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Speaker: Honourable Thomas Lush

Monday

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The House met at 2:00 p.m.

MR. SPEAKER (Lush):
Order, please!

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition. I am sorry, the hon. the Opposition House Leader.

MR. SIMMS:
Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition and I are bum to bum and cheek to cheek, as Mr. Crosbie would say.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMS:
Mr. Speaker, the Government House Leader and I had a discussion earlier today with respect to advisability of putting forth a short resolution for brief debate, after which members of the House would vote on the resolution without any further debate. It deals with the issue in Beijing, which everybody is familiar with. The Government House Leader has agreed to allow a member from this side to present the resolution for five minutes, then somebody from the other side will speak for five minutes and then put it to a vote. There are people in the gallery, I think, representing that community.

The hon. the Government House Leader.

MR. BAKER:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In our conversations earlier this morning we agreed that in view of the sudden and shocking brutal happenings in Tienanman Square, and nearby, in Beijing, and in view of the concern of a number of Chinese students who are in Newfoundland, that we would agree

to allow this resolution to be presented and that there be a very short speech given. My understanding is that it would have been under Orders of the Day, just at that point, rather than earlier on. I would suggest to the Opposition House Leader that if the member who is presenting it would be ready after Petitions and just before Orders of the Day, it would probably be a more appropriate time.

MR. SIMMS:
Mr. Speaker, we have no problem with that. There are representatives of the community in the gallery, and that was the only reason we thought we would proceed. But I am sure they will be happy to stay around and we will do it when we get to Orders of the Day. That is fine.

MR. SPEAKER:
Before getting into the business of the day, we would like to welcome some visitors to the Gallery and, in line with the Opposition House Leader, say, on behalf of hon. members, we would like to welcome to the gallery two students from the People's Republic of China, studying at Memorial University. The two students are, Hem Dong Lieu and Boyiong Yuan.

I apologize if the Chair's pronunciation is not right on; I profess no efficiency in the Chinese language. These are the two people who were the organizers of the peaceful demonstration by Chinese students in St. John's yesterday, in support of the student activities which are taking place in China.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

I would also like to welcome to the Galleries today fifty-two students, Grades 1V to 1X, with their teachers William Sellars, Calvin Janes, Clarence Green and Martin Brewer. These students come from Grace Elementary and St. Martin's High Schools in Dunville.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

I would also like to welcome a delegation from the Gander District Hospital Board, represented by three people: Ernest Batstone, Director of Financing; Wayne Lewis, Director of Information Systems; and Peter Lush, Director of Development and Public Relations.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

Statements by Ministers

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER WELLS:

Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell the House today of the action the government has taken with respect to its commitment to establish an economic recovery team in the Province.

During the past decade, the economic performance of Newfoundland and Labrador has not kept pace with the growth experienced on average throughout Canada or even in the Atlantic Provinces. As a result, unemployment reached record peaks and has remained at twice the national rate of unemployment for about the last five years.

Population has even begun to decline and not only does the Provincial Government rely on the Federal Government for 50 per cent of its revenue but increasing numbers of our citizens are relying on direct federal payments, usually in the form of unemployment insurance, for their income.

Economists tell us that this Province suffered proportionately more from the recession of the early 1980s than any area of Canada, and we have never really fully recovered. Some growth in employment and other economic indicators have been in evidence in the past two years or so but that growth is associated with a shift from the resource-based goods producing sector into the service industries and retail trade. There is a growing dependence on seasonal and part time jobs.

These trends explain the apparant anomaly of slightly improving employment figures occurring at the same time that record numbers of people are receiving unemployment insurance. The annual average for 1988 was 71,193, an increase of 3,520 over 1987. In March of this year an alarming 99,000 people were in receipt of unemployment insurance payments.

Both levels of government have been resorting to creating job opportunities solely for the express purpose of enabling people to qualify to receive unemployment insurance. Little effort is being made by either the Federal or Provincial Governments to create a situation that will promote or induce long term job opportunities for our unemployed people.

The real victims in this situation are our young people. The largest increases in unemployment insurance recipients have been recorded among workers under the age of 34, with an alarming rise in the 25 - 34 age bracket. There are an estimated 35,000 young Newfoundlanders and Labradorians who are regular recipients of unemployment insurance. In reality, we have created over the past decade an entire generation of people who accept unemployment insurance as a way of life.

We cannot, in conscience, allow this situation to continue if it is humanly possible to reverse it. We must make economic recovery a top priority in order to provide our people, particularly our younger members of the work force, with an opportunity to obtain good paying jobs and at the same time create new wealth for the Province so that the government will have revenues adequate to provide the social programs that our people so desperately need.

The government is therefore committed to making economic recovery a first priority. That is why we undertook to put an Economic Recovery Team in place within thirty days of being sworn in as the Government of this Province.

Over the past two weeks or so an interim committee was established and it planned the structure and established the broad mandate of the team. Individuals with outstanding credentials and expertise were approached and they have willingly accepted the challenge. It gives me great pleasure today to report that the process has now been largely completed and it has been achieved

within the thirty days after taking office.

The government has now decided that the Economic Recovery Team to which we have been referring will take the form of a commission. It will operate as an independent commission, similar to the Workers' Compensation Commission, and will answer directly to the Premier. It will consist of a Chairman and four other Commissioners who will between them supervise all aspects of the performance of the commission's mandate.

It is intended that they are to be full time paid employees working and dedicated solely to that function. Legislation will be introduced to create a commission, spell out its mandate and provide for its authority and its operating procedures. Stated simply, its mandate would be to use all of the information and resources available from both the Provincial and Federal governments to identify every conceivable business, commercial or productive opportunity in the Province and ensure that interested individuals, companies, and co-operatives are provided with the advice, guidance or other means necessary to take advantage of all such opportunities and in the process provide job opportunities for the thousands of our people who are unemployed.

While the Economic Recovery Commission will report to the Premier, neither the Premier nor any other agency or arm of government will seek to direct in any way their day-to-day operations or the manner in which they are to carry out their mandate. The Commission will be given the responsibility to

achieve the results. The members of the Commission and its staff are best qualified to determine the means by which the mandate can be implemented.

While it is the Commission that will have the responsibility and will be expected to carry out the mandate and achieve the desired result, it is also recognized that they can of course benefit from advice from others. Accordingly, in addition to the Economic Recovery Commission the legislation will provide for an Economy Recovery Advisory Board that will be a volunteer group made up of people from all parts of the Province and from a variety of backgrounds who have records of achievement and contribution to the economic and social life of the Province. That advisory group will provide advice on all matters relating to economic recovery to both the Premier and the government and the Economic Recovery Commission, either on the initiative of the Economic Recovery Advisory Board itself or at the request of either the Premier and the government or the Economic Recovery Commission.

The Economic Recovery Commission will be headed by Dr. Douglas House, as Chairman.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

PREMIER WELLS:

The Government is confident that Dr. House is the individual that the vast majority of the people in this Province would, if they were given the chance to do so, choose to be the Chairman of this Commission. His work as Chairman of the Royal Commission on Employment and Unemployment will have a permanent place in our

history, and in the history of Canada. That work contains an exciting blueprint for the economic and social future of the Province. He is unquestionably better informed, better prepared and better qualified for this task than any other person in the Province. The government is grateful to Dr. House for agreeing to accept this new and vital challenge.

Dr. House will be joined on the Commission by four other very able and experienced people.

Wayne Humphries is an economic development consultant who worked full-time with Dr. House and the members of the Royal Commission on Employment and Unemployment in doing research and a variety of other tasks in connection with that Royal Commission. He is originally from Valleyfield, Bonavista Bay, and has recently been doing extensive consulting work for a variety of municipal councils and other public organizations in all parts of the Province. He too is eminently qualified by knowledge, training and experience to serve on this Commission.

Dr. Barbara Gamberg is originally from Corner Brook and holds a Ph.D. from the University of Marsielle. She taught at Memorial University Faculty of Business for nine years before entering the business world. Recently she has done consulting work for ACOA. She is currently part owner of a number of St. John's businesses.

Peter O'Brien is originally from Buchans. For the past fifteen years he has been working in Halifax as Director of Provincial Affairs for the Atlantic Provinces office of the Canadian Federation

of Independent Business. As such he was responsible for representing the concerns of thousands of independent business firms in Newfoundland and the other Atlantic Provinces. He will bring to the Commission all of those years of experience with the promotion of the interests of small and medium-sized businesses and the knowledge of how such business endeavours operate, not only in the other Atlantic Provinces but in the rest of Canada as well.

The fifth member of the Commission is a person knowledgeable and experienced in business activities and enterprise in Newfoundland and will bring to the Commission substantial knowledge, experience and competence. Unfortunately, due to existing employment commitments the name of that commissioner cannot immediately be released. It is expected that the commissioner will be named within the next few days.

The Economic Recovery Advisory Board will be chaired by Mr. Harold Lundrigan of Corner Brook. Mr. Lundrigan's credentials and achievements are well-known to the whole of the Province. He is the Past-Chairman of the Economic Council of Newfoundland and Labrador and one of the Province's best known and most successful industrialists. He has also served the Province faithfully over the years in a variety of voluntary offices. He brings to the Advisory Board knowledge, experience, judgement and integrity that is the envy of everybody who knows Mr. Lundrigan well. The Government is particularly grateful to Mr. Lundrigan for agreeing to once again voluntarily undertake a major public duty for the good of

the Province and its people.

It is planned that there will be approximately twelve people on the Economic Recovery Advisory Board. To date a number have agreed to serve, nine, in addition to Mr. Lundrigan, so far:

Mr. Campbell Eaton of St. John's, is a distinguished war veteran and a long-time Manager of Newfoundland Tractor and Equipment Co. Ltd. but now retired. He remains a director of the Royal Bank of Canada. Like Mr. Lundrigan he also has served the Province well in a large number of volunteer capacities. Mr. Eaton will be Vice-Chairman of the Economic Recovery Advisory Board.

Mr. Gerald Smith of Port au Port is the Past-President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Rural Development Council. He is knowledgeable and experienced in the needs of rural Newfoundland and Labrador and in the work of rural development associations throughout the Province.

Ms. Shirley Frost is the Manager of Shellbird Cable Limited in Corner Brook, as well as a Director and owner of a travel agency business, having offices in St. John's and Corner Brook. Ms. Frost is also the Past-President of the Corner Brook Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Victor Young is well-known throughout the Province as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Fisheries Products International. He is also well-known as the former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro and prior to that was a senior public servant in the Government of this Province.

Mr. Robert Davis is the President and an owner of Glovertown Shipyard Ltd. He is a professional engineer and is at the moment operating Glovertown Shipyard which builds steel-hulled fishing vessels up to 110 feet in length.

Mr. Jerome Walsh is the Mayor of Marystown and President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Mayors and Municipalities. He is also past President of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of Canada. In 1982, he was Vice-Chairman of the South Coast Fisheries Crisis Committee.

Dr. Angus Bruneau is the President of Newfoundland Light and Power Co. Limited and the President and Chief Executive Officer of Fortis Inc., the parent company of Newfoundland Light and Power. Dr. Bruneau is also a distinguished educator who established the co-op program in Memorial's School of Engineering.

Ms. Frances Nichols of Grand Falls is a chartered accountant and a former partner of Doane, Raymond in Grand Falls. She has spent all her business career in Grand Falls. She is a former member of the Board of Regents of Memorial University and a former member of the Economic Council of Newfoundland and Labrador. She also has served the Province in a number of volunteer capacities.

Mr. Stan Pike has extensive experience with the Company of Young Canadians and with the Southern Labrador Development Association. He has worked with financial institutions, including Avco and the Bank of Montreal. In 1984, when the Bank of Montreal closed its branch on the Coast of

Labrador, it was Mr. Pike who really came to the rescue of the people on that coast and established a credit union in L'Anse-au-Loup to provide needed banking services. Most recently he has been occupied establishing a credit union in Happy Valley - Goose Bay.

The government have also decided to introduce legislation which will amend The Newfoundland and Labrador Development Corporation Act by requiring the President of that corporation to report directly to the Economic Recovery Commission. This will serve the dual purpose of avoiding duplication by the commission of certain staff and programs already in place at NLDC and at the same time provide the new commission with an immediate source of information and staff assistance, so that it can get on with its job immediately without having to take the time to set up the facilities necessary to achieve it.

This change will of course eliminate the necessity for a separate Board of Directors for the Newfoundland and Labrador Development Corporation. It is emphasized that the change has nothing whatsoever to do with the performance of the existing Board and the Government expresses gratitude to the members of that Board for their excellent work in the past. The change however is necessary in order to enable the Government to carry out its economic recovery plan.

Mr. Speaker, I regret that there was one member of the board that I have been unable to track down in the last couple of days; he is somewhere on a boat and he is the only one who did not know that this was happening. I express

regrets to him, but I am sure he will understand.

The Government is confident that its Economic Recovery Plan can and will work. It cannot however achieve complete success overnight or even in a year or two. To begin with, the commissioners will need some time to terminate their present commitments so it will take a few weeks to get up and running. It may well be that the Commission may be in place for six to eight years before its Chairman will be able to report that its job is complete and the unemployment rate in this province is less than the national average.

For, stated in its simplest terms, the fundamental objective of the Economic Recovery Commission is to bring the annual average unemployment rate of Newfoundland and Labrador down below the national level.

We will be asking the Government of Canada to join with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador in this great endeavor. Solving the employment problems of this Province is not the responsibility alone of the Government of the Province. An unemployment rate, in any province, that is twice the national rate, is a national disgrace. The national government must shoulder its share of the responsibility and we believe must participate with the Government of this Province in the effort to terminate the national disgrace in the shortest time possible. We will be putting forward definite proposals for their participation in the near future.

While governments have the primary responsibility we must take the lead in this matter. We should

all recognize that government effort alone will not accomplish our goal. This is a challenge that calls for the participation and support of all of us - government, Opposition, the public service, business, labour, churches, municipal governments, educators, service clubs and people in all walks of life in this Province. In particular it will require the understanding and effort of all of the workers of this Province, both the employed and the unemployed.

Mr. Speaker, the Economic Recovery Commission will provide the active leadership, but the real Economic Recovery Team will be all of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Certainly, while unemployment is such a problem in this Province as it is today and as it has been over the last several years, such a difficult problem to deal with, one does not have the luxury, in my view, of being cynical about any approach that this government or any government takes to try to solve the unemployment in Newfoundland and Labrador. It is one that all of us are concerned about and one that all of us, from time to time, in one field or another, have attempted to grapple with. So, in that context, and with that preamble, Mr. Speaker, obviously we hope that this

Economic Recovery Team that the Premier has announced today will be useful and will be beneficial and will go along way, we hope, toward improving the unemployment picture in this Province.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that anybody in Newfoundland and Labrador, when this particular approach was articulated by the Premier during the election campaign, envisioned that there would be another large-scale, separate, in many respects, bureaucracy created. I do not think it was ever spelled out by the Premier and his Party at the time that the vision was to create a separate, full time commission. I believe people expected that there would be a volunteer group who would advise the government and others as to what economic opportunities were available in Newfoundland and Labrador and try to attract investment and create employment and so on.

But what we have here today, and this is not being critical or negative - maybe it is the right approach. Time will tell. We will see - what we have here today is a separate commission set up similar to and along the working lines of the Workers' Compensation Commission, that will report again to the Premier. It seems that more and more every day there is more and more reporting taking place in this Province, and in the Government of this Province, to the Premier. Not to the Minister of Development or any other minister, but to the Premier.

The model being used here, the Workers' Compensation Commission model, the Commission reports to a minister and then through the minister reports to the House of Assembly. I would assume that

under this new Commission, this Commission will find its way in its workings and its dealings and its results to the House of Assembly through the Premier annually, because we would obviously want to know what this Commission is up to from time to time, and certainly we would want to know what the Commission is up to on an annual basis: What its activity is, what its results are, what it is achieving, and how it is going about its work. All of these things, Mr. Speaker, will have to come before the House, I hope, in due course and be open to scrutiny and questions by us, and by the public at large.

The Premier makes no mention at all in this statement Mr. Speaker, what he anticipates the cost of this Commission to be. There is no indication what the salary requirements are for Dr. House and the permanent commissioners. We certainly would like to know what kind of budget this Commission has been allocated. We would like to know relatively soon what the budgetary requirements for this Commission are, and what are the terms of employment of the commissioners themselves. Is it contractual? Is it annual salary, or is it a contractual arrangement, or what? These are things that the House deserves to know and the people of Newfoundland and Labrador deserve to know.

There are a lot of other things in this statement, Mr. Speaker, that we will have questions on over the next several days. For example, what is the role of the Newfoundland and Labrador Economic Council now? There appears to be some hint in this particular statement that the Economic Council will become redundant,

that it is no longer necessary to have an advisory group to government on the broad global aspect of economic development opportunities in Newfoundland and Labrador. The Board of Directors of the Newfoundland and Labrador Development Corporation have been deemed to be no longer necessary, and the President of NLDC now reports directly to this Commission which, by the way, it should be pointed out, the Premier says in his statement will take no direction from government. Again it is another example where either the bureaucracy in the Department of Transportation, or the bureaucracy in this particular commission now is going to operate independently of government and take no direction from anybody but be responsible to everybody. That appears to be the kind of mentality that is inherent in this particular statement. What is going to be the interplay between this Commission and Development Associations? What is going to be the interplay between this Commission and Community Futures Committees? Are we now going to have four or five or six or seven or ten different directions in this Province, or is this group meant to co-ordinate and try to ensure that everybody is going in the right direction?

There are a lot of questions, Mr. Speaker, that need to be answered. However, having pointed out those, we will watch this carefully as the Commission is being set up over the next several weeks and we will no doubt have a lot more questions on it.

Having said that, we have to welcome on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, any initiative that might create a single job in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Because at least here today we have four or five new ones created, but that really does not compensate for the purge that took place in the public service of this Province during the first hours of this government's mandate.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

Before getting into the Oral Question period we would like to welcome another delegation to the Galleries today. This is a delegation from the town council of Joe Batt's Arm in the persons of Mr. Harry Decker, Mr. Scott Hancock, Patricia Anthony, the town clerk, and Cecil Godwin the fire chief.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

Oral Questions

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Menihek.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. A. SNOW:

Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Education (Dr. P. Warren). In recent media releases and comments to the media he stated, after the cancellation of the first year university program in Menihek, that he and his department would be willing to assist students from Menihek get into universities in other areas. I wonder if he could tell this House how he and his department are going to attempt to get students from Menihek registered in universities in other areas, or indeed in this Province? There

are 180 of them, the highest per capita registration in this Province, who are going to be deprived of a post-secondary education at a first year university level. The highest per capita registration in this Province, and they are going to be deprived of having this first year university program in their home town, which incidentally, Mr. Speaker, was the first area outside the City of St. John's where you could get a first-year university education - the first in this Province. Would the minister answer the question, please?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Education.

DR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, before I answer that question, I would like to say that I had a meeting this morning with the delegation from Labrador West, a very frank and lively discussion, I might add, and this issue was one of the issues that we discussed at some length.

We have made some contacts, I want to inform the hon. member, with Memorial University and with other universities across the country. Even though on paper the deadline has passed, in many cases there are opportunities for students to register at these universities. Certainly it is our intention to do everything possible, and I promised this, particularly to the student who was part of the delegation, that we would write on behalf of these students, and we would make sure that residence requirements, where possible, were provided. We will do everything possible to see that students who

were disadvantaged as a result of this postponement - not a cancellation - will be taken care of.

MR. A. SNOW:

A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Menihek.

MR. A. SNOW:

Because of the government's decision to cancel this program, and the Premier's postponement of this program, and the Premier's own admission that he made a mistake in making the commitment to implement this program in Menihek, will the minister instruct the officials in his department to implement a financial package to compensate the students, and the families of these students, who are going to incur a financial burden of \$8,000 to \$10,000 a year because of the cancellation of this program? Can he tell us that he will instruct his officials to implement this package for the benefit of the residents of Menihek?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Education.

DR. WARREN:

Mr. Speaker, I wonder who cancelled the program? This program was terminated in 1984, five years ago.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

DR. WARREN:

Delegation after delegation led by the person who is in the gallery today, Mr. Condon, came to the

government and asked to have that reinstated.

I indicated, Mr. Speaker, that we will do everything possible to help students who are seriously disadvantaged as a result of this decision, and that includes looking at financial help.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

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

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

MR. A. SNOW:
Mr. Speaker, after the meeting the minister just mentioned with the said committee, led by Mr. Condon from Menihek, the Post-Secondary Education Committee of Labrador West, will the minister now come clean and admit to this House of Assembly and to the people of this Province that the real reason for the cancellation of this program was not what he has been saying in the media, not what they have been saying through different media releases, but that the real reason was budgetary and political, a budgetary and a political reason to punish the people of Menihek and to save this government \$1 million that they can spend in their own districts?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

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

DR. WARREN:
I deny that, Mr. Speaker.

I might add one other thing, Mr. Speaker. When I entered the

Department of Education I assumed, as a result of the hon. Leader of the Opposition's announcement that they were going ahead, that some money was available and some planning had been done. I found in May that nothing had been done, no money had been provided in the preliminary estimates, and no decisions had been made with respect to providing the service that the people of Labrador West deserved, and which we will provide in the Fall of 1990, Mr. Speaker. We will provide that service in the Fall of 1990.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. RIDEOUT:
My question is on the same subject but it is to the hon. the Premier. I should remind the Premier and his Minister of Education that, sure, to attempt to score political points they can go back to 1984, they can go back to where they wish, but the people of Menihek will be interested in recent history, and in recent history the current Premier, then Leader of the Opposition, committed post-secondary education to Labrador West starting September, 1989. That is the bottom line, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:
Now, Mr. Speaker, since the Premier likes to give the impression that all of his commitments and his public

positions are well thought out, that he has thought it all through before he opens his mouth and says that they are going to do something, will the Premier tell this House and the people of Labrador West why it was that he could announce during the election campaign that they would begin post-secondary education in Labrador West in 1989 and now have the audacity to apologize for not carrying through on that commitment?

MR. SIMMS:

A good question.

PREMIER WELLS:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER WELLS:

It is very simple and straightforward, Mr. Speaker, and I will explain it simply. To begin with, as I stand in this House at the moment, I cannot say specifically that I remember precisely what I said. But I am prepared -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

PREMIER WELLS:

If everybody would just listen for a minute! I am prepared to accept whatever those gentleman say I said. I do not question it. But it was not what the Leader of the Opposition just said.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

PREMIER WELLS:

Here is what it was, and, as Mr. Condon told me this morning, Mr. Speaker, it was simply that we would restore the program that had

been cancelled by the previous government three years before, and we would restore the program immediately. Now that was the undertaking. We would restore the program immediately.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Do it.

PREMIER WELLS:

We would restore the program immediately. September 1989 was not mentioned. Anybody listening to that could reasonably expect that it would go into place this coming Fall. I do not doubt that. That is a reasonable expectation.

MR. MATTHEWS:

You said September 1989.

PREMIER WELLS:

And that was the precise intention of the government until the officials of the Department of Education indicated clearly that it would be a wrong move in educational terms to try and force that this Fall. Now that disappointed me, I do not mind telling the House, Mr. Speaker. I do not mind telling the House that this disappointed me because it should never have been cancelled in the first place. We are committed to doing it and doing it correctly. Now are those officials right? Are they absolutely right? I do not know with absolute certainty, but I accept the advice given by them, and we agree that it will be restored immediately that it is possible to do it. If that is this Fall, it will be done. If it is not until September 1990, then that is the time when it will be done.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. RIDEOUT:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it is so interesting to watch the hon. the Premier skate and try to squirm now publicly out of a commitment, that if he watched television on Friday night he would see clearly that he said, coming out of his own mouth, it would be reinstated in September 1989. That is exactly what the hon. gentleman said.

MR. SIMMS:
That is exactly what you said.

MR. RIDEOUT:
Now, Mr. Speaker, let me ask the hon. Premier this. If the Premier is prepared to lead, as he wants the people of this Province to believe that he is prepared to lead, why will not the Premier instruct the officials in the Department of Education that it was a commitment of his party to reinstitute post-secondary education in Labrador West in 1989, and that they should therefore proceed to do what the government said it would do?

MR. SIMMS:
Right on!

PREMIER WELLS:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER WELLS:
Fairly simply, Mr. Speaker. If that is what I said, I do not deny it. I do not remember, but if

that is what was said I accept it. I do not question it. But the answer to the specific question is straightforward. Unlike my predecessor I am not prepared to do things wrong to save political face. If it was an error, I will say it was an error and we will act accordingly.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. RIDEOUT:
Mr. Speaker, so why does not the Premier then, therefore, Mr. Speaker, practice what he preaches, if it was wrong, if he made a wrong decision say it was wrong, not try to skate and squirm and get out of it, and the people of Menihek suffer in the meantime.

MR. SIMMS:
Exactly.

MR. RIDEOUT:
Now let me ask the Premier this, Mr. Speaker. Is not the real truth of the matter that the Premier had to save \$1 million in a budget and he choose to save it on the backs of the people of Labrador West? That is the real question.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

PREMIER WELLS:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER WELLS:

There were two questions. First, if it was wrong to do it why does he not say it?

I thought that was what I said on Friday in this House. I thought that I said it would have been a mistake to do it, and I am sorry, I apologize to the people of Labrador West for having said that because it appears that it was in error. I thought that that was acknowledging that it was incorrect and I did so. If I did not make it clear, then I make it clear now. The second part of the question was, "Was it not done to save a million dollars?" No, no, no! Is that clear?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

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

MR. RIDEOUT:
Mr. Speaker, will the Premier and the Minister of Education, why is it that everybody in Labrador West involved in education, involved in the facilities, involved in the programming, involved in the advertising, why is it that everybody except the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador says that this program can go ahead this year? Why is the government the only people who say it cannot go ahead?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the Premier.

PREMIER WELLS:
The Minister of Education was talking to a group involved with education in Labrador West and they agreed with the officials in the Department of Education.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
"Wrong, wrong."

MR. WINDSOR:
Misleading the House.

PREMIER WELLS:
I am not misleading the House. On Thursday of last week I was speaking with the Minister of Education. I read a news release that they released in Labrador City at the same time expressing their regret that it was not going ahead, but expressing their full understanding with the reasons why it was not going ahead.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
What were the reasons?

PREMIER WELLS:
Maybe I have it here, If I do not have it I will get it and table it, Mr. Speaker. Here it is. I will read it so as there will not be any doubt with precisely what they said. I do not need to read it all. They express their regret that it cannot be done, then they go on to say, "The board acknowledges the difficulty at this late date in delivering the kind of quality programming that the citizens of Labrador West deserve." They acknowledge the situation, the government made that decision solely on that basis, and not for any budgetary reason, no matter what the hon. gentleman would like the situation to be, no matter what he thinks he would like it to be, or even the Opposition House Leader; the reality is something else.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:
Order, please!

There is quite a bit of noise

today, which I do not intend to tolerate. I will recognize members when the level of noise subsides, and if hon. members want to lose time in the Question Period for that then that is the hon. members' problem. So the Chair is only going to recognize people when I assume that there is a level of quiet.

The hon. the member for Mount Pearl.

MR. WINDSOR:

Mr. Speaker, on Friday I tried to get some information from the Minister of Finance, Dr. Kitchen, and I quote from Hansard, where he says, "I cannot understand the question. If the person would speak English I would understand what he is trying to say." So I should apologize to the Minister of Finance; I do not know why I would expect the Minister of Finance in this Province to understand such terms as 'credit rating agencies,' 'fiscal managers,' 'credits,' 'bonds,' 'sales tax' and things of that nature. So I do apologize and I have some definitions from the dictionary which I will send over to him, Mr. Speaker, and he can peruse them at his leisure. Perhaps now I will try to ask him the same question in baby talk, and the question was simply has the statements that the Premier made in the past number of months putting doubt in people's minds as to whether or not this government will honour loan guarantees issued by a previous government, as to whether commitments of that nature made by a legitimate government of this Province would be honoured, has that had an impact on the credit rating agencies in New York City, those people who set a level on our credit and give us a bond rating,

and has that had any impact on our ability to raise funds?" The Minister said we just raised funds in the market at the most favourable rate in a number of years, but that is because of the performance of the previous administration and the credibility that we built up, Mr. Speaker, and has nothing to do with the ability of this government. But has its ability to raise funds in the market been weakened to the point where there is not money available now to honour the commitments made by the Premier in Western Labrador because of his statements about honouring loan guarantees?

DR. KITCHEN:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Finance.

DR. KITCHEN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am still not too sure what it is he is asking. I find it very difficult. Certainly since our new Premier assumed office everyone in the financial community is very happy that we have this Premier -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

DR. KITCHEN:

- rather than the lot opposite.

MR. WINDSOR:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Mount Pearl.

MR. WINDSOR:

Mr. Speaker, it is obvious now why the Minister of Finance was not allowed to even speak in The

Interim Supply Bill that was put through the House in his own name, because he is not capable of addressing a financial matter. Will he now tell us has the Premier's statement that he was going to reduce the sales tax immediately had any impact on our ability to raise funds in the market and on our credit rating by this agency?

DR. KITCHEN:
Mr. Speaker.

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

DR. KITCHEN:
No.

MR. WINDSOR:
Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the member for Mount Pearl.

MR. WINDSOR:
Mr. Speaker, it is almost impossible to get any information from the Minister of Finance, so, therefore, let me ask a question of the Minister of Development (Mr. Furey). Has the Premier's statement in relation to loan guarantees in any way impeded his ability to develop this Province, or has that ability, in fact, and that mandate been taken away from him today by the Premier in announcing his economy recovery team? And I note that the Premier in his great political statement during the election of reducing his Cabinet has done so. He eliminated five ministers and hundreds of staff, but just appointed five more people much more highly paid than the ministers. And what now will the Minister of Development do? The mandate of the Minister of

Development has just been taken away from him.

MR. FUREY:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. FUREY:
Mr. Speaker, the Premier has put together an economic recovery team. He has drawn from the private sector, from people who are competent across this Province to deliver a very important job. The job of this economic recovery team will be to encourage and to stimulate.

Mr. Speaker, we have inherited on this side an economy that is the equivalent of an economic wasteland. It was in desperate shape, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Oh, oh!

MR. FUREY:
We hear laughter on the other side, but on this side we have seen the books, Mr. Speaker, and it is not a laughing matter. It requires the experts that we have drawn upon, such as Dr. House and Mr. O'Brien and others who are in the gallery, to cure this very, very serious problem, Mr. Speaker. It is a very serious problem. And I concur with the Minister of Finance that we have not seen the likes of the confidence in the financial community since the return to power - after the past seventeen years - of this government under our new Premier.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. WINDSOR:
One final supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
The hon. the member for Mount Pearl, on a final supplementary.

MR. WINDSOR:
Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman says that he has seen the books. Yes, I have seen the books as well. I saw \$173 million deficit budgeted two years ago and I saw \$41 million deficit budgeted last year, and I suspect that the actual amount that the Minister of Finance would bring into this House tomorrow will be a surplus. That is the kind of books that we have left to this government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. WINDSOR:
Maybe the Minister of Finance will tell us, therefore, are there going to be sales tax reductions as promised by the Premier? And is he, in fact, going to bring in a balanced budget tomorrow?

DR. KITCHEN:
Wait until tomorrow.

MR. WINDSOR:
He is not allowed to answer that question?

MR. FUREY:
Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. minister was directing his question to me again.

MR. WINDSOR:
To the Minister of Finance.

MR. FUREY:
Oh, to the Minister of Finance.

MR. WINDSOR:
If he is not allowed to speak,

you can. We know he is not allowed to answer questions. So nobody is going to answer it.

MR. SPEAKER:
Further questions?

MR. WINDSOR:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. WINDSOR:
The question is to the minister responsible for Transportation. It has now been proven that the **Beaumont Hamel** is unsuitable for Winter crossing in Hamilton Sound. Will the minister now tell this House and the people of Fogo Island what plans this government has for improving the ferry service to Fogo Island?

MR. GILBERT:
Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. GILBERT:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As to the question from the hon. the member for Fogo, he might think that the **Beaumont Hamel** has now been proven not to be satisfactory in Winter, but my officials have not really confirmed that. They are still doing an investigation and I will let him know in due course.

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

MR. WINDSOR:
A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Since the present ferry schedule for Change Islands and Fogo

Islands is inadequate, would the minister now, immediately, reinstate the Change Island ferry service and begin the Summer schedule for Fogo Island?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. GILBERT:

Mr. Speaker, if the previous government had not cancelled that service it would be in service right now, that service would have never been cancelled. In the meantime, it is under consideration and as soon as vessels are available it will be put into service.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Fogo.

MR. WINSOR:

A final supplementary.

Since severe quota restrictions are placed on the fishermen of Fogo Island because of the failure of the transportation system to move its graded and ungraded caplin, can the minister tell us what plans his department has in place to alleviate the problems during this caplin season for the fishermen of Fogo Island?

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Works, Services and Transportation.

MR. GILBERT:

Mr. Speaker, officials of my department have been in contact with the people from the Fogo Island Co-op and are working out an arrangement to handle the caplin glut.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Burin - Placentia West.

MR. TOBIN:

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the same minister. After listening to what he is saying and the way he has been dancing around the ferry situation for Fogo Island and the **Beaumont Hamel**, and what his officials tell him, well, we all had officials in that department who told us something different, according to the minister there.

Mr. Speaker, let me ask the minister, when he talks about the Fogo Island ferry, what about the second ferry for Bell Island? Is he still considering that as well? He seems to be considering everything.

MR. SPEAKER:

The Minister of Works, Services and Transportation.

MR. GILBERT:

Mr. Speaker, certainly I am still considering the second ferry for Bell Island, as I told the member last week, and it was in the press the week before that. I think you should get someone else to write your questions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The member for Burin - Placentia West.

MR. TOBIN:

Mr. Speaker, if the minister is considering, then why did he say on June 1, in answer to a question from my colleague for Harbour Main

(Mr. Doyle), that 'we made a commitment to them and there is going to be a second ferry for Bell Island'? Is that a commitment, Mr. Speaker? Is there going to be a second ferry for Bell Island or is he still considering? What is the minister saying?

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. GILBERT:

Mr. Speaker, I already answered the question and it will be taken care of in due course.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. TOBIN:

Now, Mr. Speaker, the minister has said -

MR. SPEAKER:

Just a moment. I have not recognized the hon. member yet, but I am about to.

The hon. the member for Burin - Placentia West.

MR. TOBIN:

Thank you very much, Your Honour.

The minister has, said on June 1 that there is going to be a second ferry for Bell Island on June 1. He has just now reconfirmed what he has been saying, and that is that government is considering a second ferry for Bell Island. My question now is has government already made a decision to cancel the second ferry for Bell Island, and has an MC been issued to that effect? Yes or No.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. GILBERT:

Mr. Speaker, no.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER:

No more questions?

MR. HEARN:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. HEARN:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I was so amazed at the answer to the last question that I sort of froze in my seat, as the hon. member who answered the question did.

My question is to the Minister of Fisheries. About this time every year fishermen around the Coast, particularly in places like St. John's East and St. Mary's Bay, have a grave concern about the upcoming season when the codfish glut - if we can call it that; I suppose we should say these late years the fair amount of codfish you might get usually coincides with the start of the caplin fishery, and many of the fishplants that buy cod ordinarily have their freezers filled with caplin and we end up with what we sometimes call the glut in cod, which is just an inability of the plants to handle the caplin and the cod. I ask the minister has he put in place this year some plans that will be there to implement if this situation occurs this year, so the fishermen will not end up having to throw away their cod?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker, yes, there is a plan in place. The union is working on that. We have had discussions with certain parts of the private sector who have offered to help in that regard. I am satisfied that if and when a glut occurs, and I hope it does, then we will be able to handle it, within reason, of course, by virtue of the union's initiatives and the ones that we have taken.

MR. HEARN:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. HEARN:

Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. minister for the answer to the question.

What happens, quite often every year, as he knows, is that we plan, but then we are always looking for boats when the glut occurs. I ask the minister, in light of requests from fishermen from St. Mary's Bay to have made available **Polar Star**, and it has been said by the owners there is an agreement that they will make it available for over-the-side sales, and since the fishermen of St. Mary's Bay were first to request the boat I think it should be made available there, has the minister made arrangements with Mr. Woodman and the Newfoundland Resources to make **Polar Star** available for over-the-side sales, particularly in the St. Mary's Bay area, where we usually are affected more than anywhere else in the Province?

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Minister of Fisheries.

MR. W. CARTER:

Mr. Speaker, yes, the officials of my department have been talking to Mr. Woodman concerning **Polar Star** and that matter is now under consideration by my officials.

MR. SPEAKER:

The time for Question Period has now elapsed.

Before carrying on to the next item, I would just like to make a couple of more welcomes to the Galleries and to the House of Assembly on behalf of hon. members.

First of all, I would like to welcome Committee Members from the Menihek-Labrador West Post-Secondary Education Committee in the persons of Mr. Condon, Mr. Michelin, Mr. Martin, Mr. Parsons, Mr. Collins, Mr. Bennett and Mr. Kelly?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

Also, I would like to welcome to the Galleries a veteran municipal politician who has served his community for over a quarter of a century, and I refer to the Deputy Mayor of Crow Head, Mr. Walter Elliott.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

Presenting Reports by Standing and Special Committees

MR. SPEAKER:

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

MR. GILBERT:

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to table in the House **The Report of Public Tender Act Exceptions** from July of last year to April of this year. And at this I time I table in the report the **Exceptions to the Public Tendering Act** for the past ten months this House was closed.

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

MR. W. CARTER:
Mr. Speaker, as is required under **The Fisheries Loan Board Act**, I hereby table **The Fisheries Loan Board Annual Report for 1987-88**.

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

MR. DECKER:
Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Section 37 of **The Newfoundland Medical Care Insurance Act**, I wish to table **The Report of the Commission for the Year ended March 31, 1988**. My predecessor, Dr. Collins, would have done that, Mr. Speaker, but, as Your Honor knows, this House has not been open for ten months so I have to do it in his place.

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

MS COWAN:
I would like to present as required by legislation, Mr. Speaker, **A Team Approach. The Annual Report 1988 of the Workers' Compensation Commission of Newfoundland and Labrador**.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:
Before getting into Orders of the Day, I wonder if we could just have a brief note to the House of

precisely what we are doing at this point so everybody understands, particularly The Chair. I want to know precisely how long the debate is going to take, how many speakers will be speaking, this kind of thing.

MR. SIMMS:
Mr. Speaker, I thought we made it clear earlier when the House opened. We did discuss and explain how it was going to be one from each side, five minutes each. We have a printed resolution, a copy of which we will be sending up to Your Honour.

MR. SPEAKER:
Fine!

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MS DUFF:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would also like to thank the hon. member for Gander, the Government House Leader, for his co-operation in facilitating the presentation of this resolution. It was short notice, but the nature of the event which this resolution relates to is such that I feel it is important to bring it to the House today.

I will simply read the resolution and then I will speak very briefly on the resolution in explanation.

WHEREAS in recent years the People's Republic of China has opened its society and economy to greater participation in the world community; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has been a leader in the Western

World in fostering mutual understanding with the People's Republic of China through diplomatic contact, trade missions, and cultural exchanges; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada is held in high regard by the People's Republic of China; and

WHEREAS Chinese students have participated in peaceful demonstrations in an effort to obtain more democratic rights and freedoms in their country; and

WHEREAS these peaceful demonstrations are being put down by military force against unarmed students and civilians resulting in untold death and injury;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this hon. House ask the federal government to convey to the Government of the People's Republic of China the shock and outrage felt by the people of this Province at this most brutal and unwarranted action; and

BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED that this hon. House ask the federal government to express this Nation's sense of outrage at this blatant violation of basic human rights and freedoms through appropriately strong political and economic sanctions.

Mr. Speaker, a brief explanation for this resolution: Although I think most members in this House are well aware of the events that have been taking place at Tiananman Square in Beijing over the last five weeks, perhaps we do not all realize that we do have in our midst in the City of St. John's over sixty students from the Republic of China, who are China scholars, who are here on

one of the many cultural exchange programs and student exchange programs which are part of the open-door policy between Canada and the Republic of China.

You can imagine the anxiety and horror and concern of these students who, like the rest of us all across Newfoundland and Labrador, have been watching with amazement over the past five weeks as these events unfolded. I think we have all been impressed greatly by the restraint of the students and by the reasonableness of the demands of those students who are asking only for an increase in their democratic rights, and they mean their basic civil rights that we take for granted, an increase in the freedom of the press, which we also take for granted, and an end to corruption in government. These struck us as extremely reasonable.

Then on June 3, this weekend, as we looked at our television sets, we saw armored cars, armed with heavy machine guns, come into the Tiananman Square and fire randomly into those unarmed students. Those students were totally unarmed. The only thing that they had with them to barricade themselves against these armored tanks were household implements, mattresses, pots and pans and their own bodies. We watched as tanks rolled over and killed these unarmed students and then began to fire randomly against the civilian population, including young children who were only observing from their balconies. It is very hard to overstate the horror of something like that happening in such an unwarranted manner.

These students have now asked us, the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, who live in peace, who

take these rights for granted, to support them in their cause. What they are asking is very simply that we bring to bear through the Federal Government of Canada the weight of public opinion against the Government of the Republic of China for this brutal act. And Canada is very well positioned to do this. Because since the 'open door' policy in China, Canada was the first country allowed into that Republic. Because of Dr. Bethune, who is a Canadian and who is a national hero in China, the Chinese people care about what the Canadian people think. Canada is also participating in numerous economic exchanges and trade missions, assisting the Chinese with technology transfer, and at the moment they need the good will and support of Canada.

Now Canada as a nation in the world is held in very high respect, but in recent years it has been somewhat wimpy in terms of speaking out against things that have taken place, particularly where it affected our own economic dealings, and we would ask with this resolution that the Government of Canada take strong political and economic sanctions against the government of the People's Republic of China unless they agree to immediately halt this absolutely appalling and brutal massacre that is taking place even as I speak in this Chamber.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Government House Leader.

MR. BAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise to speak in support of this resolution, as was indicated earlier.

I watched, as did we all, in horror to the incidences in Tiananmen's Square in Beijing. We did watch armored cars, tanks and armed soldiers attacking the students who had been demonstrating in that Square. The purpose of their demonstration is their business, but I think that everybody agrees that the right to demonstrate is a right that should be enjoyed by people all over the world.

Their immediate object, I suppose, was to obtain a little say in the direction that the country is taking. They being the elite, I suppose, the intellectual elite of the society, felt that they had been left out of the decision making process and did not like the direction that was being taken by their government, so they protested in the only way possible, peacefully.

I do not know how many students have been slaughtered. Last night I did hear one reporter describe it as the people's army waging war on the people. I do not know how many students have been slaughtered, but reports that perhaps the army has been taking away bodies for cremation so that no accurate count is possible. It is a situation that we all abhor and wish to protest in our own way.

There are several thousands Chinese students in Canadian universities, tens of thousands in American universities, and at some point consideration has to be given, as well, to taking this resolution a little bit farther and suggesting that perhaps if the need exists, these students

presently in Canada be granted political asylum until the situation straightens itself out in China, if indeed it ever will straighten itself out short of revolution.

I am pleased to support this resolution today. As the member for St. John's East, Ms Duff pointed out, Canada has been a leader in terms of relationship with China: The opening of the embassy, the agreeing to allow China to become part of the United Nations community, the trade delegations, and so on. Canada has been a world leader in terms of recognition of China as a member of the world community, therefore, perhaps what Canada does will have more impact than other countries around the world.

We support this resolution wholeheartedly and we do ask the federal government to, in the strongest way possible, convey their outrage and displeasure at what has happened in the last few days in Beijing.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

Since it was unanimously agreed to have the resolution and the debate proceed in this order, I do not know if it is necessary for The Chair to call for the question, but we will do it anyway. Is the House ready for the question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Ready.

On motion, the resolution was carried unanimously.

Orders of the Day

MR. RIDEOUT:

Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Leader of Opposition.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

At adjournment time on Friday, I was having a few words to say in the Throne Speech debate. I would like to take a few more minutes today to touch on some of the subjects I did not get an opportunity to touch on on Friday, as for the time being, at least, we head into what will be the last day of the Throne Speech, undoubtedly, with the budget tomorrow. Following the presentation of the Budget, no doubt we will be moving into the Budget Debate itself.

Mr. Speaker, there a number of items in the Throne Speech which I think are worthy of comment. I think I probably mentioned on opening day that, with the economy of Newfoundland and Labrador so intertwined with the fishery, I thought there was an unusual amount of time spent in the Throne Speech talking about items that were a little bit more nebulous in their effect in this Province than the real hard core, nuts and bolts effect of the fishery and what the new government intended to do during its mandate in pursuing economic recovery in the fishery itself.

There was a lot of talk in the Throne speech about Meech Lake and what possible effect that might have on the overall development in the Province. There was a lot of talk in the Throne Speech on how that may or may not affect relations between the Government of Canada and the Government of

Newfoundland and Labrador as it might relate to the fishery, but it did not seem to get tied together at all, in any concrete way what the government's plans were for the further development of the fishery in Newfoundland and Labrador, at least in outline, through the Throne Speech.

I think there are some areas where this House deserves to know from the government what advice the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is offering to the Government of Canada. We already know that the Government of Canada has set up a special Cabinet committee to deal with the crisis in the Atlantic fishery, we know that the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador have paralleled a Cabinet committee headed by the hon. the Premier to work with that particular federal Cabinet committee, but I think we need to know what kind of advice it is that the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is pursuing, what line of thought the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is pursuing with the federal government. I do not mean for a minute, Mr. Speaker, that I expect the Premier or any minister to provide details to the Legislature. In other words, as ministers are fond of saying, as we were fond of saying when we were there, and as I heard the Premier himself say a few days ago, I do not expect the Premier and ministers to negotiate in public. That is certainly not a reasonable expectation. But I do believe that, in broad policy terms it is incumbent on the Premier and the government to tell the House what kind of advice they are giving to their counterparts in Ottawa when it comes to matters related not only to the fishery but to the whole economy of

Newfoundland and Labrador.

I want to talk about the fishery for just a few minutes. We know, Mr. Speaker, that we can manage the resource as good as is humanly possible. We can have a sound management policy for the fishery resource within 200 miles. We know that. Now, we also know that over the past several years there has no doubt been room for improvement, but we do know that we can do whatever it is we want to do within 200 miles. But the reality and the fact of the matter, Sir, is that about 20 per cent of the time a large body of the stock that we refer to commonly as Northern cod is outside of 200 miles. We know that a large amount of the time a lot of that fish swims in what is still international waters, and it is while it is in international waters that there is the lack of any kind of a sound management strategy because of the ineffectiveness of NAFO. We know that there are no rules, really; there are rules in place but they are not enforceable. And the European Economic Community, particularly members like Spain and Portugal have been consistently overfishing that resource when it is outside of 200.

Now I would like to know, Mr. Speaker, and I believe this House should know, what kind of advice in broad policy terms that the new Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is providing to the Government of Canada in that regard. There is a large body of opinion in Newfoundland and Labrador, there is a large body of opinion in Atlantic Canada, and there seems to be more and more converts to the opinion in Ottawa, that perhaps it might be possible to have a functional extension of

jurisdiction, not an extension of sovereignty but a functional extension of jurisdiction over the live fishery resource, and that it might be possible to achieve that within the international community.

I would like to know whether in discussions so far with representatives of the federal government the Premier and the present government supports that approach. Are the Premier and the present government strongly urging the federal government to pursue, to try and articulate and outline once and for all in legal documents and in diplomatic dealings with the international community a strong solid legal case for functional extension of jurisdiction to manage the fishery resource by the coastal state when it is outside of 200? Is the government taking that approach in dealing with the federal government, or is the Newfoundland government, in fact, saying to the Government of Canada, look, we may as well throw up our arms, there is nothing we can do about the resource once it is outside of 200? Because if the government is doing the latter, Mr. Speaker, and publicly saying, publicly supporting the platitude that the only long-term answer is a functional extension of jurisdiction then the government is in fact doing a disservice to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. We should know clearly, unequivocally and without doubt what position the Government of Newfoundland is putting forward to the Government of Canada on the long-term solution to the overfishing problem outside of 200. That should be addressed and I would hope that the Premier or the Minister of Fisheries will take an opportunity sometime during this Throne Speech debate,

or sometime soon, to be able to tell the House what new initiatives this new government, this new administration has taken.

Everybody knows, the record is clear, that for years and years Newfoundland pursued, or attempted to convince the Government of Canada to pursue the option of extending jurisdiction. Everybody knows there is a great deal of difficulty embodied within that option. But there seems to be more and more a consensus of opinion among the experts that if you were to proceed along the lines of an extension of management jurisdiction, just ability to manage the resource by the coastal state, that perhaps that might have some degree of acceptance in the international community.

So I would like to know whether the government is actively pursuing that option and actively trying to convince the Government of Canada. Yes, I know and realize, and we all realize that it is the responsibility of the Government of Canada to carry out those negotiations with the international community. The Provincial government can be helpful. They can be useful. They can be supportive. They can try to urge and cajole the Government of Canada to proceed and to follow that line. And if they are not, then, of course, we would like to know exactly what it is that the government is doing.

Mr. Speaker, I suspect tomorrow in the budget we will have a clearer idea of what this government's agenda is. I believe I said that quite clearly on opening day. And it will be interesting indeed to see the detail of what, out of necessity, is normally glossed

over in the Throne Speech. It will be indeed interesting to see the detail, hopefully more detail than we got today in the statement from the Premier, of what this Economic Recovery Team is all about. It will be interesting indeed to see the detail of how the government proposes to deal with the crisis in the health care system in this Province.

There have been statements from the government when they were Opposition, there have been statements from the government during the election campaign and since, that they intend to ensure that an adequate amount of financial resources is made available to the health care sector to deliver a first-class health care system to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. To that we all say 'Ditto', Mr. Speaker. There is not one person in their right mind who would not support that kind of general statement. What we will be interested in seeing in detail is how the government will be supporting that platitude, how the government will be, colloquially speaking, putting its money where its mouth is, how the government will be providing the new resources for nurses and more doctors and more specialists and building new hospitals and refurbishing older hospitals and all of that.

These are the things that the hon. gentlemen talked about consistently, and I think these are the things, if I could be so bold as to suggest, that the people of Newfoundland and Labrador are expecting the government to react to immediately. There is absolutely no doubt about that because the hon. gentlemen made it abundantly

clear that they would do that. So, therefore, the people of this Province tonight, on the eve of the budget, Mr. Speaker, are anxiously awaiting -

MR. R. AYLWARD:

They will be awake all night.

MR. RIDEOUT:

They will be awake all night.

- that document tomorrow to see if the government is on course and true to its commitments. There will be no doubt about that. So we will have to wait for another few hours and then we will be able to make more comment.

In the field of education, will the government be moving immediately to ensure that the Education Equalization Program is totally funded, for example? The party that is now the government certainly has been on record, Mr. Speaker, in numerous forums, in this House and outside, as committing itself to fully funding that Equalization Formula. That will take several million dollars this year, \$8 million or \$10 million or \$15 million, I believe, to fully fund the program. It was a program that we began and, over a period of two or three years, got it up to \$5 million or \$6 million. There is still a large amount of money necessary to fund the program equally throughout the Province.

Will the government in the new budget be moving to do away with School Tax Authorities? There has been resolution after resolution presented by that party when they were over here, over the last several years, up to and including last year, Mr. Speaker, when the party committed itself to moving to fully disband School Tax

Authorities and raise the equivalent amount of funding, that now goes into the education system out of School Tax Authorities, through some other means.

Now, I would assume that the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Education will be ready to tell us what those means are. We know some of the options, Mr. Speaker. Some of the options were presented to us. I believe a two point increase in the sales tax would do it. That would give you the \$32 million that you have to put back into the system if you take out the \$32 million that the School Tax Authorities now raise and put into the education system. So two points on the sales tax will do it for you, if you want to go that route. I understand, Mr. Speaker, that six points on the personal income tax scale will do it for you if you wanted to go the route of personal income tax.

So these are the details that we will be looking forward to with a great degree of anxiety tomorrow because we must, Mr. Speaker, see some movement along those lines. In fact, we fully expect that some of those programs will be fully implemented as a result of budgetary announcements tomorrow. The people certainly expect that. But there must be movement along the lines that were articulated as policy positions by the hon. gentlemen opposite when they were over here and when they were in other places. The people are going to be watching very, very carefully to see if there is a movement away or if there is a movement forward.

MR. N. WINDSOR:

Who will be reading the Budget tomorrow? The President of

Treasury Board?

MR. RIDEOUT:

That is another key question, Mr. Speaker: Who is reading the budget speech tomorrow? We know who presented The Interim Supply Bill of in excess of \$1 billion?

MR. BAKER:

Mostly yours.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Yes, seven hundred and some odd million of it was ours. That is right, And, therefore, Mr. Speaker, we know who presented it, Newfoundland and Labrador know that, but when it came to defending it it was the President of Treasury Board. So we will be anxiously in our seats tomorrow, as the clock ticks up to two, watching who is going to rise with the Budget Speech in his or her hand, and who is going to read the Budget Speech. Maybe the tell tale will be who has the new shoes on. That might be the detail. If we could see somebody coming into the Chamber with a new pair of shoes on. That is a legitimate expense, I suppose, a new pair of shoes.

We also will be looking forward to more detail on a number of government programs, a number of government supported initiatives. Again, coming back to this whole question of post-secondary education in Labrador West, there were no ifs, ands, buts, or ors in the Premier's statement when as Leader of the Opposition, campaigning in the election, he made the commitment. Nor was here any in mine, quite frankly. There were no ifs, ands, buts, or ors. The commitment by both of us, by me as Premier at the time and the Leader of the Opposition seeking to become Premier, we both made a

commitment. I will tell you one thing, I passed the tenth day, and that is more than some of your colleagues in other places can say. Mr. Speaker, both of us made a commitment so, therefore, the people in Labrador West felt very comfortable. They obviously knew that one or the other of us would form a government. That was a penetrating insight into the obvious, one or the other of us would form a government, so with both of us committing our respective governments to move immediately in September 1989 to institute post-secondary education, those people felt comfortable. I would suggest it had the same effect as a contract. One or the other of us would form the government, therefore both of us, being honourable gentlemen and a leader of the government,, would carry through on our commitment. It was not a nebulous commitment. Neither was mine. Both of our commitments were to start the program in September 1989. Now, one thing we noticed very carefully about this government, Mr. Speaker, is when they want to back away from a political commitment, when this government does not want to take the heat as politicians are elected to do, particularly ministers, when they do not want to do that, Mr. Speaker, they immediately turn it to the bureaucrats. That is the immediate reaction. And, that, Mr. Speaker, is the most cowardly reaction of any elected person that I have ever heard tell of.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:
When you do not want to answer the question, when you know you are backsliding, when you know you

have done wrong, when, for whatever reason, you cannot keep your commitment, if it is a roads program, if it is municipal capital works, if it is a stadium that had been committed, if it is post-secondary education, blame it on the bureaucrats. They are not in here, Mr. Speaker, to take the heat. The bureaucrats are not here to answer the question directly from me or one of my colleagues, Is that the advice you gave your minister? Why has the advice changed over the last two, three, or four months, Mr. Speaker? Bureaucrats were certainly aware of the government commitment to proceed to implement post-secondary education in Labrador West. They were certainly ordered to proceed with working out the details of keeping that commitment in 1989. What about down in Burin? I expect, Mr. Speaker, we will be told tomorrow in the Budget that the Burin program is going ahead. What is so different about Burin than Labrador West? Why is it that Labrador West was picked on and Burin left alone?

MR. MATTHEWS:
Labrador West was in place before.

MR. RIDEOUT:
Labrador West was in place before. This foolishness, Mr. Speaker, of lack of facilities. I talked to people up in Labrador West, Mr. Speaker, on two or three different occasions involved with this post-secondary education Committee during the past five or six months and they tell me that the facilities are not perfect but it can certainly be done there. They tell me that it is possible to do it and not sacrifice anything.

The time frame, Mr. Speaker, in

terms of moving on this commitment in Labrador West is no tighter than the time frame was in moving in Grand Falls and Lewisporte - no tighter. In fact, the time frame for advertising and hiring professional personnel, as I understand it, was even a little longer than the time frame that was available to implement the program in Central Newfoundland. My understanding is that out of the ten or twelve positions that need to be filled to implement the program in Labrador West, that nine or ten potential people locally have the qualifications and have in fact filed applications to fill those jobs. So, if the facilities can be made available, if the professional expertise is there, what is the hang-up?

The hang-up, Mr. Speaker, is one thing. The hang-up will be seen in the budget tomorrow. It is politics and it is money. Politics and money, money and politics, that is what the hang-up is, and I am surprised that the Minister of Education would stand in the House and say: I have to absolve myself of this sin and blame it on the advice that I am getting from my professionals. I am surprised that he would do that, really, really surprised, but we will see.

Mr. Speaker, the hon. the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation is in his seat again, a great man, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:
The hon. stovepipe will go down in history.

I read with great interest in one

of the local papers a couple of weeks ago a quote from the Premier's Chief of Staff, Principal Secretary, Senior Policy Advisor, Mr. Miscellaneous, another great man, but I read with interest his comments and the follow-up comments of the Premier, that ministers would no longer be permitted discretionary ministerial advertising. It was a waste of money. It was not necessary. The administration was out to save money and be very, very fiscally responsible in dealing with the taxpayers money. But I could not believe my eyes, Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, having heard the enunciation of the Premier that this was sinful - anything that the Premier does not like is either sinful or obscene or something or other; it is unprincipled and, you know, he always has to have one of those great words to describe it - but, anyway, there was the hon. the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation, beard and all, Mr. Speaker, the bearded wonder, in the newspapers of the Province this weekend in an ministerial ad offering his congratulations on - what was it? - National Transportation Week! It was in **The Evening Telegram**. It was in **The Sunday Express**. Some people have told me that it has been in a number of other local papers around the Province.

Mr. Speaker, I understand another minister advertised in much the same way this particular weekend, the Minister of the Environment and Lands (Mr. Kelland), who is not not here right now. But the Minister of Environment and Lands, I understand, advertised the same way.

MR. GILBERT:
A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:
A point of order.

MR. RIDEOUT:
Did the hon. gentleman raise a point? I did not hear him.

MR. SPEAKER:
A point of order, the hon. the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation.

MR. GILBERT:
Mr. Speaker, I sort of heard with interest the Leader of the Opposition -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Leader number one.

MR. GILBERT:
Leader number one, is it?

In view of the fact that he felt that I was was contravening the established policies of the government, I thought it was only fair that I should possibly tell him that he is making a mistake, again, as usual.

For his information, Mr. Speaker, there was an ad appeared, as I understand it, in the papers over the weekend concerning National Transportation Week. This ad was put in there because of the printing deadlines, as I understand it. When I checked with the officials in my department this morning, the people at the paper wanted it, and it was placed there before the policy that we are now talking about was established by this government. So the officials in my department, Mr. Speaker, were following the policy of the previous Tory Government, and the waste that was inherent there, and they did not realize that we had introduced a new policy. So I assure hon. members that there is no

dissent in the ranks. My officials are now aware of the policy for advertising, and I am sure that the Minister of Environment's people are aware, and the point will be taken care of and, have no fear, there is no dissent. It was a Tory policy that my officials did not realize we had changed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. TOBIN:
Mr. Speaker, to the point of order.

MR. SPEAKER:
To the point of order, the hon. the member for Burin - Placentia West.

MR. TOBIN:
Mr. Speaker, to that point of order. I just cannot believe what we are hearing. The reason why this appeared in the paper today was because of a printing deadline set by The Evening Telegram? When do they print their papers, Mr. Speaker? It was last week that the Leader of the Opposition heard the person up on the eighth floor say that from now on it is going to close. I was condemned two weeks ago.

AN HON. MEMBER:
Another lie.

MR. TOBIN:
Mr. Speaker, now it had to be presented in this House.

What the minister just said, I do not know if he realizes it or not, but what he said was that was put in the paper - this is very serious; you have to be truthful in this House - because of the printing deadline for The Evening Telegram, and it did not contravene the orders of the

Premier. Now, Mr. Speaker, what is it? Did it contravene the orders of the Premier or was the printing deadline for The Evening Telegram two weeks ago? Mr. Speaker, he should listen to this.

MR. HOGAN:

Are you serious?

MR. TOBIN:

Yes, I am serious. The member for Placentia, Mr. Speaker, may not understand what the truth means to this Legislature. But nobody, including the Minister of Transportation, can be dishonest in this House, and the facts he gives have got to be factual.

There is something here that we are on to now, Mr. Speaker. And I want an explanation further to this: Is the minister being truthful to this House to say that this is here because of a printing deadline of The Evening Telegram?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

There is no point of order.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Obviously there is not a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. RIDEOUT:

I wonder if the hon. gentleman is paying any heed at all, Mr. Speaker, to Your Honour's - Your Honour being Speaker, you are the Deputy Speaker - instructions in private session every day? Only a day or two ago His Honour took the time for the benefit of all

members to articulate the inappropriateness of members on either side of the House standing on a point of order when it obviously is not a point of order, but at best the difference of opinion between two hon. members. Your Honour went through that with all hon. members in private session. It is not much point of doing it. It is just as well to cancel Speaker's corner if we are going to continue to abuse those kinds of things.

Let me say to the hon. minister, Mr. Speaker, the hon. minister should do a couple of things. First of all, he should take out his personal cheque book and pay for the ad.

MR. SIMMS:

Right on!

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:

Because the Premier said, Mr. Speaker, that those kinds of things are sinful. The Premier said those kinds of things are obscene. So if he is going to live up to the ethical standards of his beloved Emperor, then he is going to have to take out his cheque book and pay for that ad out of his own pocket, number one, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SIMMS:

Which he will do.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Number two, Mr. Speaker, maybe the hon. minister will want to look at Hansard very, very carefully today, and having looked at it, he might decide, Mr. Speaker, that maybe it was worth his while, even if he has to pay out of his own pocket, to get his ministerial

statement and picture in the paper.

MR. SIMMS:

Not Beothuck Ford.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Because he might not be a minister very long.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. RIDEOUT:

The minister was asked a very pointed question today, Mr. Speaker. And I am sure my colleague, the member for Burin - Placentia West, will be following up the minister's answer in Question Period again. He was asked a particular question related to a government decision on the second ferry for Bell Island and a particular question regarding whether or not a Minute of Council was issued on that particular matter. The Minister unequivocally answered no. Now, Mr. Speaker, we have reason to believe that there is, in fact, a Minute in Council, and that a decision has been taken, so remember the day, today is June 5, and remember the question and remember the answer, because no doubt we will be coming back to a statement of fact, again no ifs, and buts, but a statement of fact clearly and unequivocally answered by the Minister, no.

MR. SIMMS:

Chance for Cabinet, boys. The boys got their tongues down to their ankles waiting for the Cabinet post.

MR. RIDEOUT:

I know every time we over here mention the possibility of a Minister getting in trouble, Mr. Speaker, there are those in the backbenches who are almost under

their desks clapping their hands, waiting for it to happen. I spent some time Friday on that, Mr. Speaker, so we will keep a running score on what is happening over there and let the House know from time to time. The other thing-

MR. EFFORD:

(Inaudible) you fellows did.

MR. RIDEOUT:

Mr. Speaker, if there is anybody who ought to know when the hon. the Minister of Social Services talks about us fellows - I assume he means us hon. fellows and ladies - but when he talks about that, if there is anybody who is an expert at enticing colleagues down to a certain address in St. John's and helping to plot the overthrow with the former Leader of the Opposition-

MR. SIMMS:

Right on, yes Sir.

MR. RIDEOUT:

- While he was attending the Boston Seafood Show, in my presence, by the way, and I can tell him about all the visits and who was there. I cannot tell him what was talked about because I was not there.

Mr. Speaker, that is why the Premier would not go to Ottawa to see the Prime Minister the current fishery crisis. But I can tell him this, I can tell him who visited, when they visited and how often they were there. And the hon. gentleman was prominent among them, there is no doubt about that.

But, Mr. Speaker, before my time runs out here, I want to mention one other matter that we expect to be addressed, again, tomorrow, by the Minister of Finance in the budget. The ink was not dry on

their commission when this government began what I suspect now, from the information that I have in effect will amount to over a million dollar purge of the bureaucracy.

This government began, Mr. Speaker, a million dollar purge of the bureaucrats for what reason? For what reason, Mr. Speaker? We had the Premier talk about some bureaucrats were redundant because of the combination of departments. Well, the point I am coming to, Mr. Speaker, is simply this, that again, the Premier or any minister must have the intestinal fortitude to tell the people of this Province why you embark on a certain direction, why is it you do it? The Premier's excuse to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador was because of consolidation. That was part of it, no doubt about that, and I accept that. But what excuse does the Premier give say for say, the former deputy Minister of Fisheries. There is no consolidation that wiped out the Department of Fisheries. What was the problem there? He has never come forward and said what it was. Again, he has hid behind the skirts of the bureaucracy on this one. What was the problem with the former Deputy Minister of Education, for example? What was the problem with the former Assistant Deputy Minister of Education? What was the problem with the former Deputy Minister of Justice? There is position after position where this government engaged in a purge the likes of which has not been seen in this Province since Confederation, that will cost the taxpayers well in excess of a million dollars, Mr. Speaker, well in excess of a million dollars.

We have not yet had the Premier tell the people of Newfoundland and Labrador why it was done. Were those people incompetent? If they were, get up and say it, Mr. Speaker. Were those people politically partisan? If they were, get up and say it, Mr. Speaker. Were those people idiots? If they were, get up and say it, Mr. Speaker. Or would you prefer to take again the route of the coward and hide behind the civil service and the bureaucracy and only come forward when it is to your political advantage to come forward? That has to be answered, Mr. Speaker. It has not been answered to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador yet, nor has it been answered in this House. Hon. gentlemen shake their heads. Well, let hon. gentlemen get up and tell us why the former Deputy Minister of Fisheries was fired. Tell us. Get up and tell us, that is all we are asking. The people have a right to know. The people are footing the bill for his severance package. The people are footing the bill for any additional pension that he might be given. It is the people's money. We have a right to ask those questions in this House, Mr. Speaker.

MR. GRIMES:

He could say that publicly. He was told in private. He could say it out loud.

MR. RIDEOUT:

What a sham, Mr. Speaker! Grow up, I have to say to the hon. the member for Exploits. What naivety! Now, I know the hon. gentleman is new here, but what naivety, Mr. Speaker, to say that the former Deputy Minister of Fisheries or Justice or Education or whoever else has the option to go out and tell what he was told.

The Premier was the one who fired him.

MR. SIMMS:

Right! Right on!

MR. RIDEOUT:

The Premier is the one who was elected, it was not the former Deputy Minister of Fisheries. What a silly, naive comment to make, Mr. Speaker. Grow up, boy! You are in the House of Assembly! What a silly comment, Mr. Speaker!

MR. SIMMS:

He must think he is at an NTA convention.

AN HON. MEMBER:

What about the purge in Peckford's office?

MR. RIDEOUT:

Maybe it was the right thing to do to gut her out. I did not say it was not. What I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is that the Leader of the Government must answer for it.

The government must defend his actions. It is not up to Ray Andrews to defend why he was fired, or somebody else why he was fired, it was up to the firer to tell what he was doing, Mr. Speaker, in this case, the Premier. It was up to him to tell what he was doing. They are not elected people.

Mr. Speaker, the person who is now the Deputy Minister of Fisheries, for example, at one time was the senior bureaucrat in this Province, who went on to become president of the Marine Institute at a senior bureaucrat's salary, which was far in excess of what a deputy minister makes, including the Deputy Minister of Fisheries. When is the Premier going to tell the House what the salary is for

those people who were brought in? Were they brought in at equivalent deputy minister's salaries or were they brought in at their old salaries? When are we going to have all of those answers, Mr. Speaker?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

In the Budget.

MR. RIDEOUT:

The Budget tomorrow? That is going to be a detail in the Budget? Well, if you can judge from what detail is in this, Mr. Speaker, I would say that the political purge of the bureaucracy will not even rate a footnote in the Budget tomorrow. That is what I suspect, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. gentlemen will have to start answering for their actions. The bloom will be on the rose for a while, there is no doubt about that. We are all seasoned people. We have been through all this before. But the ministry will have to answer for its actions and so far, Mr. Speaker, to hide behind the coattails of 'Oh, you can talk about it if you want to', that is not ministerial responsibility, that is not leadership, Mr. Speaker. That is not good enough, and it must be done.

MR. SPEAKER (L. Snow):

The hon. member's time has elapsed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

By leave! By leave!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Harbour Grace.

MR. CRANE:

Mr. Speaker, first, I would like to say how pleased I am to stand here and represent the people of

Harbour Grace. And you will not hear me shouting like the previous speaker, because I do not have the ability, the volume is not there. But I might be more sensible.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMS:

(Inaudible) you are fair game.

MR. CRANE:

That is good. I want to be fair game.

MR. SIMMS:

Hallelujah!

MR. CRANE:

Praise you!

First of all, Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate you, Sir, and the hon. member for Bellevue on being elected to your respective offices. You have been doing a fine job and I know in future your job will get better, because you believe in equality for everybody.

Sitting here this evening listening to the way the House is going on and watching the visitors in the Galleries, I heard the Leader of the Opposition say, "Act your age! Grow up, boy!" I think it would be all right if a lot of us grew up, because I am sure some of the visitors to the Galleries must go out of here nauseated after listening to a session of this House.

Before I start to say anything about my district, last Wednesday, when the member for Burin - Placentia West was speaking to the resolution presented by the member for St. Mary's - The Capes, he read a prepared script detailing what a former Minister of Fisheries said. During his

preamble he turned to me and sarcastically said, because one part said, "And they are going to build a fish holding facility at Harbour Grace", "I would like to ask the member for Harbour Grace when that fish holding facility is going to have its official opening."

Well, I did not want the member for Burin - Placentia West to be ignorant of the opening date, but I did not want to answer that question the other day because there were too many people who wanted to speak on the fisheries resolution which was very important to everybody. I decided I would answer him today, because I would not want him to be ignorant, as I say, of the opening date. The tentative date, Sir, is the same date that the superport proposed by Frank Moores in 1972 is going to open.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. TOBIN:

Do you think you could possibly get me an invitation?

MR. CRANE:

Any other information will come to you and you will have an invitation, I assure you.

During the days leading up to the election, Mr. Speaker, I made one promise to the citizens of Harbour Grace district, that if I were elected I would work for everyone in the district regardless of political stripe. That is something they were not used to in the past seventeen years.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. CRANE:

They are enjoying that right now, and I have no problem with that commitment.

Our district is not like Eagle River. They did not always elect a Liberal. But I can assure you one thing, when they change the government changes. They are very astute in their politics.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. CRANE:

When they know people are sick of the government all over Newfoundland, they get sick of it as well. That happened again this time.

Harbour Grace has its problems, the same problems that every other district has. Unemployment and lack of water and sewer facilities are certainly the main problems in my district. Since I have been elected I have had many people phone and come to me telling me of water problems: shortage of water and wells gone dry already, at this time of year. Some of them have to cart water for a mile or two. So you do not have to go into districts far away from St. John's to get problems with water and sewer.

Unemployment in our district is an albatross. It is like a terminal cancer that keeps eating away. If something is not done to change the economy, Harbour Grace district and Newfoundland generally will be destitute.

As a new member sitting in the House this past week or two, I have been observing and trying to learn how this House operates. I have certainly not been overly impressed with the way some members of the Opposition and

members of the government for the past seventeen years have been operating. Because they are the people who created the status quo, they are the people who created the mess we are in right now and, yet, they are complaining every day because the new Premier and the new government have not straightened out in three weeks what it took them seventeen years to create.

Some of the terminology used by members of the Opposition can make one smile. When referring to the Premier or some minister they use words like arrogant and pork barrelling. They certainly do not need anyone to give them a definition.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. CRANE:

They are well acquainted with the terminology and the meaning of it, if our former member is any indicator. They talk about the speech from the Throne, the generalities, being vague. I was not disappointed with the Speech from the Throne, although I am not familiar with Speeches from the Throne. I expected it to be of a general nature, an outline of what we can expect this government to be doing during its mandate. I feel that if the Speech from the Throne held the specifics the Opposition are looking for it would not be the Speech from the Throne, it would be the Budget. The fact is the Premier and the government have identified many problems in this Province and are facing those problems. It is refreshing to hear the Premier say that he will be analyzing the problems, trying to find the roots of the problem and will do all in his power to overcome them.

That is more than we heard in the last seventeen years, I am sure. They knew there were problems, but they dug their heads in the sand and kept hoping they would go away. Because they certainly did not use any treatment other than band-aid treatment, as referred to by the Premier, and the results of a problem that is given band-aid treatment is that the last state is a lot worse than the first.

As I said, Mr. Speaker, in our district unemployment is an albatross around the neck of our district. We hope this government can come up with something concrete, something that will give people permanent employment, not 10-42, or 10-36, or the Lord knows what is coming down next, because I see that the federal government has some other options coming out now and it might be 10-28. The problem was compounded during the election in our area when, because of the low unemployment rate at the time, they put us in with St. John's. They combined us with St. John's and by doing that, instead of working 10 weeks to receive unemployment benefits you have to work 16. It is no secret why our unemployment is low in Spring and Fall in Harbour Grace district. It is because of the mass exodus out of there to Ontario South, Alberta, British Columbia, or wherever fellows can get a job. It is nothing to see as many as 50, 60 or 70 a week going off the unemployment rolls by going to Ontario or some other part of Canada. It is no problem to see why the unemployment rates are low this time of year.

And, of course, the jobs they pick up in Ontario have little to do with the initiative of the former government. Just before the last federal election, when things look

bleak for Morrisey Johnson and the PC Federal Government wanted something to shore up his re-election, they promised to construct a \$40 million prison in Harbour Grace.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. CRANE:

We were happy at the time because we need employment, any kind of employment, in that area. But as soon as Morrisey Johnson, who was not shored up too well, bit the dust, the federal government came back and said, 'We cannot afford to build that prison for another three years.' They are waiting for the next federal election. Another broken political promise. People who were on cloud nine for a day or two found that their prison will not only not come there today or tomorrow, but that it may never come there. Only a year or too before that it was going to Buchans; they seem to put this federal prison any place that is appropriate in an election.

However, Morrisey was defeated, but they looked after him. I suppose it was not political patronage, that they gave him a job a day or two ago.

We are fortunate to have a hospital in our area. I do not know how fortunate, because at a meeting with the hospital board a couple of days ago, we found that things are not very rosy there.

It is a 100-bed hospital. It is operating about 85 beds at the present time. And if this government cannot find an infusion of money to go in there this year, there will be more bed closures. That hospital is catering to about 40,000 people and we cannot keep

100 beds open. That was not caused by a Liberal Government. It may be remedied. At least I hope it will.

The government also identifies problems with education. It fascinates me to listen this evening to the Opposition criticize the government as to why they had to postpone for one year, secondary education in Labrador. Nobody wants to see it postponed, but if the Opposition had done their job as a government, there would be no need to reinstate it, it would still be going there. So why criticize this government for something they created?

Of all the problems we have in education, the only question I have heard the Opposition raise is 'What are you going to do with the school tax system?' Now, that is a problem. The school tax system is a problem that bothers me, why people making \$6,000 a year and people making \$106,000 a year are paying the same school tax. It certainly is a bother to me and something that I will be watching. And I hope something is done with it. In the meantime, I am sure people who have been in government for seventeen years could see many more problems with education, yet that is the only question they could find to ask on the Throne Speech.

The government's plan to upgrade schools in rural Newfoundland in order to eliminate disparity between urban and rural systems is a refreshing statement to people of rural Newfoundland.

This government believes that regardless of where children live in Newfoundland, they should have equal opportunity. I am sure that for the past seventeen years a lot

of people in rural Newfoundland have felt that they have not had that opportunity. The fact that The Throne Speech states post-secondary education will be made available outside St. John's will give some children the opportunity to live at home. I can understand the disappointment of the member for Menihek that it did not reach down there this year. But, at least, he is much more fortunate than some people, he has a guarantee that it will be there next year.

Since the former administration signed the agreement to send the railway into oblivion, there is more vehicular traffic on the highways. Much needs to be done to the Trans-Canada Highway to bring it to a standard to handle the increase in traffic. Besides this, many of our secondary roads are still not paved. The Department of Transportation needs a great infusion of dollars to bring these roads to an acceptable standard.

This Province just does not have the money to provide the transportation needs. This government feels the federal government has an obligation to provide an acceptable transportation network for the Province, and I wholeheartedly agree.

I hope that during the mandate of this government it can be successful in negotiations with the federal government in making them understand our case.

The fishery has been the backbone of our economy since John Cabot. At the present time, the fishery is facing a major crisis. It is going to affect every community in the Province.

The major source of employment in my district is the fish plant. Even before the announcements of more reductions in Northern cod, the Harbour Grace officials informed their employees that their plant would close after the caplin fishery and re-open again in January, 1990. That was before the reductions in Northern cod.

In an area where people will be unable to find alternate employment, one would expect the impact on the economy will be enormous.

I was delighted to hear in The Throne Speech that government will work closely with the federal government to develop alternate employment opportunities for people engaged in the fishery and those who will be displaced because of shutdowns.

Labour relations between government and unions had been at an all-time low during the reign of the past administration. They were unable to address such issues as double-breasting, essential workers within the public sector, pay equity and others. I would like to say that in the short time the member for Grand Falls spent as President of Treasury Board, he seemed to have more success with labour than any of his predecessors. However, much remains to be done in this field and I am confident that the Premier and this government will work hard towards solving the many problems that exist between government and unions, government and unionized companies, and the government and non-unionized workers and companies.

Women's Issues: The Throne Speech talks about Women's Issues. I am happy to see the Throne Speech

shows this government is dedicated to improving the Status of Women by providing assistance to ensure women equal opportunities in the workforce. The one obstacle many women have to overcome in entering workforce is finding child care spaces. Last Fall, when the Tories fought the federal election, one of the key platform planks was the excessive expansion of child care space across Canada. We all know what happened. As soon as the federal election was over, they scrapped their plan. They were the government before the election so they knew the financial state of the country and they made promises just to solicit votes from the poor women of the country. Then a few days later they told them, 'Sorry, we cannot afford it.' I am happy to see that the Premier is concerned about day-care and is committed to improving the day-care program as soon as funding permits.

Another group in this Province I am concerned about is the youth. In many instances they complete high school, continue to university or trade schools, and after they complete their education they cannot find work. I have talked to many young men and women who have told me they have become totally frustrated. Many of them stay around for awhile and hope to come up with a job, while many leave for Ontario or some other part of the Mainland. The youth of our Province is the one resource we cannot afford to export. They are the backbone of the future and if the trend is not reversed, the future of the Province will be greatly weakened.

The Leader of the Opposition, Leader number one, is quite

concerned about members on this side of the House, is quite concerned about the Cabinet, that people from the backbenches are trying to take their jobs. I would like to assure the Leader that no one amongst the backbenchers on this side of the House is going to stab any member of the Cabinet in the back.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. CRANE:
However, if I were sitting in his position I would not be so sure. I think he has a lot more to worry about on that side of the House, about somebody taking his job, than anybody on this side.

MR. TOBIN:
(Inaudible) the difference.

MR. CRANE:
I must say that there are some people there who are quite capable of taking his job, but I will not mention any names, just give initials. The member for Grand Falls (Mr. Simms).

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that I am impressed with our Leader. I believe him to be an honest, dedicated, hardworking individual who intends to lead the government in a manner that will make all Newfoundlanders proud. His belief in fairness, balance and equality of opportunity is something that was sadly lacking with the previous administration. I honestly believe that under the leadership of the Premier this government will accomplish much during its mandate, and I am willing to say that history will record his many endeavors and achievements, and that he will be classed as the best Premier of Newfoundland to

date.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

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

MR. A. SNOW:
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

First of all, allow me to congratulate the Hon. Tom Lush on his election as Speaker and you as Deputy Speaker. I also congratulate the Deputy Speaker from the district of Trinity - Bay de Verde, the Hon. Lloyd Snow, on his election. I am sure that the three of you will do excellent work here in controlling debate in this House. I also believe that anniversary congratulations are necessary here. In perusing the paper yesterday, I noticed that one of our hon. members celebrated an anniversary recently. I want to offer my congratulations to him on this particularly important anniversary. The hon. the member for Pleasantville celebrated the fifteenth anniversary of his selection as the NDP candidate for St. John's East.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Hear, hear!

MR. A. SNOW:
It is interesting to note that he has come full circle in the political spectrum, from left to the extreme right and now the Liberal Party of this Province.

I am honoured, Mr. Speaker and hon. members, to rise in this House and represent the people of Menihek and to debate the Speech from the Throne. First I would like to paint a picture for some

of you to enable you to have a better understanding of the problems in my district of Menihek. A lot of you have never been there.

MR. HOGAN:

I have been there.

MR. A. SNOW:

The hon. member for Placentia has been there and a lot of the Cabinet ministers will be there, I am sure. Some of you others, I think, need a picture painted of the district, because you do not truly understand the problems of the district if you do not go there. You have to get outside the particular district you are in, not only physically but mentally.

My constituents live and work and raise their families in two municipalities, the town of Wabush and the town of Labrador city. A lot of them are pioneers. Some of them actually came in over a Winter toll road - ice road it is called in Labrador - towed in by a tractor thirty years ago - thirty years ago, the hon. the member for Placentia - and they carved two thriving communities. With their hard work and determination, they carved two thriving communities and built an industry for the benefit of all residents of this Province. They did this with determination and hard work, and because of this pioneering spirit the Province's economic well being has been tremendously enhanced.

The people of Menihek have also contributed to the provincial mosaic. For example, our residents have made their mark in this Province in sport, culture and recreation. While the vast majority of our residents have located to our area from the

Island portion of the Province and, indeed, from other parts of this country, they have always exhibited a concern for our own local history and culture. Both the towns that encompass my district, the town of Wabush and the town of Labrador City, recognize the indigenous people of Labrador in their official town crest. The town of Wabush has a rabbit displayed on its crest, a rabbit not grinning like some of the hon. members on the opposite side, but a rabbit in profile, and the Innu word for rabbit is Wabush.

MR. SIMMS:

We did not know that before.

MR. A. SNOW:

I am glad to educate some of the hon. members.

Labrador City has incorporated an Innu word meaning 'land of the hard-working people.' Our well-known local drama group, the Carol Players, have performed for many provincial, national and international audiences and they have been the recipient of several awards, thus sharing our particular culture in Western Labrador and the Province's culture with international and national audiences.

In the field of sport, individuals and teams from Western Labrador have proven their skills many times in provincial and national competition. The hon. member for Placentia cut his eyeteeth, athletically that is, in our particular district. I am proud to say that he was one of my first coaches in Western Labrador in Athletics and politics.

Our local ski facilities, largely built with local funds, are possibly the best in this

Province, the Alpine and Nordic, although the Premier may disagree, in that a district he wanted to represent has terrific alpine events. I guess he found that things, indeed, can go downhill in Humber East. Our Nordic Trails, cross-country ski trails, are rated with the top three or four in the whole world.

Indeed, many teams from other countries come to our area of Menihek in the Fall of the year and have their early training camps there. It is becoming a new industry in Western Labrador.

A few of the hon. members in this House have, in their maiden speeches, expressed some of the problems in their particular constituencies with regard to the basic delivery of services in their areas, basic services such as adequate water, sewer and municipal road structures. The hon. the Premier himself has stated that one of the reasons he is proposing a province-wide municipal water and sewer corporation is that urban areas can help pay for the expenses of very basic services for rural areas of this Province, and it is indeed a commendable idea. My constituents in Wabush and Labrador City, in the district of Menihek, have always participated in this particular type of, let us call it, distribution of tax dollars. They have seen vast amounts of tax dollars collected by the federal and, yes, the provincial government, with very little being spent in our own local economy by either level of government. The residents of Menihek were the first people of this Province who could, outside St. John's, attend a first year university program in their area.

This program, delivered by the local school board, was funded by the mining industry - not by government - funded by the mining industry in the early 1960s. During the reorganization of the high school system and the global recession we entered in the early 1980s, the funds from the mining company were cut back and the local school board discontinued the first year university program in Menihek. I want to emphasize that: 'The local school board discontinued the first year university program in Menihek.'

AN HON. MEMBER:

The mines cut back, did they not?

MR. A. SNOW:

Yes.

We have had several questions, several debates and media releases concerning the issue of post-secondary education in Western Labrador in this House in the last several days, because of a commitment that was made by the now Premier, former Leader of the Opposition, that he would commence a first year university program in Western Labrador in September 1989, and subsequent to that he has changed his mind and announced that there will not be a first year university program in Menihek in September 1989, it is postponed for another year. He reneged on his promise, his commitment to the people of Western Labrador and, indeed, to this whole Province.

Some of the people have made reference that it cannot be done; the minister himself has made reference that it cannot be done.

I have here a letter from the Chairman of the Labrador Community College in Western Labrador and it is dated May 26, as early or as

late as May 26, and she quotes: "September of 1989 is fast approaching and much remains to be done that cannot be done until the Province submits the necessary funds." Then she goes on to say: "We can wait no longer to tender facilities, order supplies, and hire instructional staff." The 26th of May she is suggesting that the only missing ingredient in order for this government to implement this university program to the District of Menihek is to have the commitment of funds.

There has also been a commitment made by this government, by the Premier, as I said earlier, that if elected, and that was the only proviso he put on it, he would commit those funds and start it in September of 1989. The people of Menihek are very disappointed about the lack of commitment of this particular government, the lack of follow-through on their promise to institute this program in Menihek in September, 1989.

The students, that is what we must all remember, the students of Menihek, 180 of them, applied and their applications were accepted to go to a first year university program in Menihek. They discontinued their applications, cancelled them, to other universities, such as Acadia and Dalhousie and Memorial Universities. They would not apply for scholarships to other universities, and it is too late now, because they believed the Premier. They believed that the now Premier, Mr. Wells, would implement this program and meet his commitment that he had given.

Other people cannot get into residences. There is no doubt that there are problems associated with this in Menihek, and I want

hon. members opposite to convince the Cabinet ministers who made this particular decision with regard to the discontinuation of this particular program in Menihek.

And there are a lot of reasons, one of which, and the most of important, is the ability of a person to get an education in his or her hometown, but there are other issues too, economic issues. There is an economic drain on the residents of Menihek because parents have to take \$8,000 to \$10,000 out of their pockets to send their kids to university - it cost them \$8,000 to \$10,000 in order for their kids to go to university elsewhere. If that money were spent in Menihek, a district that has contributed greatly to this Province's riches, it would help our own local economy; it would create new employment in the teaching staff.

So I would urge you people on the other side of the House, the government side of the House, to convince your colleagues in Cabinet to reconsider and think of the plight that you have caused 180 students and a lot of families, probably 150 to 160 families, the burden that you placed on them because of this lack of commitment and breaking of promises made to the people of Menihek. There was no doubt that the statement was made in Menihek by the now Premier and now, for whatever reason, he cannot live up to it. I believe that it may indeed have been political or budgetary. I do not think it is because it cannot be done. People in the area, such as the Principal of the Labrador West Community College, has stated it can be done. The local representation on the Board of Governors of the Labrador Community College has

stated it can be done. The President of the Labrador Community College has stated that it can be done. But they are saying it is going to be difficult to do it. I am sure that the Premier is not nervous or apprehensive about creating difficult tasks for people, and they should indeed go ahead with the commitment they did make.

One of the things that is occurring in politics, and the hon. House Leader, the member for Gander talked about it earlier, is that there is a lot of disrespect for politicians and political processes in this Province because of previous attitudes perceived by people with regard to the delivery of certain goods and services to particular districts during or before elections and immediately following because of a change. Well, that particular action that he referred to as being obnoxious and despicable is occurring now. There is a perception out there now in my district, indeed, that those actions are very obnoxious and despicable, to quote the hon. the member for Gander.

As a matter of fact, some of the people in Menihek have been heard to suggest that most fairy tales begin with 'Once upon a time', but in Menihek the rest of them begin with 'If I am elected'. We feel that it is not fair and it is not balanced to the people of Menihek to go ahead with this particular program or not go ahead with it. And, hon. members, while education is of paramount importance to my constituents, so are economic matters. At the forefront of those economic matters is transportation. The people of Menihek are now able to drive from Western Labrador to the Province of Quebec, to the City of Baie

Comeau, and thus hook into the national network, the Trans-Canada Highway system. A toll road is presently under construction across Labrador and it is expected to be finished in 1991.

My constituents feel that this road should be upgraded to Trans-Canada Highway standards, and thus offer a greater opportunity to participate in Labrador tourism potential. It will also allow for more mineral exploration and, indeed, facilitate further industrial development when and if an agreement is reached with the Province of Quebec on a hydro deal.

I feel that the cost of upgrading this highway, Mr. Premier and hon. members, should be included in the capital cost of the new hydro projects on the Lower Churchill. Not only would this accelerated, new construction be beneficial, but it would also allow for the businesses of Western Labrador to participate in the construction projects on the Lower Churchill. That is very important. Really, a hydro project is earth moving. I live and work in a district that is earth moving, it is mining, and a hydro project mainly incorporates the same type of equipment that is used in mining. Thus, the industries in my area of Western Labrador can participate in this new development in Labrador. They can supply parts and materials and new equipment, tires and that type of thing, for trucks and tractors. Of course, more importantly than all of that, it would leave in place after this major construction project a major piece of infrastructure for further developments in Labrador and that, of course, is a highway, a major highway across Labrador which is really necessary for

further commercial development of this Province.

I thoroughly agreed with the hon. member for St. Barbe, the Minister of Development, when he spoke of the unlimited potential of tourism in this Province. I was a little disappointed with his press release recently on the failure to reach an agreement with the federal government on another federal/provincial agreement on tourism development in this Province.

AN HON. MEMBER:

He is a poor negotiator.

MR. A. SNOW:

Maybe that was it.

With an improved transportation system through Labrador connecting to the Trans-Canada Highway system in Quebec, tourists' visits will be tremendously increased in Labrador. As a matter of fact, this year there are thirty bus tours, up from five in 1987. It is anticipated that there will be 20,000 private vehicle trips in 1989. These tourists will need accommodations at hotels, such as they need anywhere else in this Province, when they come in as tourists.

The fact that we are a border community must be recognized by the government. It has been recognized in Southern Labrador, in the Eagle River District, and they allow the business operators of hotels in that particular district to discontinue the retail sales tax on rooms to enable the business operator in the Province of Newfoundland to be able to compete with their counterparts on the other side of the border, who do not have a sales tax on rooms in their particular Province. It

creates a level playing field.

I have the same problem in Menihek as I have heard of in Eagle River District. It could enhance and create more business for hotel operators, and thus create more employment in my particular district in the hotel business.

There is also a demonstrated need in our area, Mr. Speaker, due to this influx of tourists, to have a fully funded provincial tourist information center. Now that we too are a gateway to this Province, this is a necessary thing in order to paint a good picture for the tourists who are entering this Province. Our provincial park needs upgrading, at least to the standard of its sister parks here on the Island portion of the Province.

The fact that several thousand tourists are being attracted to Western Labrador by road each year is starting to take its toll on the fish stock of our local lakes and rivers, and more emphasis has to be placed on the conservation and protection of this great resource. I suggest we implement a guide system similar to what they have in the Province of Quebec. I address those short remarks more specifically to the Minister of Wildlife.

Mr. Speaker, the fact that Labrador City and Wabush are in proximity to the George River caribou herd several times a year due to their migration route, surely this should give the residents a better opportunity to harvest this resource in a sport hunt. Also, the government should consider a commercial hunt. But, hon. members, along with the opportunity being presented by this magnificent herd comes a

responsibility, a responsibility to properly manage and protect this resource.

A resident wildlife biologist or technician should be located in Western Labrador, with the necessary resources to properly do their job. But, hon. members, the backbone of our Labrador West economy is mining. As a matter of fact, 85 per cent of the mineral wealth of this province is produced in the iron ore mines of Western Labrador, yet, our Provincial Department of Mines has only one employee in Western Labrador. I would suggest that when this government addresses the question of decentralization, as was mentioned in the Speech from the Throne, that they take a strong look at the representation that their Department of Mines has in Western Labrador.

With the local discovery of new and different mineral deposits, such as silica, dolomite, graphite, and manganese in the general area of Labrador City and Wabush, the present administration should move quickly and sign a new federal/provincial mineral agreement and possibly provide a better opportunity to commercially develop these discoveries, thus creating new employment for our residents and, indeed, residents from other parts of this Province.

Mr. Speaker, in the Speech from the Throne there is reference made to single industry towns. The district of Menahik is comprised of two single industry towns. Not only that, they are also isolated and in the North, and rely totally on the production of a non-renewable resource. The statement in the Speech from the Throne says and I quote: "Special attention will also be given to

the needs of single industry communities, with a balanced diversification program being implemented."

I await, Mr. Speaker and hon. members, as my constituents do, to see what this government plans to do with this particular issue. Maybe, Mr. Speaker, the time has come to strike an all-party committee of this House to study and make recommendations on the creation of a resource depletion fund, or a stabilization fund.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents also have grave concerns on other issues, such as social and health care matters in this Province, and, more specifically, in Labrador City and Wabush. I would like to see more presence of the Workmens' Compensation decentralization, and, indeed, an office located in Western Labrador.

Employment and Labour Relations: Their department must have more presence in Western Labrador. Because of the problems associated with mines inspections, there has to be a greater level of the decision making process permitted in Labrador and not have to contact somebody in St. John's with regard to inspection of a particular problem in the mines.

And, yes, Naskaupi has quite a bit of centralized government services, but that, indeed, may be one of the problems, in that that cannot properly service the people of Western Labrador by locating people from St. John's just to as far as Naskaupi; it has to move to Western Labrador, where the mines are and the problems are.

My constituents have a need for more access to health care, such as mammographic services. Because

of a change in demographics in Western Labrador with the massive layoffs in the mining industry in the early 80's, there is a definite problem now. A lot of our people are in the age group 35 to 45, and this is an area of grave concern to women. For an early detection of breast cancer, it is necessary to have mammographic screening. In order for a woman in Labrador West to get this screening, she would have to spend \$800 to \$1,000 to come here to St. John's to get it done. This is not fair, it is not balanced. There should be access to that particular service in Western Labrador.

More funding for a family crisis center has to be instituted by this particular government. They promised it in other areas of the Province, and I look forward to more funding in Western Labrador, where it is practically totally operated now on volunteer services and funding from municipal governments. That is not the way it is done in other districts in this Province.

Increased support services, Mr. Speaker, for senior citizens in home health care services has to be addressed in Western Labrador, especially now that there is some suggestion that this government is going to cut back on institutional health care.

Hon. members, I have identified some of the problems of my constituents in Menihek, and I have also suggested a solution to these problems. Mr. Speaker, the residents of my district await to see if indeed this government can deliver on its promises and commitments, and look forward to being treated in a fair, balanced and reasonable manner in the

future.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the member for Bonavista South.

MR. GOVER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It gives me great pleasure to stand here today in this hon. House of Assembly to represent the historic district of Bonavista South. As most hon. members are aware, 492 years ago Cape Bonavista was the landfall of John Cabot. Bonavista South is certainly a district steeped in historical tradition. I am proud that 492 years later that landfall is now held by the Liberal Party. Bonavista South is a district steeped in Liberal tradition. It was the former residence of a former Premier, Joseph R. Smallwood, and the former residence of Gordon Bradley, who was Chairman of the National Convention and a former leader of the Liberal Party under Responsible Government.

In fact, in 1933, when the Liberal Party was in Opposition in the House of Assembly and the Alderdice Government sought to silence the voice of the House of Assembly and sought to silence democracy in Newfoundland by the institution of Commission of Government, Gordon Bradley opposed that move. I wonder how he would feel today, that after my predecessor vacated the seat, the Conservative Administration waited six months, the maximum period required by law, before a by-election was called in Bonavista South. Then the date for the by-election was set a

further nine months down the road, leaving the people of Bonavista South without a voice for fifteen months. I am proud to represent a government that intends to introduce electoral reforms which will prevent this from happening again.

I would like to congratulate the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, and the Deputy Chairman of Committees on their elections to their respective positions. I am sure under their leadership and guidance the decorum of this House will be raised to an acceptable level and inspire confidence among the people of Newfoundland and will not degenerate to the level of that first House of Assembly, that infamous House of Assembly, the 'Bow-Wow' Parliament of 1833.

I am proud to represent the district of Bonavista South because it symbolically represents so many rural ridings in Newfoundland. The district of Bonavista South is entirely dependent on the inshore fishery. While I have never engaged in the fishery myself, my grandfathers on my mother's side, for two generations, have fished the Labrador fishery from Merchantman's Harbour, and my grandfather on my father's side worked here in St. John's as a fish plant worker in Job's Fish Plant, and at Ross-Steers, working double shifts to provide an income for his young family; working not for ten dollars an hour, not for one dollar an hour, and sometimes going on strike for as little as one cent an hour. The work in the fishery is often hard and the reward often too little.

Certainly times have changed from that great landfall in 1497, when John Cabot let down a basket over

the side of **The Matthew** and brought up a basket of fish. Now, in my district fishermen, the brave men of Bonavista, must go 100 miles out to sea to eke out a living from the ocean, in boats too small for such perilous waters.

I am sure, given the policies on the fisheries outline in the Throne Speech, that the stocks will recover and it will not be necessary for the men of Bonavista to so endanger their lives. I am sure that if these policies as outlined in the Throne Speech are implemented, that the lifeblood of the Newfoundland economy, the fishery, will again course through the sinews of the Newfoundland economy.

There is a principle of matter known as inertia which basically states that any body at rest will remain at rest until an external force is applied, and inertia is a characteristic of a government which has been in power for too long.

In the Throne Speech we find the same problems and the same issues year in and year out, due to the inertia of previous administrations. In 1967, the Hon. the Minister of Education was to head a task force on recreation and youth. At that time he found there was an inequality in educational funding in the various school districts in the Province, and in 1989 we are still debating that inequality in educational funding. Now, granted, from 1967 to 1972 the Liberal government of the day had an opportunity to correct that situation, but the previous Conservative governments have had seventeen years to do justice to the children of Bonavista and they have failed to do so.

On industrial strategy also inertia has been characteristic of previous administrations. Mr. Smallwood, the former Premier, realized that it was not good enough to enjoy the benefits of Confederation, of improved schools and social services and hospitals if, after our children were educated, they were forced to leave the Province. What has been the strategy of the previous Conservative governments? When I was in business school, it was Hibernia. When I was in law school, it was Hibernia. When I articulated, it was Hibernia. And when I practiced law, it was Hibernia. In 1979 Hibernia, in 1982 Hibernia and in 1985 Hibernia. And when the Conservatives realized the promise of Hibernia had worn thin and met in conclave and in council, the wisest of the wise abandoned Hibernia and came up with cucumbers.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMS:

Do not be nasty now.

MR. GOVER:

I am sure the Economic Recovery Team of the Liberal government can do no worse than that. The program to do better is already in the Throne Speech. The decentralization of government offices, the development of tourism in the Province, the increased commitment to water and sewer, if only the federal brethren of members opposite would give us some assistance and not cut back \$21 million from tourism funding, and not cut back \$70 million from established program financing, maybe this development would be achieved quicker. As I said, the characteristic of

governments in power too long is inertia and an external force needs to be applied. On April 20 of this year the external force was applied and the previous government shifted from this side of the House to that side of the House, signaling a good beginning in our relationship with the people of Newfoundland and with the federal government of Canada. Gone is the era of confrontation, gone is the era of sound and fury signifying nothing, gone is the era of rant and rave, and established is a new age of reason. To whom do we owe the external force, the change of government, but to the hon. the Premier, who reminds me of comments that were applied to the great Liberal Leader and orator of the federal Liberal Party in the days of Confederation, Edward Blake. As the Premier undertakes his new program, I think those comments that were applied to Edward Blake are applicable to the hon. the Premier today. The comments were: The lawyer was preparing for a quarter of a million judges. In his own eyes he was accepting a new brief somewhat different from the others. It was to establish the Province of Newfoundland on a sound and proper footing and to assure his own Province had its due and legitimate place. It would be a large work and it would be shared with many men, some, no doubt, inferior, but there was parliament, reason and law, ultimately the masters of us all. He intended to serve them honestly, he intended to give his best and his best had always, or almost always, prevailed.

This document, I believe, is a parchment for progress, a prescription for prosperity, a recipe for richness, and a

document for destiny.

I believe that if the principles and policies contained in this document are followed, then, when June 24, 1997 dawns and the forty-second session of this House is in session, the 500th Anniversary of Cabot's landfall at Cape Bonavista, the 500th Anniversary of the boats of **The Matthew** putting ashore on the gravelly beaches of Keels, and the 500 Anniversary of the planting of the Royal Ensign at King's Cove, that when that day dawns the hon. the Premier will still be the leader of the government in Newfoundland.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SIMMS:

We will invite you, as the former member for Bonavista South.

MR. TOBIN:

Do not get distracted, now.

MR. GOVER:

I am not being distracted. As great Conservative Leader said, and I will admit there were a few, as Benjamin Disraeli described the treasury bench, as I look across at the Opposition I see a range of exhausted volcanoes.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. GOVER:

Now this document outlines the principles and priorities of the Liberal Government, but perhaps it does not adequately convey the spirit in which this government intends to implement these policies. The spirit, I think, is found in lines from William Blake, which Premier Smallwood found appropriate to repeat at the

National Convention when he moved that Confederation be placed on the ballot. The spirit that this party intends to implement the guidelines in the Throne Speech are as in the words of William Blake, 'We will not cease from fight,/ Nor shall our swords leap in our hands,/ 'til we have built Jerusalem/ in our green and pleasant land.' That is the spirit in which we intend to pursue the policies outlined in the Throne Speech, and, I am sure, under the hon. the Premier Newfoundland will be a much better and happier place over the next four years.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. GOVER:

Mr. Speaker, I move that the debate be adjourned.

MS DUFF:

Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the gentleman moved the the adjournment of the debate.

MS DUFF:

That is fine.

MR. SPEAKER:

I do not know if his time was used.

AN HON. MEMBER:

He is finished.

MR. SPEAKER:

Oh, he is finished.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MS DUFF:

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the support of my colleagues, but if they do that too long I will not have any time at all to speak, because I now think I have exactly four minutes.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

By leave!

MS DUFF:

While I am on my feet I would like to take this opportunity, as all the other speakers before me have, to congratulate you. You may well now be surfeited by congratulations, but I very sincerely mean that.

I was personally very, very pleased with the choice of the hon. the member for Bonavista North as the Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MS DUFF:

I have the greatest respect for your experience and for your very evident respect for the traditions of this House, and I am sure that your presence here and the presence of your Deputy Speaker is going to add greatly to the tenor of our debate.

I also want to thank you for something else which you did, which I understand is unique, and that was to prepare an Orientation Session for new members of this House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MS DUFF:

As a rookie member, I appreciated the lamp that you lit at our feet. It is easy to assume, when you have been here a long time, as

many members of our caucus have, that there are things that you know and take for granted, and it was very, very helpful to me and, I am sure, to all new members.

During the very small and private ceremony which we held here in this Chamber on the morning of the opening of the House, I was very struck by the daunting responsibility that we all collectively have in representing the constituents of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. I was also very struck by the historic traditions of this hon. House and by the traditions of my family within this House.

I have political genes which go back a long way in the history of Newfoundland. My maternal grandmother's great-grandfather was a member of the first House of Assembly under Responsible Government. His name was Benedict Denys and he represented the district of Burin.

AN HON. MEMBER:

Was he a Tory?

MS DUFF:

Well, I do not think they called them Tories and Liberals in those days. I am sure he would have been a Tory if they had had the name.

Later, my mother's father represented the district of Placentia in the Sir Patrick Morris Government, and he defeated a Liberal.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MS DUFF:

In fact, I still have at home his campaign sign, which maybe I will bring into the House some day,

because part of it is, 'He defeated the Liberal traitor.' I do not know what was going on at that point. Then, of course, my father, whom you know, because I think you served together.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MS DUFF:

He was elected as a Liberal and served in the Smallwood Cabinet for fifteen years.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MS DUFF:

He was a very enlightened man and he was a Liberal in those days because in those days the Liberals were liberal. Today, if he were entering politics, I am quite sure he would have been a Tory.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MS DUFF:

Now, with your leave, Mr. Speaker, I would like to adjourn the debate.

MR. SPEAKER:

The hon. the Government House Leader.

MR. BAKER:

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to advise hon. members that tomorrow is a very important day. Budget Day the normal affairs of the House are taken over by the Budget Speech. At that time, the Estimates Committees will be presented to the House. On Wednesday, which is Private Members' Day, the resolution we will be debating is the next one on the list, the fisheries resolution similar to the one we debated last

Wednesday. The member for Carbonear will introduce the resolution.

On Friday, members opposite have requested that they have a special event occurring and this usually happens once a year. We agreed previously to adjourn the House on Friday, so we will now adjourn on Wednesday, after Private Members' Day, to give all hon. members a chance to have a look at the budget to prepare their various speeches and so on, and give members opposite a chance to partake of their special event. So this is by agreement of both sides, at the request of the Opposition House Leader.

So on Wednesday we will adjourn until Monday of the following week.

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear!

MR. BAKER:

I move, Mr. Speaker, that the House at its rising do adjourn until tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. and that the House do now adjourn.

MR. SPEAKER:

Order, please!

Before announcing the adjournment, I wonder if hon. members would listen to a concern, for a moment, as outlined to me by an hon. member. That hon. member, who is a supreme example of order and decorum, is asking for a little relaxation of the rules tomorrow, if you will. He has had an operation on that part of the anatomy on which one wears a necktie.

Tomorrow he will not be able to wear a necktie, but would want to come to the Budget Speech. It is the hon. member for Humber

Valley. I wonder if all hon. members would concur to that, that he will come without a tie?

Is it agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS:
Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER:
It is agreed.

This House is now adjourned and on its rising will meet at 2:00 o'clock tomorrow, Tuesday.