will proceed from that point with a cost-sharing arrangement between the recreation committees and government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MS VERGE:  
Mr. Speaker,

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. the member for Humber East.

MS VERGE:  
Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs. Actually, it is the same question I asked him three times yesterday, in Question Period, on the Late Show, and last evening at the Estimates Committee meeting.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to know whether the minister and his department have approved a grant to an amateur theatre group in Gander, a grant made independent of the Arts Council and in violation of the principle of arm's length funding for artists?

Mr. Speaker, this is a very, very important question to working artists throughout our Province who believed the new Premier when he promised there would be no patronage.

MR. SIMMS:  
Another conflict.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:  
Order, please!

I recognize that as an important question, and if it is an important question I would appreciate absolute quietness on both sides. When a question is punctuated by sneering remarks, the Chair does not regard it to be receiving the seriousness it should and that is why I am rising to restore order. I agree it is an important question, and I ask both sides to please hear the question appropriately.

The hon. the member for Humber East.

MS VERGE:  
Mr. Speaker, I had finished asking the question.

Yesterday the minister said, after the three times I asked it, that he had no knowledge of such a grant, and I would like to know

now whether he has found out, and whether he would tell the House the truth.

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

MR. GULLAGE:  
Mr. Speaker, I have since checked out the matter, and the member is quite correct. There is an application in from the Avion Players in Gander for a travel grant and that is being considered by the department. No grant has been approved thus far.

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

MR. HEWLETT:  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Is there much time left in Question Period?

MR. SPEAKER:  
Not much, but there is some.

MR. HEWLETT:  
The minister responsible for parks, Mr. Speaker, has a Telex in his office which basically says not only did he steal my park, Mr. Speaker, but the equipment that was in it as a municipal park has been removed in anticipation of a great capital program this Summer. Will the minister give back the playground equipment, the garbage cans and the picnic tables to Crescent Lake Provincial Park?

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. the Minister of Environment and Lands.

MR. KELLAND:  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I thank the hon. member for the question. I have no knowledge,

Mr. Speaker, to be quite honest, about any particular equipment being removed. If it was improperly removed, in light of the fact that we are not providing funding this year I will certainly have a look at it and if it is required to go back, I will respond to that appropriately.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Green Bay.

MR. HEWLETT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have a question for the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs. Things are done, Mr. Speaker, according to need. I got one water project this year in a town that certainly had a water system on the go, but I have another town, as was on the news last night, which has no ground water and no wells, water is delivered door to door by truck. Where does that fit with the need basis for allocation of funding, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs.

MR. GULLAGE:

Mr. Speaker, I would remind the hon. member, and he should know since he was connected with government on an EA basis for a long, long time, of the need throughout the Province. I can bring him in a list which would stagger the mind, of similar situations to that which he just described. The situation in his district is not unique, Mr. Speaker.

MR. HEWLETT:

One final question, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Green Bay.

MR. HEWLETT:

In the absence of the Premier, to the hon. the Government House Leader: Given the fact that I was shut out of the roads program, nearly shut out of the water program, totally shut out of the park program, since having a premier as your member is supposed to be an honour, Mr. Speaker - Baie Verte - White Bay knows it, Bay of Islands knows it - why is Green Bay being persecuted because of it?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the government House Leader.

MR. BAKER:

Mr. Speaker, I know the new member for Green Bay wants to put on a show for his constituents, and that is fine. We understand that. We are also certain that the member knows that there are needs all around the Province. We are also certain that the member knows these needs were addressed on a purely non-political basis for the first time in a lot of years. The member knows that there are districts he would class as Liberal districts which received not a cent of funding and which have great needs. The member will also know that there are districts that he would class as Tory districts which received large amounts of funding. The member for Fogo knows all about that.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

And Grand Falls.

MR. BAKER:

And for Grand Falls.

The member will know that for the first time the disbursement of these funds was done on a non-political basis. I would assure the member that we understand his needs and the needs of his district, and that they will be looked out to on the basis of fairness and balance in the whole Province. I congratulate the member for pushing for projects in his district. It is the right thing to do, and I can assure him that government will continue to listen to him.

MR. SPEAKER:  
Question Period has expired.

Presenting Reports by  
Standing and Special Committees

MR. NOEL:  
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NOEL:  
Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Government Services Committee I wish to report to the hon. House that the Committee has considered the Estimates of the Departments of Employment and Labour Relations; Works, Services and Transportation; Finance; Municipal and Provincial Affairs; and have passed all proposed expenditures without amendment.

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

MR. GILBERT:  
Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to table the report for the Department of Transportation for the year 1987-1988.

MR. SPEAKER:  
Before getting into Orders of the Day I would like to welcome to the galleries on behalf of all members, Susan Bates, President of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

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

MR. BAKER:  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to ask leave of the House to revert to Statements by Ministers. The Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs has a brief statement he would like to make. A copy was given to the Opposition member concerned sometime ago. A slight change had to be made before it came to the House, and I am asking for leave for the minister to make that short statement.

MR. SIMMS:  
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. SIMMS:  
Mr. Speaker, in the normal and continuing co-operative approach the Opposition has shown to government for this Session only, and I emphasize 'for this Session only', we are quite prepared to revert to Statements by Ministers. I understand the member for St. John's East Extern will be responding to the statement, so go ahead.

Statements by Ministers

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs, by agreement.

MR. GULLAGE:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My apologies for being late with the statement, but I came directly to the House from a meeting and my secretary had these delivered. I just missed Statements by Ministers, as we had started proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, hon. members of the House of Assembly, my Department has completed its review of the request for additional funding to address the financial needs of the Newfoundland and Labrador High School Athletic Federation.

I am pleased this morning to advise this hon. House that my Department will be making available to the Federation a one time \$25,000 grant to help defray its existing deficit. In addition to this, my Department will increase the annual grant by some \$15,000, a total of \$40,000, in an attempt to ensure that the programming presently being carried out by the Federation can continue at its present level.

We will continue to monitor the activities of the Federation to ensure that no further program reductions are necessary.

I want to ensure that a reasonable level of programming for the athletes in our high schools throughout the Province is maintained.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for St. John's

East Extern.

MR. PARSONS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I want to thank the minister for the copy. His statement was a little bit belated, but I understand why.

I certainly agree with the high school programs that are ongoing in the Province, but we do need a lot more money in there. I was Minister of the Department for a short period and we did -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. PARSONS:

Just one second. Let me finish.

After the third day I was in the department we gave the three associations, the High School Athletic Federation, the NLPRA and the Newfoundland and Labrador Sports Federation, \$25,000 each to try to supplement monies that were already there. But the High School Athletic Federation did have problems as to financing, there was no doubt about it. I think the \$25,000 we gave them was just an interim thing, and we were going to have a good look at it and see what their needs were for the future.

I would like to say to the minister that the high school Athletic Association needs much more funding. There is no doubt at all about it. But in saying that, in giving that funding, I think that until such time as government and the associations agree on some concept of consultation, while it is being considered they should stick within their budgets. There was a problem pertaining to

overspending, so I think they should stick within their budgets. I looked at it in the short period I was there, and I would suggest to the minister that he adhere to this line of thinking. We need more programs. The programs being implemented are not kept up to date. I think there is plenty of room out there for new programs, but things have to be done in an orderly fashion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

### Orders of the Day

MR. BAKER:  
Mr. Speaker,

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

MR. BAKER:  
Mr. Speaker, before we get to the order I am going to call, I would like to do a couple of first readings, motion 5 and motion 6.

Motion, the hon. the Minister of Justice to introduce a bill, "An Act To Abolish Certain Ancient Right Of Action In The Area Of Family Law And To Amend The Children's Law Act, The Family Law Act, The Reciprocal Enforcement Of Support Orders Act And The Support Orders Enforcement Act In Order To Correct Anomalies And Errors In Those Acts," carried. (Bill No. 9)

On motion, Bill No. (9) read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

Motion, the hon. the Minister of Finance to introduce a bill, "An Act Respecting An Increase Of Certain Pensions," carried. (Bill No. 8)

On motion, Bill No. (8) read a first time, ordered read a second time on tomorrow.

MR. BAKER:  
Order 3, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:  
Order 3.

The hon. the Opposition House Leader.

MR. SIMMS:  
Mr. Speaker, I would like to carry on the concurrence debate on the Resource Estimates Committee. I think that is what we are dealing with, Order 3. I will just speak for a few minutes on a couple of matters of interest.

During the Estimates Committee I had an opportunity to ask my good friend, the Minister of Forestry, a number of questions. I tried to get him to come clean with the House with respect to his decision on this year's spray program. My first question had to do with what the first bit of advice he received from his officials was, not what he put together after talking to them. He, of course, refused to address that question and skated all around it. I am hoping he will take the opportunity to speak in this debate for ten minutes to address some of the points I am raising.

Secondly, a couple of days ago I asked him a question with respect to the extension of a silviculture agreement with the paper companies, and at that time I expressed some concern about whether or not that extension was going to be provided. Because if it was not, there was concern that the companies might not proceed with their own silviculture program; I understood the Province



would proceed with theirs.

So I would like him to at least inform the House publicly, and thereby the public publicly, whether or not he was able to reach an agreement with the companies. I have a suspicion that he was able to, and that he cannot wait to get up and tell everybody.

The other question I raised in the Estimates Committee had to do with some concerns passed on to me by forest rangers in the field, concerns they had about doing their job and having to work singlehandedly as opposed to being able to have a partner work with them in going out to enforce the forest fire regulations and so on.

The minister will recall, I hope, the issue I am referring to without my having to elaborate on it now. I do not wish to elaborate on it a lot today, but I would like him to tell the House, or tell me at least, whether he has had a chance to pursue those questions and find out if indeed there is a morale problem among the forest rangers of his department, and if there are other problems such as those I described.

Finally, the other issue I would like him to address when he stands in the debate is the question with respect to any proposed changes to the production plans of the Wooddale tree nursery in Grand Falls or Bishop's Falls, wherever it is. Actually, I think it is within the boundaries of the provincial electoral district of Windsor - Buchans. I think that is accurate. So any of the proposed changes to those production plans at that facility that might cause permanent layoffs at that facility. I ask those

questions of the minister in all sincerity, because they were concerns expressed to me by people who are involved in all aspects of them.

Now that is enough for the Minister of Forestry. He should be able to take ten minutes, when he stands, to answer those questions.

I want to address a little further a concern raised in the House yesterday by - I am sorry. The member for the Port aux Basques Mariners, is he trying to get my attention?

MR. RAMSAY:

No.

MR. SIMMS:

No? Okay.

I want to raise a matter which was raised yesterday in the House by almost his seatmate, the member for Placentia (Mr. Hogan), the big member for Placentia. He raised an issue yesterday in the House having to do with the closedown, or shutdown, of the fish plant in Fair Haven. I listened with some interest to what he had to say yesterday, and I subsequently got up and spoke briefly and said from what I knew of it, it sounded to me like it was a bureaucratic bumble - that is what it sounded like - or else, someone was laying the heavy hand on someone at the Fair Haven operation for some other reason.

Subsequent to that I had a chance to look at the list of reasons given by the Federal Fisheries people for the closedown of that plant in Fair Haven. And if you look at the list, I mean, it is really very hard to believe that they would not have given the

operator a bit of advance notice or advance time, or even threaten him if they had to, to do these things and then, 'we will see what happens.' But as I understand it from talking to the member for Placentia and listening to him yesterday in the House, the operators were not given any formal notice as far as he understands, or as far as he knew, they just actually walked in there and closed down the plant.

But look at some of the items on the list. For example, 'Drains: The main floor drain is not rodent proof.' That is one of the main reasons for closing down a fish plant and putting people out of work. 'Lighting. Hand washing facilities: Not provided with soap or single-use towels.' Now there is a good reason to close down a fish plant and put people out of work, no question about it. 'The splitting table has a plywood top and that is not the approved material.' Not allowed to have a fish plant operating with a splitting table with a plywood top.

AN HON. MEMBER:  
What about the rest of it?

MR. SIMMS:  
The rest of it?

MR. HEWLETT:  
What about the brass doorknobs?

MR. SIMMS:  
Well, let us see. 'Toilet facilities: Doors are not self-closing' - I mean, it is almost a joke. Absolutely a joke. What else was there? - 'and employees must turn the doorknobs in order to open them.' Now, is that not too bad? That is really rough! That is hard times, is it not?

MR. HEWLETT:  
Liberal times are hard times.

MR. SIMMS:  
Liberal times are hard times. Well, this is a non-partisan issue so we will stay away from that one.

Here is another one: 'Walls: The lower section of the processing area walls are not light coloured.' My God! They could have gone in and put a bit of paint on them the night before, if they were told, and make them dark coloured before the inspector came in and closed them down.

AN HON. MEMBER:  
(Inaudible) it by day.

MR. SIMMS:  
My God!

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, my only point in raising it is that I want to offer some support to my friend for Placentia in his efforts and his attempts to try to bring some common sense to this issue, because it sounds, to me, to be rather crazy. Unless the federal fisheries people have some other reason we are not aware of, unless there is a personality conflict here between some federal fisheries people and the operators in Fairhaven, to my way of thinking this list of reasons is absolutely ludicrous. I do not know if the press gallery has received a copy of this. Has the member given a copy of this to the press gallery?

MR. HOGAN:  
So, he should.

MR. SIMMS:  
I just want to add my voice, for what it is worth, to the efforts of the member for Placentia in attempting to get this decision

changed as quickly as possible. I am sure he has talked to and consulted with his colleague, the Minister of Fisheries in the Province, who has considerable influence, I might add. He has considerable influence, and I have a funny feeling that if he were to personally get involved in this matter, if he has not already, and if he were to take up the telephone and phone his buddy, Tom Siddon, or whoever he has to phone - he might just have to phone somebody here in the local office and tell him to smarten up and for God's sake get that plant back into operation - I have a feeling he could do it. So, I urge the member for Placentia to keep the pressure on his colleague, the provincial Minister of Fisheries, and I have a feeling he might be able to get this problem resolved.

AN HON. MEMBER:  
You what? Urge?

MR. SIMMS:  
I urge the member for Placentia.

AN HON. MEMBER:  
I hate that word.

MR. SIMMS:  
What shall I say?

AN HON. MEMBER:  
Pressure.

MR. SIMMS:  
Pressure, yes. Listen, this is a non-partisan issue. If I were going to be partisan, I would say that the member for Placentia should be over in the minister's office, morning, noon, and night, and should not move from the office.

MR. HEWLETT:  
Beating a path to his door.

MR. SIMMS:  
Beating a path to his door. He would not leave his office. Occupy the office of the Minister of Fisheries until -

MR. W. CARTER:  
He was over there eight o'clock this morning.

MR. SIMMS:  
That is much too late. The day was half gone at eight o'clock this morning. I would say the Minister of Fisheries was probably out at Flatrock this morning at twenty minutes to six watching the fishermen bringing in fish and everything.

MR. W. CARTER:  
No, Riverhead.

MR. SIMMS:  
How many pounds did they bring in this morning?

MR. W. CARTER:  
Four thousand seventy-five -

MR. SIMMS:  
One hundred and seventy-five thousand, really. Up in Flatrock they only got 80,000. I was up there early this morning watching the boys. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, I want to add my comments in respect to that issue.

The other matter I would like to raise goes back to the environmental issue I raised yesterday concerning the very serious soot problem that arose in the Central Newfoundland area a couple of days ago. Now that two days have passed, hopefully the Minister of the Environment will have had an opportunity to talk to the company to see if they were prepared to put in place a mechanism which would be a more personal approach for helping

people who had serious problems as a result of the emissions, an easy mechanism, to put forth their claims, and somebody to consult with them and give them some consideration and consoling. Because some of them have experienced some pretty serious damage. I hope the minister will take the opportunity, when he gets up in debate, to maybe address that.

I also addressed a health and safety question yesterday and asked the Minister of Health and the Minister of Employment and Labour Relations, who would have a role to play in safety factors, to do a follow-up to ensure that there was no health problem associated with this particular incident. I do not know how much work that would take, but I hope the Minister of Health might comment on it, and secondly, that the Minister of Labour would ensure that her officials do a follow-up to try to find out and understand how this could have occurred, because I understand the equipment was fairly new equipment. It was only two or three years old. Very unusual! So, follow up and find out how this could have ever occurred but, more importantly, ensure that the proper mechanisms are put in place.

MR. FLIGHT:  
Carried.

MR. SIMMS:  
The member for Windsor, when he was over on this side and I was on the government side, used to constantly interrupt me, Mr. Speaker. I have Hansards here now and I can read them out to you. I remember one time we brought in a Throne Speech — I mean, a Throne Speech is an outline of the government's plans for the year

ahead in an overall, general way — and he went out to Grand Falls and did an interview with **The Grand Falls Advertiser**, and he was really upset. He said to his constituents publicly, 'I am upset because there were a lot of things not in the Throne Speech.' They said, 'Well, like what, Mr. Flight?' He said, 'Well, first of all, there was nothing in the Throne Speech about the incinerator for Grand Falls.' You could hardly believe your eyes when you read it. He said there was nothing about the incinerator in the Throne Speech. I could not believe it!

MR. HEWLETT:  
Kind of burns you up, does it not?

MR. SIMMS:  
I noticed, of course, when he became a member of the government and they had an opportunity to bring in their first Throne Speech, there were all kinds of mentions about the incinerator in Grand Falls.

MR. DOYLE:  
There were no water treatments mentioned in the Throne Speech.

MR. SIMMS:  
No, no water treatment plant.

In any event, I would ask the hon. member not to interrupt me now because I am talking about a very serious problem, a very serious matter, one, in fact, that he should be concerned with, because as I understand it, there were some people from Windsor, by the way, who were affected by this emission problem.

Are my ten minutes up yet, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER:

Just about.

MR. SIMMS:

Okay.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

By leave!

MR. SIMMS:

I did not stand at this point in time to carry on for thirty minutes, but if hon. members want me to I certainly will.

AN HON. MEMBER:

No.

MR. SIMMS:

No? Okay.

Anyway, I would like the Minister of Environment and Lands to take the opportunity to address this matter when he stands. And I would not mind hearing from the Minister of Health. I ask him to use his normal compassionate approach - I say that with tongue-in-cheek - to this problem, and maybe explain to us if it is possible for the Department of Health people in his department to do a follow-up to find out and ensure that there were no health related problems related to this incident. And perhaps the Minister of Employment and Labour Relations could tell us whether or not she will have her officials ensure that the proper mechanisms are in place to prevent this from re-occurring.

May I just, in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, urge the member for St. John's South, the recently confirmed-elected member for St. John's South, I should add - I congratulate the member on his election. Landslide Murphy they now call him. That is encouraging, because for the last four years I was called Landslide

Simms, but that has been overcome. I would urge the member for St. John's South to perhaps have a few words, too, because I know he is involved, I think at a national level, with health and safety, as is the member for Placentia, I believe. That was his professional job, as I understand it.

So there are a lot of people over there who could talk about it. It is a very important matter and I would be interested in hearing their remarks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Environment and Lands.

SMR. KELLAND:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

First of all, I would like to make a quick comment on the remarks made by the hon. Opposition House Leader with reference to the Fair Haven situation. I concur with what he said there, and really a non-partisan effort should be made from the House, at the political level and all other levels, to alleviate that.

Another thing I would like to make reference to, Mr. Speaker - I neglected to do so yesterday in the few minutes I had prior to the Late Show - is the conducting of the part of the Estimates Committee I was involved with. I must say the hon. Chairman, in my mind, used a very common-sense approach to his responsibilities and allowed enough flexibility for a sometimes long-winded minister to get his point across without upsetting the Chair to any great extent. I thought he conducted the business of the Committee in a very fair and common-sense manner.

By the same token, the hon. Vice-Chairman of that particular Committee, with his vast knowledge of the affairs of this Province, did an excellent job in that position, as did members from both sides. And I have to say, in all honesty, Mr. Speaker, that that is a departure from what I had witnessed in earlier years. When I was an Opposition member, for those four years involved with the Estimates Committees, it frequently broke down. I am not casting blame on either side of the House of the day, but rather, it often deteriorated because of conflicts between both sides and both parties represented at the Estimates Committee. But I must compliment all members for the excellent chairing, vice-chairing, the level of questions from both parties, and the support information from the very professional people I have in my department. I was very pleased with that. Because of the approach taken by the Chair and all the other people involved, we were able to conduct the business of that particular committee in the three hours and had our estimates passed.

I did not get to respond, I guess, because of the Late Show yesterday, to all the issues raised by a couple of the members on the other side, but I would like, if I can, to try to get some of those finished, at least, and perhaps have another opportunity to finish off a little later on.

I was making some reference, at the time, to some issues raised by the hon. the member for Green Bay. I tried to give him an example of how I also appreciate the frustrations the hon. member feels now, because I was subjected to much the same frustrations with

respect to a provincial park for quite a number of years, even prior to my time as a member of the House of Assembly; and I gave indication at the time that the decision, as it related to Naskaupi district, or the upper Lake Melville area, was on a purely political basis, clearly understood and accepted, in that context, I mean, by everybody who was knowledgeable about it. At the same time, I assured the member that there were no political, partisan, or patronage considerations in any decisions that came with respect to the allocation of funding from within my department.

As you know, the budget was presented very shortly after our taking the reins of the Province, and we had to rely, as I am sure hon. members will understand, Mr. Speaker, quite heavily on input from very professional public servants, who, with their vast knowledge and experience, were able to give advice with respect to where funding allocation should go with respect to provincial parks. To be quite honest about it, Mr. Speaker, I was just as disappointed as the hon. the member for Green Bay when we could not make funding available, at that point, for the proposed provincial park in my own district. And, you know, not to be derogatory in any way, shape or form, I doubt very much that in the seventeen years prior to the Liberals forming the government this time, that that particular approach would have been applied or had been applied exclusively all the way through that seventeen years. In fact, I think there is good evidence, perhaps, that there was quite a high level of political patronage. I am not casting aspersions at any one

particular individual, but I think that was the case. I would like to be able to say that, as far as we are concerned, we would hope to avoid that sort of a situation.

I would love to have enough money to provide the hon. member with funding for Crescent Lake. By the same token, I would love to have enough money to be able to see a park established in my district and any other district that requires a provincial park. It is just not financially possible at this time. But I have responded to some correspondence from his district and said that it will be given active consideration, to the best of my ability, with funding constraints and so on, in my tenure with responsibility for parks.

He made reference to a 'petty vendetta', a term he used, and that is his choice. As a member of the House, he is quite free to use anything that could be considered parliamentary language. But I want to assure the hon. member that I certainly feel no vindictiveness towards the former administration or any member of that administration, and I would like to believe, in fact I do believe, that my colleagues share my particular sentiments, that it is not a question of penalizing districts represented by members of the Progressive Conservative Party.

MR. HEWLETT:

What about penalizing a district represented by a former Premier who made the Liberals miserable for ten years?

MR. KELLAND:

Now, Mr. Speaker, I sat through the hon. member's ten minute talk without interrupting him and I

would ask for the same courtesy. He has another opportunity, a ten minute segment in which he can ask questions and pose those questions.

I feel absolutely no vindictiveness in any political way towards the former member for Green Bay, any more than I do for the present member. I feel no need, Mr. Speaker, to somehow wreak vengeance on a district in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador that made a free, democratic choice on who should represent them. The Naskaupi District did the same thing. I would not propose to penalize a Progressive Conservative district because nobody in this House received 100 per cent of the vote in their districts. So if anyone attempts to penalize Progressive Conservative or New Democratic supporters, they would also be penalizing the Liberals in the district. And I certainly am not going to put myself in that position, nor will my colleague.

I realize that in frustration he used the term 'petty vendetta', but I take exception if he intended that term to be applied to me and my colleagues. That is not my approach nor will it ever be in my tenure as a minister, but I understand the frustration, and that is really the point I want to make. The hon. member did not get money for a park of his district, but this hon. member did not either, and I have some say in where some of the funding goes with respect to provincial parks. It is indeed the concept of fairness and balance that we have been proposing and promoting all the way through the election campaign, and since we have formed the government.

There was a reference by the

Chairman, too, I just remembered that, Mr. Speaker, about the highway signs with regard to littering. I believe in his report he said the departments involved should take a firmer stand, and I totally agree with that concept. How we can approach it I have not reached a conclusion on. I can assure the hon. member, Mr. Speaker, that indeed sometimes there are signs that are not properly or fully enforced, so they really are of little value. A 'No Parking' sign is an example, I suppose. A 'No Parking' sign in a certain area that is ignored and people park there, well, either take the sign down or enforce the sign. By the same token, in that simple example, with highway littering signs, I suppose it is very difficult to catch somebody littering. But in the event that they are caught in the act I think a fairly stiff penalty should apply and courts should be encouraged to discourage that kind of an activity. Our Province is a very, very beautiful piece of this earth and, if we continue to spoil it and pollute, eventually there will not be anything left of any real value to anybody who comes after us.

The other references, depending upon my time, were issues raised by the hon. members for Grand Falls, the Opposition House Leader. It particularly related to the sooting incident in Grand Falls at the Abibiti-Price operation there. I did give some information in the Question Period the day before yesterday, that information which I had at the time, and additionally, in that part of the agenda which permitted it yesterday, some follow-up information. I do not really have a great deal of information to add since yesterday, Mr. Speaker, but

the hon. member made some points that perhaps I could touch on.

I have not seen copy other than what was recorded in the print media with reference to what might have come from the press conference that Abibiti-Price had as a result of this incident.

My information was that yes, indeed, as the hon. member said, quite a number of calls had been received at Abibiti-Price and that quite a few people apparently had been affected by the soot incident. Media reports indicated that and hon. members have indicated that, and while I did not see it personally I have no reason to disbelieve any of that information.

I also mentioned in the House that we had been in contact - not me personally, but my department - with Abitibi-Price and that a full report was going to be filed by them, and they indicated to us that while claims were being received they had apparently accepted a fair bit of the responsibility, if not all of the responsibility, in that they would judge each claim, each situation on its merits and it would be handled on a case by case basis.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member's time has elapsed.

MR. KELLAND:

Leave? Just for a few seconds to wrap up?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Agreed.

MR. KELLAND:

I am not absolutely certain at this stage, in view of the fact that the company has said that they would respond on a case by



case basis, if indeed there is a need for, let us say, an arbitrary instruction to the company that they had better do this or that. You know, if indeed claims go in and the claimants are satisfied with the results they get from the company, that may very well take care of that aspect of it. So I would suggest that probably we should allow at least a fair time to allow the company to respond to that. At the same time the suggestion that the hon. member for Grand Falls made, that perhaps a temporary office for easy accessibility by claimants may be established, that may very well have been done by the company. I can try to determine that today or my officials can.

And the other suggestion, I think, which bears some merit, and I will certainly discuss it with my colleagues, is the fact that there perhaps should be some follow-up by a number of government departments, Health, Labour Relations with respect to industrial safety and so on, and my department from an environmental point of view. I am also very curious to see the report as to the explanation as to what really happened there. We know from the report that we have already received that there was a lightning strike at the TMP, the thermo mechanical pulp plant, and that they had to fire up another boiler for the heat loss there and perhaps that may have been the cause for the superheater tube to explode and that would cause the emission by a great gush of steam up through the stack, which apparently had some considerable oily residue, of soot.

Why that should be the case, if it was normal to have that kind of a residue or that quantity of a

residue in place, would have to be looked at. With respect to the age of the equipment, and such a thing should not have happened, that will have to be looked at. So I think it was a very worthwhile suggestion, certainly one we will take under consideration with respect to follow-up investigations by those departments and those ministers who have a direct concern.

There may have been one or two other points. But I would like to express thanks for the leave to finish off, and if I have an opportunity a little later on I can address some of the other issues.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. HEWLETT:  
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. HEWLETT:  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to make a few remarks. The hon. the Minister of Social Services yesterday in the Concurrence debates on Resource Estimates made remarks that were not altogether relevant, but I think I have a right under that circumstance to respond.

The hon. minister attacked me basically because the eighth floor right now is a reasonable suite of offices for a First Minister. When I was placed in charge of the Premier's Office by Premier Peckford in 1979 the carpet was so bad that you could see the underlay through it. It was worn

out. Premier Moores had done absolutely nothing with the physical facility, so basically what we inherited was what Premier Smallwood gave up. And I make no apologies to anyone on the face of this earth for spending \$750,000 of the taxpayers money to make the Office of the First Minister of this Province fit for a First Minister, and the current First Minister, Mr. Wells, I am sure has settled in nicely. He is being treated in the manor, m-a-n-o-r, to which he has become accustomed.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Ha! Ha! Ha! That is a good joke.

MR. HEWLETT:

It might be a good joke, Mr. Speaker, but it is a valid comment.

With regard to the hon. Minister of Environment and Lands and this park and our mutual frustrations, might I add that the Liberal Party were great on preaching, with regard to us, our preceived political patronage and our preceived favoritism, etc., from their point of view. But I guess, in terms of my district of Green Bay right now, I am getting, what you might call, a negative favoritism. I told my constituents when I was running, both for the nomination and for the election, that one of the biggest problems I would have, assuming I was on the winning side, would be convincing the government that Green Bay did not have everything under the sun done and that there were a lot of things, because it was a rural district, neglected for twenty-three years by the Liberals, that needed to be done.

So, to the hon. Minister of Environment and Lands, with his park frustrations, all I can say

is that, two wrongs do not make a right. If previous administrations wronged that hon. minister's district, then fine, he has a valid complaint, but that is no excuse for exacerbating the situation and persecuting Green Bay district because it happened to have a first minister as its previous MHA.

I would also indicate to the Minister of Environment and Lands that I just a few moments ago took a telephone call from the local newspaper in the Green Bay area, The Nor'wester, and they put a question to me that I must admit I was ignorant of, and that is something called swimmer's itch. It would appear that a couple of ponds that are used for recreation purposes in Green Bay have a certain bug or microbe in them that is parasitic to swimmers and causes skin irritation, etc. The departmental officials in his department, I gather, have refused to post warning signs on the beaches to the effect that swimming could cause skin irritation or other illness. I would bring this to the minister's attention, that the local newspaper is on this matter and local people are concerned.

MR. SIMMS:

Why would they refuse to put up a few signs?

MR. HEWLETT:

Why they would refuse to put up signs? I do not know, Mr. Speaker, but that is the complaint that is now in the local newspaper, and I would commend the attention of the Environment Minister to this matter.

Mr. Speaker, I have sat in this House now for a few weeks, I spent fifteen years as a political aide

and now I am a politician. I indicated earlier to the Government House Leader that Green Bay is being persecuted and I think that is the case. Green Bay does not have everything done. We have been in Confederation for forty years, Mr. Speaker, and for the first twenty-three absolutely nothing was done in Green Bay when it was on the Liberal Government side. Even when Premier Smallwood's son was our member we got nothing. Brian Peckford's tenure of seventeen years could not completely cure what needed to be done in the district of Green Bay and there a lot of things needing to be done.

The government, Mr. Speaker, can spend where it chooses and it is my point that the government chose not to spend in Green Bay and the people of Green Bay are very well aware of the fact that spending was not done there and they are highly suspicious, Mr. Speaker, that the district is being picked on because Brian Peckford was the former minister. There is a myth on the go that we have everything. It is front page headlines in last Wednesday's edition, 'Green Bay Getting Shafted'.

MR. GRIMES:

You are the member who did the shafting.

MR. HEWLETT:

I did not shaft Green Bay, Mr. Speaker.

MR. GRIMES:

You got elected, right?

MR. HEWLETT:

I got elected, Mr. Speaker, and the people of Green Bay are getting done in, not because of me, because certainly I have

spoken out enough on behalf of Green Bay, Green Bay is getting done in because of who the former minister was, a man who made the lives of the Liberals in this Province miserable for quite a long time.

MR. GRIMES:

Who suggested that headline in the paper?

MR. HEWLETT:

I did not suggest the headline, Mr. Speaker, as the member for Exploits is indicating. The paper wrote its own headline. I just told the paper the facts.

It seems I am hitting a raw spot, Mr. Speaker. I made a speech yesterday and the Minister of Social Services went at me personally because I renovated the Premier's office during a ten year term working in it. Maybe the people from Green Bay will continue to elect me, Mr. Speaker, because whatever I am saying is touching a sensitive nerve on the other side, or should I say a responsive discord from the other side. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, my district, for whatever reason, is being persecuted. The hon. ministers opposite know it, the press know it and they are becoming irritated when I say it.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Placentia,

MR. HOGAN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to thank Leader No. 2 for his support and his generosity. However, I just want

to inform the House that Rambo is alive and well. He showed up on the Trans-Canada yesterday and with his trucks and forklifts descended upon the community of Fairhaven and stole the fish belonging to the communities of Southern Harbour, Little Harbour and Fairhaven. The Grinch that stole Christmas, well, he showed up yesterday in Fairhaven, Mr. Speaker. If I might, just for the sake of being accused of repetition, my good friend enumerated again the small, nitty-picky items that were used to close that plant and take three tractor loads of fish, 120,000 of fish valued at \$40,000 to \$50,000 away from the fishermen, with nobody getting paid. Now, on that list, Mr. Speaker, there are a number of items, particularly the one that deals with the plywood top table. Mr. Speaker, I have been in the occupational health and safety business for twenty-five years or more, and I am used to enforcing regulations. When I found a discrepancy like that, if you found an unsafe ladder in the workplace, for example, you would take the ladder. I would not shut down the pellet plant, the furnace building, or the fish plant. So if they had to walk in, take the bloody table on them, and throw it over the wharf, then they would have to get a good table. It was only a splitting table.

Now, all the others on it, I cannot accept at all as solid discrepancies, to do anything other than warn the operator. I have been investigating this thing, had the full co-operation of the Minister of Fisheries, and we concur, to a degree, that the operator was not 100 per cent right. Do you see the RNC going to the end of the street down

there and arresting people and repossessing their cars for going through a stop sign? These kind of high-handed methods on the part of officials have to be tempered with some sensitivity and some compassion.

These men and women in Little Harbour, Fairhaven and Southern Harbour depend on the fishery for a living, and it is all they have down there. Caplin has not been that good a catch this year. They were depending on a good cod fishery. They were depending on the operator there to take the fish into that particular plant, which incidentally is owned by the Province. And, to give you some background, the operator did come to the Province, did receive instructions on what to do and what not to do, and even came up with some financial assistance to do the things that had to be done. The things that had to be done amounted to only about \$5000. It will be said that the operator is probably at fault because he did not come in and pick up his license. Still there is no reason to take, or seize, 120,000 pounds of fish, just take it away and shut down the plant. I would like to thank members opposite, and the members on this side, for their support in this particular issue. Yes, I use the word that somebody else used earlier, I think we have to keep the pressure on all of these things concerning the fishery, and be non-partisan in our approach.

I would also like to advise the House that the Department of Fisheries, under the minister's direction, has checked out the product and has found that it is safely stored and that his officials are on the scene at the fish plant this morning to see

that everything is brought up to snuff. I think they bought some toilet paper with them and some paper towels. I do not know if the brass doorknobs that we had downstairs hidden away for a while would suffice, or they brought an elastic band or something to make the door self-closing. But anyway, provincial officials are on the scene this morning and they are co-operating and working with the operator to get that plant up to snuff. And, hopefully, the product will be back in the hands of the fishermen. They will get paid, the operator will get paid and probably at the end of the weekend, or probably before that, within hours, this terrible episode will come to a happy conclusion.

But it is just an example, Mr. Speaker, of what grief and hardship can be brought to three communities by the heavy-handed approach by officialdom, whether they are ours or whether they are someone else's. And I would urge this House to at least encourage our officials, when carrying out their duties to temper with sensitivity and compassion for the people on the other side.

And I am not condoning the wrongdoings of people, but we have to understand and we have to set some measure of priority. As a matter of fact, I was horrified the other night in one of the Estimates Committees when one of the hon. members there, and I am not sure who it was, bought up that some time ago, within the last month or so, a resident of his constituency in Labrador was sentenced to two weeks for catching ten pounds of trout, trout, actually, that they themselves have put in the waters and then let them grow and went

back to retrieve. Two weeks! If memory serves me one was a senior citizen. So he is spending his retiring years in comfort in a cell for two weeks. That is heavy-handed officialdom, Mr. Speaker. And I would urge all members of this hon. House in contact with officialdom, in contact with members, in contact with ministers and their friends, both parties, to ease off on the heavy ironhanded methods that are apparently being practiced by certain officials.

I will not bother to use up all of my time, Mr. Speaker, and I thank you for your attention and thank all hon. members for their support in this particular incident.

Thank you.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I want to have a few words in the concurrence debate. Mr. Speaker, I just listened to the hon. member for Placentia concerning the fishery and concerning what activity has happened in the last twenty-four or thirty-six hours out in the area. I am wondering if the member realizes and the minister realizes that most of those fishermen who have sold their fish to this particular buyer have not received any money so far. Those fishermen have not received any financial payment. I had several calls last night

because I think the hon. gentleman knows that I do have some interest in that particular area, as relatives of mine are among those people sold fish to Mr. Wadman.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, I hope the Minister of Fisheries will make some comments after I am finished, because I am just wondering, Mr. Speaker, was there a processor's licence issued to this particular company? When was it issued? And did stipulations accompany this processor's licence? I think it is only fair to say, at the same time, that the particular company has not in the past followed all the rules and regulations of the game.

I think that is a fair assumption, Mr. Minister, and I am just wondering if you should enlighten the House as to whether all the rules and regulations of the game have been addressed by this particular buyer. The fishermen are really concerned. They are wondering now what they are going to do with the receipts that they received from the purchaser, whether they have to take them to the Saltfish Corporation or whether it is going to be the federal government. It is a very, very serious problem.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to mention about the fisheries in my district. I am quite pleased, in fact I am estatic, knowing that we have two tenders closed now for a new fish plant in Nain and a new fish plant in Makkovik. I know the hon. member for Gander is looking at me. I might add these were initiatives by the former government. The Marine Center at Makkovik was an initiative by the former government.

Mr. Speaker, furthermore, I would

think it is going to be very, very beneficial. Mr. Minister, I appreciate your time with the Hopedale delegation a couple of days ago. We have to address the serious problem at Hopedale concerning some kind of a processing facility there in that community. As you know, Mr. Speaker, the fisheries is a very, very bright spot for Northern Labrador, but I think, as Mr. Flowers has said to the minister, 'Give us a chance to get some of it. Let us not just have long liners coming in from other parts of Labrador and Newfoundland and taking all our fish. Give us an opportunity to catch some.'

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to go to the Minister of Development. I cannot talk about the Department of Development unless I have the full attention of the minister. Mr. Speaker, I want to say again that the Minister of Fisheries, the Minister of Development and the Minister of Employment and Labour Relations, those three ministers were the only three ministers who took time out to meet my delegation that was in last week for several days to meet the ministers. So those three ministers I want to commend. They gave us their time, the Minister of Employment and Labour Relations, the Minister of Fisheries, and the Minister of Development.

Now, there were four other ministers asked to meet with them -

MR. SIMMS:  
Gibbons?

MR. WARREN:  
No, no!

- and not one of them would meet with them. They came up with

excuses. In fact, the minister they wanted to meet with more than anyone else was the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs.

Mr. Speaker, there was also, besides him, the Minister of Education.

MR. SIMMS:  
Not important enough for him.

MR. WARREN:  
No.

Knowing the Minister of Education, I have to tell you this one. This is the best ever.

I said to the Minister of Education, 'You would not take time to meet with my delegation.' He said, 'Well, I was going to meet with them.' I said, 'But you told an ADM to meet with them.' With that he met us in the hallway and he held out his hand, as he usually does, and he said, 'How are you getting on. I met you before.' This was the first time this gentleman had ever been into St. John's, the first time this gentleman ever saw the minister. It was really ironic that the Minister of Education said, 'I met you before, we talked before,' and all this kind of stuff.

Anyway, I want to go back to the Minister of Development. This is a very, very serious concern.

MR. GRIMES:  
You are going to get a lot more if you keep getting on like that.

MR. SIMMS:  
No threats now. You already threatened one group and got chastised for it by the Premier.

MR. WARREN:  
Mr. Speaker, I also want to say

that the Premier even took time out to meet with the delegation.

MR. SIMMS:  
He did?

MR. WARREN:  
Sure.

Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed with the Minister of Education, I am disappointed with the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs, and I am disappointed with the Minister of Finance. They wanted to meet with the Minister of Finance, too, by the way, but he was glued onto his chair and he could not meet with them.

Anyway, I want to get back to the Minister of Development because it is very serious. The government operates five stores in the North, and I think, in all fairness and not because this individual was part of the government in the past two or three years, there were a lot of improvements carried out in those stores.

MR. SIMMS:  
Do not be so modest.

MR. WARREN:  
However, there are problems. For example, in Hopedale itself, the minister heard two gentlemen with opposite points of view. The mayor said, 'No drygoods in the government store.' A councillor said, 'Yes, we want drygoods in the store. In fact, 85 per cent of the people in Hopedale, by a petition, have said they want drygoods in the store. But the problem is, the mayor is a businessman in the community.

AN HON. MEMBER:  
Is he a Liberal?

MR. WARREN:

Well, it is very, very, interesting about the Mayor of Hopedale. I wished the Mayor of Hopedale was in the gallery now - he was earlier, and is on his way back. In 1985, when I made the wise decision to join this party, the Mayor of Hopedale, at that time, thought he made a wise decision; he switched over, too. So, the Mayor of Hopedale, I would think, is pretty well painted red these days. But that is beside the point, we just crossed to opposite sides.

MR. FUREY:

He was a Tory when you were a Liberal, and when you became a Tory, he became a Liberal?

MR. WARREN:

That is right.

MR. FUREY:

That makes sense - right or wrong.

MR. WARREN:

So, Mr. Speaker, I am just saying we do have a concern, and I tell the minister now in advance, that probably on Tuesday, I will have a petition concerning the same thing to present in this House, from another community, which says they want drygoods in stores.

I say to the minister, the drygoods were not put in the stores during the election, and the minister wants to know why not. I suppose, Mr. Speaker, it would be only fair for me to tell him. I advised the staff not to put the drygoods in the stores during the election. I had already beaten my opponent; I think he saved his nomination fee by one vote. Just imagine, if the drygoods were in the stores, with all the communities 95 per cent in favour, they would have said I

used government influence to get more votes. I would not do that. So I made sure drygoods were not put in the stores until after the election.

MR. FUREY:

You were restructuring your riding from Goose Bay, by the way?

AN HON. MEMBER:

Has the minister been to Hopedale?

MR. WARREN:

No, he is going up this Summer. He advised me that he is going to be travelling with me this Summer. He has asked me to come along with him. I am sure he will have a good insight on the North. I am quite pleased the minister is going up because I believe a minister should go up there and find out for himself exactly what is going on.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know my time is short, but I do have another comment.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member's time has elapsed.

MR. WARREN:

I want to ask the Minister of Health, where are the logs of the aircraft from May 29 to June 5? The minister said if he can legally do so, he will table the logs of this particular flight. Now, the minister has said that publicly, so when will he table those flight reports of the Commander aircraft from St. Anthony to St. John's and return between the dates of May 29 and June 5?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. member's time has elapsed.

The hon. the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture.



MR. FLIGHT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I had no intention, Mr. Speaker, of getting involved in this debate, but when my good friend from Grand Falls with whom I want so much to co-operate in this House, asked some very sensible questions and requested I stand and give the answers, I could not resist it. And now, he is leaving, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMMS:

More research.

MR. FLIGHT:

More research. Call Abitibi and Kruger. Do you want the phone numbers?

MR. SIMMS:

I had them long before you did.

MR. FLIGHT:

Yes, I know. But, to answer his questions, Mr. Speaker, about the spray program, whose advice I acted upon or did not act upon, the fact is, Mr. Speaker, the spray program was implemented after I had the advice of all my officials, all the federal people who had input into the thing, all the paper companies, days and days of discussion, and the decision was made based on the advice of all those very, very knowledgeable people, Mr. Speaker. And the member will be glad to know that, given the scope of the program, given the fact that we were only spraying 6,000 hectares, given the fact that the looper infestation was about to collapse, given the fact that we had four options, I suppose - one option was not to spray at all, another option was to spray with 100 per cent Bt, another option was to spray with 100 per cent fenitrothion, and another option was to use a

percentage of both - based on all the advice that I could get from my officials, we agreed, Mr. Speaker, given all those circumstances, that Bt would provide an acceptable level of protection for the trees, and that is what we are doing, Mr. Speaker. This program that I just outlined, Bt would provide an acceptable level of protection and, of course, based on all that advice we went with the Bt program. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, there was a great sigh of relief across this Province when the word went out that we were going to go with Bt in this particular year.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. FLIGHT:

Mr. Speaker, you see the member standing in the door. I raised this earlier in the House, that they made such a fuss, that it was so wrong this year to spray 6,000 hectares of forest with Bt, but it was so right to spray 23,000 hectares last year.

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition, Leader No. 1, not Leader No. 2, Mr. Speaker, got up in the House and asked me if I had taken into consideration the New Brunswick experience. Did I not know that the spray program in New Brunswick was a dismal failure, that it had not worked this year, so this year they decided that they would not go with a total Bt program? Does the member for Grand Falls know how many thousand hectares has been sprayed in New Brunswick this year with Bt, in spite of the great failure? How many?

MR. SIMMS:

Several thousand.

MR. FLIGHT:

One hundred thousand hectares have been sprayed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. FLIGHT:

The point is that the member and the Leader of the Opposition made a big deal, raised a great fuss because Newfoundland was spraying 6,000 hectares. If I had done what New Brunswick had done -

MR. SIMMS:

How about what your officials told you?

MR. FLIGHT:

Now that deals with the hon. member, Mr. Speaker, on the spray program.

Now let me inform the hon. member about the silviculture agreement with Abitibi and with Kruger. I want to tell the member, yes, the agreements are in place, much to his sorrow. The silviculture program will go on and it will be enhanced. It may be bigger than last year. The companies are as happy as pigs in mud.

MR. SIMMS:

Yes.

MR. FLIGHT:

Almost as happy as the member would be if he was in mud, I suppose, almost as happy as the member would be.

But anyway, Mr. Speaker, the paper companies are totally pleased and they cannot believe the atmosphere of cooperation that exists with this government, because of this minister's involvement with them. The silviculture program is going on. The documents have been signed and we will have a great

silviculture program with Kruger and Abitibi-Price with a view to providing the kind of forest management both companies want and need.

Mr. Speaker, he might want to remind me about what else it was he asked me about.

MR. SIMMS:

Forest rangers.

MR. FLIGHT:

Mr. Speaker, the forest ranger problem that he raised, I have had discussions with my officials and they have agreed, Mr. Speaker, we do not know how severe it is, but the problem that he alluded to may well be there. It is an internal problem, as he knows. It is not a problem that involves paper companies, other than indirectly, and we are reviewing the situation and we are going to get to the bottom of it, and if there is any way to take care of the problem that he alludes to, it will be taken care of.

Now he wants to know, Mr. Speaker, about production at Wooddale. The member for Grand Falls saw Wooddale, in his years as a minister, as his own private employment agency.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. FLIGHT:

He had his own private employment agency, albeit it was not in his own district. He almost went as far in Wooddale as he did in Catamaran Park, Mr. Speaker, in Windsor - Buchans, when he took thirteen students out of Grand Falls and moved them in to work in Catamaran Park.

It was not that blatant in

Wooddale, but almost as blatant. And I had to live with this, Mr. Speaker, after I became the member and became the minister. People would go down to Wooddale who wanted work and they would go down and say, 'Can I put an application in for a job in Wooddale this Summer?' And the people there would say, 'No. No. It is no good for you to come here, you have to go and see Mr. Simms.' And they would look at them and say, 'Why should we have to go see the hon. member for Grand Falls?' Because they have come to a point down there they knew that the hon. member for Grand Falls was the chief employment officer for Wooddale and the people that he named went in there and went to work.

And I had to labour under that, and I had to dispel that nonsense that no more would they be coming to the minister. No more! From now we have fairness and balance. I understand that a few of the member's constituents have gone to work recently in Wooddale. Fairness and balance. I understand this Summer there are people going in and working in Wooddale from Grand Falls. We have applications there and the instructions are to make sure they are treated the same as any other applicant.

MR. SIMMS:

You mean recalls.

MR. FLIGHT:

Recalls or whatever. Well, any recalls have to be from Grand Falls because that is the most that is there.

MR. SIMMS:

Let me speak now.

MR. FLIGHT:

Mr. Speaker, I want the member to know that Wooddale is now operating as a tree nursery as it should, and they no longer have a member who acts as their employment agent. From now on the employees will be treated with -

MR. SIMMS:

Fairness and balance.

MR. FLIGHT:

- fairness and balance. And his constituents, unlike those of poor old Windsor - Buchans, Mr. Speaker, who for sixteen years did not have a monkey's chance to get a job in Wooddale or a park or anything else, while he was a powerful minister.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, something else just came into my mind, and I will wind up on this. The House will know, Mr. Speaker, that in 1987 I resigned to create a by-election to have my Leader elected to the House of Assembly, and we all felt so proud, Mr. Speaker, and so secure and so safe.

Within days the hon. the member for Grand Falls came out and called a press conference in Grand Falls and announced that as of this day the Premier had asked him to take responsibility for Windsor - Buchans, in the absence of the hon. member who just resigned and who just sold out, and all the unniceties.

MR. SIMMS:

What did you think we were going to do?

MR. FLIGHT:

We all felt great! Windsor - Buchans will now be looked after and we were sure the new courthouse would be built in Grand Falls.

MR. SIMMS:

Sure, that was already decided.

MR. FLIGHT:

Now, Mr. Speaker, never mind what was decided. There were lot of things decided six months ago that are not so today. There were a lot of decisions made three months ago that are not so today.

MR. SIMMS:

How silly!

MR. FLIGHT:

Mr. Speaker, I made a statement to the fact that I was so pleased that pending the election, until we had our own member, we now had a man of the integrity and the strength and the courage and the clout of the hon. the member for Grand Falls.

Then, Mr. Speaker, about fifteen months later I picked up *The Advertiser* one day. We had not seen hide nor hair of the member. The only time we heard of the member was when he was putting something else in Grand Falls that should have come to Windsor.

MR. MURPHY:

That is right.

MR. FLIGHT:

So we lived with the reality. Then one day I picked up the paper, *The Advertiser*, and here was the hon. the member for Grand Falls criticizing me, and I was not even a member of the House of Assembly. He was saying how Mr. Wells, the member for Windsor - Buchans, had announced publicly that he would run in Humber East. And the minister, of course, being the new media hawk he is - by the way, he does not own *The Grand Falls Advertiser* any more. If you find him in *The Advertiser*, he is on the third page. He does

not get the first page any more.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. FLIGHT:

Anyway, he was all offended because the Premier is now going to run in Humber East, he sold out the people of Windsor - Buchans, it was a political game, it was like a hot potato, I quit and now he is quitting and all this. Anyway, I had the privilege of going into Grand Falls and *The Advertiser* accepted that I had a right to respond and I responded. One day I will get a copy and send it over to the member. The most hypocritical statement ever made by a politician in this Province was the statement made by the hon. member, my good friend, my bosom buddy, the member for Grand Falls. That is what I said in *The Advertiser*, and a lot more too, on the front page. And the timing was perfect, because it came about a month or two before the general election.

Mr. Speaker, I am looking forward to only one more thing in my political career. We have cut the Cabinet from twenty-three to fifteen, and there is a possibility, Mr. Speaker -

MR. SIMMS:

No, no! Nineteen.

MR. FLIGHT:

The Cabinet I knew when I was watching the abuse from over there, was twenty-three.

Here is the last political milestone I am looking forward to. The Premier has indicated cutting back, and he is cutting back, and I hear through the grapevine he might be looking at reducing the number of districts,

in which case the obvious coming together is Grand Falls - Windsor.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. FLIGHT:

After fourteen or fifteen years in politics, Mr. Speaker, if I am going to go out, the way I would like to go out would be by being defeated by the hon. the member for Grand Falls. Or if I am going to continue, Mr. Speaker, for another few years, the greatest satisfaction would be to walk into his office in Grand Falls on polling night and say, 'Do you need a job as executive assistant?'

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. FLIGHT:

Mr. Speaker, if indeed the Premier gets around to reducing the districts to forty-one or forty-two, then I would have to assume that Grand Falls - Windsor would be a logical choice. And that would be the crowning cap, Mr. Speaker, for myself and the hon. member to go door to door against each other in Grand Falls - Windsor.

In the 1985 election I had a great motorcade in Windsor the day prior to polling day, 200 or 300 cars, and we were going around Windsor and the people were hanging out through their windows and there was their member, and there was no question as to what the majority was going to be. We came around a corner and here were two people, and the street was red. One of the members talked about the blue zone. Well, this was the red zone, in Windsor. I said, 'Who is that?' And would you believe it? It was the hon. member - another few hours in Windsor and he would

have lost that election. He came within forty-one votes of losing it - and here he was, with my good friend the P.C. candidate, Mr. McLennon, out knocking on doors in Windsor - Coronation Street I think it was.

I stopped the parade - I was in the lead car - called over my good friend, the ex-minister, soon to be the ex-member, and I told him, 'Look, I am getting vibes. I am getting the word that you are in trouble in Grand Falls, Len. You should not be out there. Look at the street. The street is red. You need to do some more campaigning in Grand Falls.' Nah, he was going to win it by a landslide. You know, all his good Tory Friends and all the people he gave jobs to in Wooddale, all the low rentals he got for all his friends, all the jobs he could put up in Catamaran Park, they were all going to vote for him. He lost the town of Grand Falls, as I lost a town in Windsor district.

AN HON. MEMBER:

He never lost Grand Falls.

MR. WARREN:

Oh, yes, he lost Grand Falls.

But he did not believe me, Mr. Speaker. Well, he believed me two days later when Mr. McLennon went down to flaming defeat, 800 or 900 votes lost. By the way, the very street you were on was the one where he took the worst loss. That was the poll he lost worse.

Lo and behold! Mr. Speaker, when the ballots were counted that night the hon. member went to bed having lost the election and woke up the next morning having won it, thanks to the good sense of the students from Grand Falls at the University.

MR. SIMMS:

You got yourself in trouble on that once before.

MR. FLIGHT:

I got out of it too, though, did I not?

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

The hon. member's time has elapsed.

MR. FLIGHT:

Mr. Speaker, I enjoyed that ten minutes. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Opposition House Leader.

MR. SIMMS:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I believe the hon. member had more than ten minutes, actually. But it does not matter, because he said nothing in the ten minutes that made any sense.

Now, I had not intended to speak again in this debate. I have already spoken a couple of times, and I did not want to get off track from debating the Resource Estimates Committees. However, once you are lured and once you are enticed, once you are encouraged, particularly after listening to the speech from somebody such as the Minister of Forestry, the member Windsor - Buchans; you really have no choice, you are forced to respond, you are forced to get up and comment.

I have to say, first of all, that the main thing that encouraged me to get up was that he spent his entire ten or fifteen minutes personally attacking me. That was all he talked about. He gets up

jumping with joy every time he can, any chance he gets to attack poor old me. You would not know but I was on his back for the last fifteen years or so. Then he spent at least three minutes talking about the coverage I get in **The Grand Falls Advertiser**. Well, you talk about jealous! That is all you could ever call it, jealousy.

MR. HEWLETT:

Windsor might have been red, but the member is green.

MR. SIMMS:

The member keeps calling me 'minister'. I do not know why.

MR. DOYLE:

Because you look like a minister.

MR. DECKER:

How long (inaudible).

MR. SIMMS:

I am not going to respond to the Minister of Health because he is too arrogant. I am not going to talk to him at all.

Anyway, the member for Windsor - Buchans - I do not want to be thrown off track now, Mr. Speaker - spent a good bit of time talking about all the coverage I get in **The Grand Falls Advertiser**. That is all that has ever been on his mind. Since I got involved in politics, that is all that has ever been on his mind. He used to call me behind the curtains, Mr. Speaker, and he would say, 'Boy, you are getting some coverage in **The Advertiser**. you own **The Advertiser**? Have you got a share in **The Advertiser**.' And he says it has all changed now.

He talked about one story he got on the front page, one story, and that is about all he will get, one

a year. He might get one a year.

AN HON. MEMBER:

He has been here fifteen years and got one story.

MR. SIMMS:

As a matter of fact, just look at the last issue of **The Grand Falls Advertiser**, just look at the last issue.

MR. FLIGHT:

Last night's editorial.

MR. SIMMS:

Never mind last night's editorial, the last issue. Not yesterday's, the last issue. If you look in that **Advertiser** you will see there is one tiny, little reference to the Minister of Forestry, and I still have three stories in there.

I mean, his own colleagues on that side of the House - the Minister of Social Services was kind enough to send me notification of community development project approvals in the District of Exploits.

AN HON. MEMBER:

What?

MR. SIMMS:

Yes, the Minister of Social Services sent me notification of two community development projects in the District of Exploits. So, what did I do with them? I immediately put out a news release to announce them, and that was one of the three stories in **The Advertiser** the other day. Now I cannot help it.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Why did you not send them back?

MR. SIMMS:

In the budget you look through the

Estimates in the budget there was \$2.1 million there for the Grand Falls Hospital expansion, but nobody on that side announced it. Nobody on that side even made reference to it. I looked it up, I saw it there in the Estimates, so I put out an announcement on it. The press said, 'How did you find out about that, Mr. Simms? We did not hear anything from the government?' I said, 'I looked in the Estimates. It is written there right in the Estimates.' So I cannot help it if I get coverage in **The Grand Falls Advertiser**. I say to the hon. member, **The Advertiser** is noted for publishing statements by people who have something to say.

MR. DOYLE:

Right on!

MR. SIMMS:

And the only time I have ever been in there is when I have had something to say. Now he made reference to this little election campaign in 1985, or whenever it was, and he walked up to the East end of Windsor and he saw me out door-to-dooring with our candidate at the time, in an area that is noted to be Liberal. I concede that, but I did what I could to help my colleague. What the member did not refer to, of course, was that in the previous election, in 1982, I was up in the same end of Windsor, and in 1982, the member will recall, he was defeated.

MR. FLIGHT:

But I won Windsor.

MR. SIMMS:

He won Windsor, but he was defeated.

Now I wonder if the member would like to extend it even up to 1989,

this most recent election? Where the hon. member won by 800 or 900 votes the last time, this time, I think, he wond by 120, or something like that.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMS:

A fairly good majority -

MR. FLIGHT:

A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMMS:

One hundred and seventy-four.

MR. FLIGHT:

Okay, fine. No point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMMS:

Do not be wasting my time.

The point is, it was 800 or 900 votes last time. I wonder if the member won the Town of Windsor this time?

MR. FLIGHT:

Yes.

MR. DOYLE:

By how much?

MR. FLIGHT:

I had to have run an advertisement

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Order!

MR. SIMMS:

The hon. member had his ten minutes. Do not get excited. Just relax.

MR. FLIGHT:

(Inaudible) in Windsor, there is one there today.

MR. SIMMS:

If the member checks, I think he will find he did not win the Town of Windsor in this election. And I was out and did some door-to-dooring with my colleague, the candidate there in Windsor, this time as well.

But I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, if it is the intention of the government, if it is the intention of the Premier, as the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture has just announced here in the House, to eliminate Grand Falls district electorally and join it with Windsor to make one district of Grand Falls - Windsor - Buchans, if I were thinking at all about political retirement at the end of this term, if I were giving it any consideration at all, if they were to make that kind of a change I think I would be awfully tempted to forget it if I could be assured by the Premier that he would make certain that the member for Windsor - Buchans would be the Liberal candidate. Now that is the thing I really would like.

MR. FLIGHT:

(Inaudible).

MR. SIMMS:

What did I win by this time? A couple of thousand, or seventeen hundred, something like that. Seventeen hundred. We won the Town of Windsor this time and I was not even the candidate. I would say now that I would have a pretty good shot at that seat.

MR. DOYLE:

But would you take him as your executive assistant?

MR. SIMMS:

The crowning point in the minister's was when he said, 'He would like to walk into my polling station and ask me if I would like



to be his executive assistant?' Well, I mean, is that not something! An admission that he recognized I would have some ability in working politically.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SIMMS:

However, I have to confess, and this is for the record, that if found myself in that circumstance, if I were successful and I became the winner in that so-called seat of Grand Falls - Windsor, I must confess that I do not think I would hire the hon. member as my executive assistant. I have to be honest.

MR. FLIGHT:

Why?

MR. SIMMS:

Now, I might do as Kirby, as Clyde - Clyde Kirby - I might do as the Premier did, appoint him to the Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal Board, which is what normally happens to defeated Liberals. I might do something like that. That is possible. I would consider that. I might even go out and rent his building in Buchans. That is possible. There are all kinds of things I might do to help the member if he were defeated once again.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Be kind.

MR. SIMMS:

But I certainly would not appoint him as my executive assistant. Now that is enough of that nonsense. That was the total nonsense the member got on with and I just had to respond to it, Mr. Speaker.

I want to talk about the substance

of the questions I had asked earlier which he so conveniently avoided answering; he skated all around and pretended he answered them. He mentioned what the topics were and he quickly skirted through them, he did not give any substantial answers to my questions. He is trying to paint the picture that we were criticizing the minister and the government because they had decided to spray only with Bt. And Old Bt Baker himself is trying to paint that picture.

Again, that is not the point of my question to the minister over the last few weeks. The point of my question was that the minister absolutely ignored the advice of his officials and imposed this decision only because the Liberal Party itself had taken that as their position and wanted to save some face. That was the reason. That was the only point of my questions. It has nothing to do with our being against spraying with Bt or the fact that only 600,000 hectares are being sprayed. I knew all that, for God's sake! I mean, that was in the system months before. The point is I also know that his officials - recommended strongly, along with the Federal Forestry scientists, along with the Forestry personnel, professional personnel with the industry, that there should be a combined spray used, fenitrothion in the more heavily infested areas because it has been proven, and Bt in those areas that were environmentally sensitive. I know that is what their recommendations were, and I asked the minister to confirm that that was their recommendations. But he never did. That is the point of that question and, of course, he did not address it.

With respect to the extension of the silviculture program with the paper companies, I am not surprised the minister tells us today that that is all finalized, all in place. I think that is what he was telling us, because we had all the leg work done on that months before, and that was precisely my purpose in raising the question two days ago in the House of Assembly. That was all in place. The paper companies had agreed and signed months ago; they were waiting for the government to come back. We would have come back promptly, because it was only a matter of a signature, quite frankly. And I was asking the minister two days ago why they did not sign that agreement. My colleague, the last Minister of Forestry, had a Cabinet paper sent into the system and it was up at the Executive Council in March month, late March, so it was taking a long time, and I was fearful

MR. FLIGHT:

You were being an alarmist.

MR. SIMMS:

I was not being an alarmist, I was fearful that the companies would, in fact, pull out of that silviculture program this Summer if they did not get an agreement. That is why I urged the minister two days ago to get off his behind and do something about it. And you know something? As soon as I raised it, two days ago, he announces Friday, two days later, that it is all put in place. Now, why did he not do that four weeks ago so there would not be any anxiety created among those people who were silviculture workers? That was the big problem, and that was the reason I raised it.

I am pleased to see he is going to

have his officials check into the concerns I raised at the Estimates Committee the other morning with respect to morale problems internally with respect to the forest rangers. It is an important issue, it is an important problem, it is a matter that was brought to my attention by forest rangers themselves, and I assured them I would bring it to the House of Assembly. I am pleased to see him admit here today that indeed there is a problem. He was not aware of it, but now he is aware of it and he is going to try to have his officials do what they can about it.

Now, I have to conclude with a comment on the Wooddale Nursery, Mr. Speaker, because the minister made reference to the Wooddale Nursery. Now, the member for Gander would not want to see me give up an opportunity to respond to the kinds of comments, attacks, criticisms, and allegations the minister made.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

The hon. member's time has elapsed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

By leave.

MR. SIMMS:

I just need a couple of minutes, Mr. Speaker. We are ready to conclude.

AN HON. MEMBER:

We have a speaker over here.

MR. SIMMS:

Oh, you have a speaker over there, do you? Who is that?

AN HON. MEMBER:

Mr. Short.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Short. Well, we are prepared to extend beyond 11:15. That is no big problem. I do not want to be distracted from the main thrust of my comments to be directed at the minister for the criticisms he laid here today, and the unfair allegations he laid here today about me having the Wooddale Tree Nursery as my own private employment agency.

AN HON. MEMBER:

That is right.

MR. SIMMS:

Now, can you, for a minute, believe that, Mr. Speaker? I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, what I will do. I will get a list of the employees at the Wooddale Tree Nursery.

AN HON. MEMBER:

From your office.

MR. SIMMS:

No, not from my office. It is easily available, and you will find that the majority of employees at Wooddale Nursery are from districts outside Grand Falls, including Windsor - Buchans. Many people in Windsor-Buchans, when that member was the member before he was a minister, used to call me looking for help to try and get employment, and I help anybody who calls me; I make representations on their behalf and encourage ministers to consider their applications. I do that all the time, and I presume ministers over there do it. I would expect them to do it. If a constituent calls and asks you to try to help them get a job, to make representation, or to provide a reference for them, you would not do any of that? You would not do any of that for a constituent? Who do

you think is going to believe that? Do not be so silly, boy, for the Lord's sake, Mr. Speaker.

Anyway, I did that many times and I got jobs for lots of people from Windsor - Buchans. I got jobs for people from Exploits.

AN HON. MEMBER:

As a minister?

MR. SIMMS:

As a minister, yes, by making representations to my officials, or to staff, asking them to consider them. I even helped get jobs for people from the district of Gander, and the member knows it. Anytime anybody approached me and asked for some help in trying to find employment, I helped them. I did whatever I could, and I am pleased about it, and I am proud of it.

So to suggest that I had the Wooddale Nursery as my own private employment agency, I mean, what foolishness and silliness! It reminds me of Clyde's favourite comment, 'Silly and stupid'. That is exactly what it is.

I can tell you, if the member for Windsor - Buchans is not successful in the next election, if I am successful in face-to-face combat with him and he is defeated, I will use every bit of influence I can to find him a job at the Wooddale Tree Nursery.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for St. George's.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Happy Birthday, Larry.

MR. SHORT:  
Birthday speech.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. SHORT:  
Mr. Speaker, I was going to start off by commending the member for Carbonear for his excellent job as Chairman of the Resource Estimates Committee, but yesterday there were a couple of comments made in the House which make me want to divert from that particular issue. I wish the Leader of the Opposition was here this morning, because I certainly take issue with some comments he made yesterday with reference to the election.

MR. SIMMS:  
Be careful now, because the time has expired.

MR. SHORT:  
Be fair! Be fair!

Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition, when he was up speaking, was talking about the 47 per cent Liberal vote and the 48 per cent P.C. vote, and he made some comments relative to the fact that we had thirty-one members and there were only twenty-one in Opposition, and the vote of the NDP, and that we should be bowing down to the Leader of the NDP every time he came into the gallery.

I can tell the members opposite that in St. George's district there was no NDP member. They could not even find one to run. Not only that, but in St. George's district they could not find a P.C. candidate to run and they had to parachute somebody in from Port au Port.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. SHORT:  
Having taught a democracy course in high school for the last three years, and you start playing around with the figures of 47 per cent and 48 per cent, it becomes quite obvious that every person on this side of the House won by a majority, every individual, and that is what counts, it has nothing to do with 47 per cent or 48 per cent. So I would just like to remind the hon. members of that.

The other thing I would like to say in connection with the comments of the Leader of the Opposition yesterday is, if there is any thanks to be given, and in particular any thanks to be given for me winning in St. George's district, they would have to go to Mr. Dawe and the fact that he resigned two hours before the election was called. I would have to say, as well, if rumors were true, then you had certain people abandoning a sinking ship. Of course, they were smart enough to get out in time.

I would also remind the Leader of the Opposition, if he were here, of the fact that seven or eight or nine, whatever the number was, people resigned before the election as well. So when he talks about the reason why there are thirty-one members over here and just twenty-one over there, I think he should look at the record.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I did intend to talk about the Resource Estimates Committee, and the fact that I was very pleased to have been appointed to serve on that particular Committee. I can tell you that I found all five sessions very informative. For a new

member like myself, it was an education into programs of the different departments. Mr. Speaker, I also found the sessions to be an opportunity to put forward some of my own ideas on what I would like to see done in certain areas.

Right now I would like to comment on a couple of the initiatives that were in the budget and were discussed in the Estimates Committees, in particular the Economic Recovery Commission. And I have to make a comment about the member for Grand Falls who stood in the House in the opening session of the debate on the budget and spent two and a half days, Mr. Speaker, talking about the budget.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Grand Bank.

MR. SHORT:  
I am sorry! Grand Bank.

MR. SHORT:  
In talking about his negative comments about the Economic Recovery Commission, I could not believe the thinking of the person in terms of the fact that there are no areas out there in the Province that can be addressed, there are no areas out there in the Province where we have the potential to grow. I look forward to the Economic Recovery Commission. I really do. And I think if there is an area in this Province where we are going to expand, it will be the work of that group that will help it to happen.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. SHORT:  
Mr. Speaker, I sat on a Community

Futures Committee last year in Stephenville. W.D. Knight Associates produced a document which cost about \$40,000, but they produced a document for the West Coast. It is about 120 pages or so, and it outlines the potential of the area in tourism, in agriculture and fisheries and so on. I think it is going to be the work of the Economic Recovery Commission to use that document and to use the ideas of other groups and so on. I am sure the Economic Recovery Commission is definitely going to be an asset to the recovery of the economic potential in this Province.

MR. HEWLETT:  
It had better be.

MR. SHORT:  
The other thing I would like to comment on is the Task Force on Agriculture. I looked forward to the announcement by the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture. I think it is an excellent move. We need a Task Force on Agriculture, because there is a potential in this Province for agriculture. There definitely is, and I am hoping my district is going to be the beneficiary of that particular Task Force.

Those are the kinds of initiatives that this government is going to get involved in and those are the kinds of initiatives that I believe are going to bring about the economic recovery of this Province.

There were a couple of other things in the Resource Committee that I would just like to touch on. The parks that were discussed on one occasion, and I believe that if we are going to attract tourists to this Province, there is a great deal we can do in the

area of parks, and in the area of providing services to parks. I am sure that this government is going to take under advisement some of the comments that were made in the Committee meetings and so on. The minister involved listened, and I am sure he is going to take it under advisement.

The issue of returnable bottles came up in one of the Resource Committee meetings as well. I know the government is tied into an agreement that came about last year, but it is an area, again, where, if we are going to clean up the environment, we have to provide some stimulus for people to get involved in doing some things on their own. And maybe, just maybe, we can really get into having returnable bottles, and get rid of all those non-returnable bottles and cans and so on. So after the report is in and after the first year or so, then we may just move in that direction. Because I do not believe recycling is going to do the job, and it is not going to do the clean-up we would like to see.

The other thing I would like to comment on, and again it was discussed in the Resource Committee meetings, is the Rural Development Agreement. I was very pleased that the Minister of Development, along with Mr. McKay, last Wednesday, I believe, was able to announce that there will be a new Rural Development Agreement signed very shortly.

For fifteen months we could not get an agreement, and I will guarantee you I am really looking forward to that particular signing. I am sure the Minister of Development is as well.

MR. HODDER:

After all the fuss you kicked up about it, you are a long time trying to get it signed.

MR. SHORT:

We have not been a long time. I mean, if six or seven weeks is a long time, what about fifteen months? That is all I would like to say - fifteen months, and we have only been here five or six weeks.

Before I sit down, the last comment I would like to make is I was very pleased this morning to hear the minister's statement with regard to the High School Athletic Federation, the fact that there is a \$25,000 one-time grant being given to offset the deficit they have incurred, and also an increase of \$15,000 in this budget. I was very pleased to hear that as well. With those comments, Sir, I will sit.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The time for the concurrence debate has elapsed.

Is it the pleasure of the House to concur in this report?

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

MR. BAKER:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for the unanimous consent of the House to now move to an order that would ordinarily not appear until the next sitting day, and that would be the concurrence motion on Government Services. In order to do it right now it would require unanimous consent of the House, so I would ask the Opposition House Leader, in the spirit of

co-operation he alluded to earlier in the sitting today, in the spirit of complete and absolute co-operation pledged by the Opposition House Leader, for this session only, I might add, to consider giving us unanimous consent to proceed with that concurrence debate.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Opposition House Leader.

MR. SIMMS:

Mr. Speaker, it is really a pleasure to see the Government House Leader kowtowing to the Opposition down on bended knee, as he should, when he is not able to properly control the government's agenda or organize the government's agenda in the proper way. If he were, he would have ensured that the member's committee finished earlier so that he could have given the proper one-day notice; he would have ensured that members on his side did not speak beyond the three hours allotted for concurrence, as the member for St. George's has just done, wasting ten minutes of the House. We could have gone on to it by co-operation.

Mr. Speaker, it is only right and proper that the Government House Leader get down on bended knee and make this request.

AN HON. MEMBER:

How silly and stupid.

MR. SIMMS:

Premier Wells: 'How silly and stupid!'

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of members here in our caucus on this side who are pressuring me now, suggesting that maybe we should discuss this. Perhaps we should

recess the House for a couple of minutes, or something like that, and I will confer with the caucus out in the common room. I am not sure if we should do that. I do not know if we should waste the time of the House. We might be able to get concurrence here now, but I can assure him this is agreement only on condition and with the understanding that it is within the spirit of co-operation that we have been exhibiting anyway, all through this session.

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible) tabled the logs.

MR. SIMMS:

Well, there are a number of questions that have been asked. The member asked for a tabling of logs, I have asked the Minister of Forestry questions, and we would expect those answers. But on the condition, one only, Mr. Speaker, that when members get up and speak in the next concurrence debate, dealing with Government Services, they do not attack members on this side personally.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMS:

There will be no personal attacks on members on this side, and that their comments will deal directly with the department's in that area. For example, the member for St. George's concluded by talking about the announcement made by the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs this morning. That was naughty! That was wrong! In fact, that should come up under the next concurrence debate, on Government Services. So the Government House Leader should do more, he should talk to the newer caucus members more and explain the rules and how they

work and everything.

Under that condition, Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to give leave to move on to the next concurrence debate.

MR. BAKER:  
Do I reply to that?

MR. SIMMS:  
No reply.

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

MR. NOEL:  
Well, it is a pleasure to have a lesson in relevance from the hon. member for Grand Falls.

MR. SIMMS:  
You should thank us for giving you leave, letting you do this.

MR. NOEL:  
I thank you for not only giving us that, but for giving us the example of how to deal relevantly with the debates that are before this House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. NOEL:  
It was ten minutes we will always remember.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. NOEL:  
The Wooddale Tree Nursery - was it? - and The Grand Falls Advertiser I think, new resources. Well, I guess the tree nursery is a resource, anyway.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to say a few words about the deliberations of our Committee,

which I found to be a very useful exercise, particularly for new members of this House. It is a great way to get to know how departments operate, and to get to know some of the officials. We had a really satisfying experience. I think three of our meetings were concluded within two to two and a half hours - no, two of them were, and the other two went close to the three hours. We did not have to run over at all.

We heard from the Minister of Employment and Labour Relations; the Minister of Finance; the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs; and the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation, and they brought their officials along with them.

I was impressed by the way the members of the Committee behaved, on both sides of the table. Relevant questions were asked and everybody was very co-operative; we did not have very much confrontation, and we were not too technical about the way we operated. One thing I might suggest for the future is that we ensure that the minutes of those meetings are produced; I think if they could be produced the next day, it would be to everybody's advantage. When we come into the House, people may be able to use them. I noticed that in Question Period the days following people would bring up issues that were discussed the night before, and when we do not have the minutes, it is not as helpful.

I was really impressed by the ministers who appeared before us.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. NOEL:



For ministers who have been in office for just over a month to six weeks, I think they showed an impressive grasp of their departments. No doubt, some of them had an advantage in representing departments that they dealt with as critics, but even if that was the case, I must say I and other members of our Committee were impressed by how competent they seemed to be, and their officials. I have not gotten to know many of the officials of this government over the years at all, but I was impressed by their capacities and their ability to deliver information to us. It is not easy to provide detailed information on the spur of the moment, such as they did. I think we are in good stead in that regard.

Now, just to speak about some of the departments in particular, I must say that I am, as a St. John's member and somebody who has been interested in municipal affairs, very happy to see the way our minister is talking about consolidating municipal entities throughout the Province, particularly in the St. John's region.

Twenty-one separate entities I believe we encompassed, and that certainly does not make sense. Last night the minister indicated that some of his officials believe that there are perhaps six or seven useful divisions we could make, and that would certainly seem to be in order.

In St. John's, for instance, we have Wedgewood Park completely enclosed by the boundaries of St. John's, and we have Mount Pearl developing as a second city. I mean, the whole area is only about 100,000 to 120,000 people. It

would not be a large city population-wise if you put the whole Avalon Peninsula together. I think we can achieve great economies if we do consolidate, and I think we are wasting a lot of money by not doing so. I think the reason we are not doing so is not because our people do not want us to do so, I think there may be vested interests of certain municipal politicians that are dissuading us from doing so. I think our people want us to run more efficient and more effective governments on all levels, and I think we should certainly do so on the municipal level.

The super city concept, I think, is a bit too extreme, but I think an amalgamation that would include St. John's, Mount Pearl, Wedgewood Park, and some of these other areas that are closely knit, should certainly be looked at very seriously.

The other thing I mentioned the other day in the realm of municipal affairs is I think we should look at new legislation to control the raising of funds and the spending of funds for elections by municipal politicians. We do it for ourselves, I think, more so than we do for them, and The Throne Speech indicated that we are going to bring in further legislation to govern ourselves. But as I understand the present situation, there is no control over what municipal politicians can raise for their campaigns, or can receive in the course of their term of office, or can spend on their elections. I think that is wrong and I hope the minister will look at reforms in that area, and also in the area of the term of municipal politicians.

For example, it is seldom that this House serves for a four year term or longer, and it is seldom that the House in Ottawa serves for a four year term or longer. At any rate, we are subject to being dismissed at any time, if a government loses a vote of confidence and the Governor does not believe that somebody else can form a government. But municipal politicians are not subject to that sort of constraint. In lots of municipalities in this country and other countries, the municipal terms are two or three years. I think that keeps the politicians closer to the people, more in tune with what needs to be done, and I think it is a better discipline and it discourages apathy. I think we should look at doing that, and I think we should look at doing those things prior to the elections this Fall, when all of our municipalities, I guess, are coming up.

The other thing, of course, I want to say to the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs, in whatever he does, he should try to economize in the administration of local governments. I am glad to see the government is looking at the creation of a provincial water and sewer authority, and I would certainly support that as long as it does not mean any increased taxes for St. John's residents. St. John's residents presently pay very high municipal taxes; I do not believe they want to pay any higher taxes, and I would suggest to the minister, do whatever we can to economize and to become more efficient, but no more taxes! Down with taxes!

Taxes are getting to be a very serious problem. You can only go so far. There was an article in The Evening Telegram yesterday

on a study by the Fraser Institute. Every year, they project how much of the year we all spend working for various levels of government.

AN HON. MEMBER:

(Inaudible) conservative  
(inaudible).

MR. NOEL:

A good conservative group. My friend is really familiar with the group, no doubt. I am really glad to see that all of you are not rejecting your conservative philosophies over there. In some of the comments you have been making in this session so far, it seems to me that some of you are talking like you are embarrassed about being Conservatives. But do not do so. There is a useful role for conservatism in the government of our Province and, I must say, I think the present situation in this House indicates what the appropriate role is, but it is a role that is useful.

Prior to this year, this Institute determined that July 1 was Freedom Day for taxpayers of Canada. We all work up until July 1 to pay our share of taxes. Only after that do we get money for ourselves. This year, that period has been extended by two days. Now, there are only 365 days in a year. They began doing these studies from 1961, and when they started in 1961 Tax Freedom Day was May 4 - you only had to work until May 4 each year.

MR. DOYLE:

From what month, January?

MR. NOEL:

Yes, January 1. In the calendar year.

MR. DOYLE:

In the calendar year from the first of the year.

MR. NOEL:

Yes, in the calendar year. Back in 1961 you worked from January 1 to May 4 to pay your taxes. This year you have to work from January 1 until July 3, and that is the average Canadian family. Statistics also indicate that the average family spends 44 per cent of its income on the necessities of life. So, by the time you pay your tax bill and you pay for the necessities of life, you get about the last two weeks of the year to generate some savings and to create some luxuries for yourself and your family.

MR. DECKER:

How many months did you say you use up?

MR. NOEL:

You use up the first six months paying taxes, and you use up about the next five or five and-a-half months providing clothing, shelter and food, and you use the next two or three weeks to look after your retirement and your travels South and your university education for your children.

So I trust the Minister of Municipal Affairs will pay some attention to some of those considerations. Also, in the meetings last night, we discussed the Housing Corporation. I think the Housing Corporation has a lot of apartments that are presently rented at fair market value. In other words, they are not subsidized. All these are just properties that the Housing Corporation has that it rents to people who are able to pay market rents. I do not know why the Housing Corporation has properties like that. Why do they not sell

off those properties and use the funds generated - I think the hon. the member for Kilbride had the same thing in mind when he was speaking and asking those questions last night - to provide more housing for people who need subsidies and assistance in providing housing for their families?

AN HON. MEMBER:

Is that a Liberal philosophy?

MR. NOEL:

You might learn in the course of this session, Sir, that sensible thought is not necessarily conservative thought, contrary to what your assumption may have been.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. NOEL:

To get to the Minister of Finance for a few minutes, who I must say has been accused of increasing some of the taxes, he has not brought in any new taxes, I do not think, because you people exhausted those opportunities in the past. He has had to increase a few taxes to make up for the situation you left us in. One thing he has not taxed in the course of this session has been our patience. I wish other members would follow that example of the Minister of Finance.

I think it is unfortunate that we had to increase the tax on various secondary institution tuitions, but I think it was justifiable, and I hope that the minister will find a way to help students by increasing their loan ceiling rates, because some hardships were created.

As to the tax on children's clothing, I think that was a real

problem, it was being very seriously abused and something had to be done about it. The minister has made an effort this year, but I think perhaps in future years he should look at the possibility of reducing the level of sales tax and let it cover all clothing, including childrens, because it is the family income that pays for all of this, and I think it would be simpler and it would be, maybe, fairer to those children who grow a little faster than some of the rest of us.

I am glad to see that in the Throne Speech the minister talked about encouraging the federal government to better target its financial policies to better serve our Province. Right now we have a national interest rate that may be justifiable to cool the economy in Ontario but it is really hurting the economy in Newfoundland, and we do not need it. Now you can only have one monetary policy and one interest rate in a country, but a national government has access to monetary policies and fiscal policies and are supposed to combine them appropriately. Monetary policy has to be uniform throughout the nation, but fiscal policy does not. If the economy is overheated in Ontario, let the federal government stop spending money in Ontario. The economy is slow in Newfoundland, so let the federal government put more money into Newfoundland through its fiscal policies. In that way, the whole country is treated fairly. But, of course, that is not what happens in Canada, because the government in Ottawa is dominated by Ontario, Quebec and Central Canada. The outlying provinces do not get a reasonable say in how the country is governed, and, consequently, get a reasonable share of the benefits of

Confederation and a reasonable opportunity to develop our economy.

MR. SIMMS:  
Your time is up.

MR. NOEL:  
The member for Grand Falls is falling into a habit of calling 'time up' whenever I speak in this House.

AN HON. MEMBER:  
It is the rules.

MR. NOEL:  
You are going to make me paranoid. I thought the Chair enforced the rules. The hon. member should understand that the House Leader's function is not to enforce timing.

MR. HEWLETT:  
He vowed to assist the Chair.

MR. NOEL:  
Oh, he needs to assist the Chair. I see.

MR. SPEAKER:  
The hon. member's time has elapsed.

MR. NOEL:  
Being accustomed to performing as assistant leader, I guess he believes he has to be assistant to everybody and I am sure we will be tolerant and allow the member to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:  
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:  
Order, please!

The hon. the member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER:  
Mr. Speaker, first I would like to congratulate the hon. member who

just spoke. He was Chairman of the Committee and I think he did a very good job.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. HODDER:

While being firm, he allowed the Committee to carry on its business with the least interruption or direction from the Chair as possible, and I commend him for that.

Mr. Speaker, listening to his comments, one would think that everything was sweetness and light and that the ministers had done a great job. It is a good thing there is an Opposition in this House. The first thing I would like to mention, and it is something I feel very strongly about and something we did not do when we were over there, the one problem with the Committee was not necessarily the Chairman but the fact that ministers kept changing their schedules. Our schedules were changed four or five times. Mr. Speaker, these Committees are a function of the House of Assembly and I think we were too lenient this time, if I might criticize our own House Leader.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. HODDER:

We were too lenient. I think the Opposition should jealously guard its prerogatives. When this party was in power and under the Peckford administration, ministers were told in no uncertain terms that they had to be there regardless of whatever functions there were. I know for certain, Mr. Speaker, that there were ministers who went to minor functions here in the city and

changed the schedules, which was no fault of the Chairman's but a fault of the Committee system.

Mr. Speaker, these Committees are hard enough. I have been sitting on them, either as a Chairman or a Vice-Chairman, since the Committees were instituted in the days of the hon. Don Jamieson being here, and these Committees have always been hard to manage. Very often we do not get adequate press coverage on them, and if ministers are not going to be there when they are supposed to be there, and if changes are going to take place from day to day and schedules are going to be changed, then that means the Committee system will fail totally. I think the Committee system is a good one and one that we should continue to have in this House. I think they are very useful. It takes us away from partisan debate, except when the Minister of Social Services is in committee, and then it becomes partisan.

If the Minister of Social Services has a problem, Mr. Speaker, it is that he cannot sit and act like a gentleman in Committee. I was listening to a little bit of the committee -

MR. EFFORD:

(Inaudible) and you were the one who got it going.

MR. HODDER:

Mr. Speaker, that is his big flaw. He is an intelligent man, he is fairly shrewd, but he has not yet learned to be a parliamentarian. When he becomes a parliamentarian, Mr. Speaker, I think he will be able to do the job as Minister of Social Services, which he certainly has not been doing so far. He still thinks he is in Opposition, Mr.

Speaker.

And his arrogance! I asked him a question the other day about an incident at the Remand Center, I asked it honestly, and he got up and said, 'Well, the hon. member should not take questions from somebody else. The hon. member does not know. Mr. Speaker, it was not the Remand Center at all.' Then the next day he had to get up and apologize. The minister, instead of taking that question as it was asked, in a serious manner, and answering it, had to throw his arrogance and his old political jargon in there, the sort of thing that used to drive us nuts. When he was in Opposition, I used to leave the House every time he asked a question.

MR. EFFORD:

I know you did.

MR. SIMMS:

The Minister of Education is not like that. Take a lesson from the Minister of Education.

MR. HODDER:

But, Mr. Speaker, he is actually a nice fellow. I spent a week with him in Saskatchewan and I was surprised to find he is actually a nice fellow, when he is outside the House of Assembly. But in here, I do not know what happens to him.

MR. SIMMS:

You spent a week with him one day, did you?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. HODDER:

Order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, when the hon. member

was introducing this particular Committee, the start of the concurrence debate, he was commenting on the relevant questions that had been asked by members of the Opposition. Yes, as he said, the members of the Opposition did ask relevant questions, but I should point out to him that there were no answers given. I see the Minister of Labour - I forget the new title. I want to talk about that for a little while, because that was one of the departments that came to us. The minister had already been in the public press saying that the private sector program reeked with patronage.

Mr. Speaker, in Committee, and this is why I say Committees are very, very good, on questioning, the minister did not know anything about the private sector program, and about 90 per cent of the questions asked her were answered by one of her officials.

MR. SIMMS:

Yet, she cancelled it.

MR. HODDER:

Yet she cancelled the program.

Mr. Speaker, only yesterday I met a gentleman from a district that is close to the Avalon here, who told me that that private sector program is sorely missed in the area. I think the cancellation of that program came about because members over there, when they were over here, were sure there was patronage, they were sure it was not honest, and that we must be sandbagging it somehow or other.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, and I want to tell members opposite, the member for Humber Valley, who was a good example of a good member in this House of Assembly, when that

private sector program came out, when all members got notification of it at the same time, that member took the application forms and went to businesses in Deer Lake and Hampden and Jackson's Arm and these places and said, 'Look, this program -

MR. EFFORD:

Twenty-seven (inaudible) in Port de Grave, and that is not good.

MR. SIMMS:

How many applied in Port de Grave?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

MR. HODDER:

Mr. Speaker, this is exactly what I was saying. I should point out to the member that when I heard what the member for Humber Valley was doing, I did it the next year myself. Prior to that, I had just sent notes to everybody. But I had the same problem in Port au Port that the member had in Port de Grave, most of my people were not applying or when they applied, they applied too late. If there was a fault with the program, it was first come, first serve. The last year of the program, I think there were only two or three in Port au Port who got it.

MR. EFFORD:

The member took the applications and brought them around himself.

MR. SIMMS:

Sure he did.

MR. EFFORD:

We did not even see an application.

MR. HODDER:

Oh, no, Mr. Speaker. That is the

reason why the Private Sector Program failed, because of prejudice like we are hearing from the hon. gentleman from Port de Grave.

MR. KELLAND:

A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Lands and Environment on a point of order.

MR. KELLAND:

It is really difficult to hear the very important comments the hon. member is making. We are getting a lot of noise from both sides. Could I call upon Your Honour to quell that so I can hear what is going on, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER:

Mr. Speaker, the kinds of comments that were coming across the House then is exactly why I suspect the government cancelled that program. I had the same problem in my district, and it was a problem of timing. If there was a problem with that program, it was that it was on a first-come first-served basis and businesses in St. John's, which are larger by nature of the City, they had their applications in quickly. Whereas a small business, and this is the problem I had, and businesses that were struggling, did not get their applications in on time. They did not have the expertise of many of the St. John's, Corner Brook, Grand Falls type, yet the member says the thing was ripe with patronage. Well, it was not ripe with patronage. I worked on the 8th Floor and I knew how that program worked, I knew what the directions were on it, and I tried

to avail of it. There was no patronage.

The minister says that he did not get applications, and we took them around here. I found out about it when the minister brought it into the House; he made a Ministerial Statement, the application form was there, and there was a telephone number, where to get the application forms. I took them and xeroxed them off on a xerox machine and took them around, along with the instructions.

MR. EFFORD:

You had a xerox machine?

MR. HODDER:

Yes, and you had one in your office. There was one down there when we got down there. If the member did not have a xerox machine, he could have gone to Career Development and get all he wanted, packages, he could have backloads of them. That is why the Private Sector Program was cancelled, because of prejudice and suspicion by people who are now on that side, who did a grievous disservice to this Province when they cancelled that program.

Mr. Speaker, to move to another topic, we heard last night in the Committee on Municipal Affairs talk about the super city, and some questions were asked about the amalgamation of towns across this Province. Mr. Speaker, I cannot say that we learned much except that the minister is talking. And it has been made known to the general public of this Province that before November some of those towns will be amalgamated. Well, I can say, Mr. Speaker, that is a very short time in which to try to do something of this magnitude in this Province,

yet the minister has a list; I think we should see the list, and I think that towns which may be involved on the West Coast, in Central Newfoundland, in Labrador, or anywhere else in this Province, should have that particular list, because this is something communities must have a chance to debate, to understand.

There are communities in this Province, I understand 116 of them, which are slated for amalgamation, and I think the debate should start now. It is not enough for the minister to be just wandering around. He is going to be out to the joint councils meeting this weekend in Corner Brook, and he is going to mention it there. But it is not enough to do that. I think the people in the towns which are slated for amalgamation must be told so that the debate can start in those communities. Because, Mr. Speaker, it is very important, it is going to change the fabric of our rural society. There are a lot of issues here which have to be looked at, and I think people should have an understanding of what is happening in their particular areas.

Mr. Speaker, I see that it is twelve o'clock. I will not adjourn the debate, because I will not be here on Monday, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Government House Leader.

MR. BAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

A couple of announcements: First of all, as hon. members are aware, Monday is a holiday and we will be coming back on Tuesday. On



Tuesday morning we are having another session of the Social Services Estimates Committee and we will try to finish up with the Department of Social Services, the Department of Education and the Department of Health. These three Committees are scheduled an hour apart on Tuesday morning.

That is the end of the announcements. I wish hon. members a very happy and enjoyable weekend, and move that the House on its rising do adjourn until 2:00 p.m. Tuesday and that the House do now adjourn.

MR. SPEAKER:

All members have heard the motion. Have a good weekend.

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

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 First Session - Forty-First General Assembly  
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 Mr. Lloyd Snow, Deputy Speaker  
 Mr. Percy Barrett, Deputy Chairman of Committees

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Mr. R. Aylward, (PC) .....	Kilbride
Mr. Baker, (Lib) .....	Gander
Mr. Barrett, (Lib) .....	Bellevue
Mr. Brett, (PC) .....	Trinity North
Mr. Carter, (Lib) .....	Twillingate
Ms Cowan, (Lib) .....	Conception Bay South
Mr. Crane, (Lib) .....	Harbour Grace
Mr. Decker, (Lib) .....	Strait of Belle Isle
Mr. Dicks, (Lib) .....	Humber West
Mr. Doyle, (PC) .....	Harbour Main
Ms Duff, (PC) .....	St. John's East
Mr. Dumaresque, (Lib) .....	Eagle River
Mr. Efford, (Lib) .....	Port de Grave
Mr. Flight, (Lib) .....	Windsor-Buchans
Mr. Furey, (Lib) .....	St. Barbe
Dr. Gibbons, (Lib) .....	St. John's West
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Mr. Gover, (Lib) .....	Bonavista South
Mr. Greening, (PC) .....	Terra Nova
Mr. Grimes, (Lib) .....	Exploits
Mr. Gullage, (Lib) .....	Waterford - Kenmount
Mr. Hearn, (PC) .....	St. Mary's-The Capes
Mr. Hewlett, (PC) .....	Green Bay
Mr. Hodder, (PC) .....	Port au Port
Mr. Hogan, (Lib) .....	Placentia
Mr. Kelland, (Lib) .....	Naskaupi
Dr. Kitchen, (Lib) .....	St. John's Centre
Mr. Langdon, (PC) .....	Fortune-Hermitage
Mr. Lush, (Lib) .....	Bonavista North
Mr. Matthews, (PC) .....	Grand Bank
Mr. Murphy, (Lib) .....	St. John's South
Mr. Noel, (Lib) .....	Pleasantville
Mr. Parsons, (PC) .....	St. John's East Extern
Mr. Penney, (Lib) .....	Lewisporte
Mr. Power, (PC) .....	Ferryland
Mr. Ramsay, (Lib) .....	LaPoile
Mr. Reid, (Lib) .....	Carbonear
Mr. Rideout, (PC) .....	Baie Verte - White Bay
Mr. Short, (Lib) .....	St. George's
Mr. Simms, (PC) .....	Grand Falls
Mr. A. Snow, (PC) .....	Menihek
Mr. L. Snow, (Lib) .....	Trinity - Bay de Verde
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Mr. Walsh, (Lib) .....	Mount Scio - Bell Island
Dr. Warren, (Lib) .....	St. John's North
Mr. Warren, (PC) .....	Torngat Mountains
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First Session - Forty-first General Assembly

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