



Province of Newfoundland

FORTY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF  
NEWFOUNDLAND

---

Volume XLI

Second Session

Number 75

---

**PRELIMINARY REPORT**  
*(Hansard)*

*Speaker: Honourable Thomas Lush*

Tuesday

13 November 1990

The House met at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker (Lush): Order, please!

The hon. the Member for Fogo.

Mr. Winsor: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment of the House's time to ask you through your office to pass on condolences to the family of the late Terry Trainor. Mr. Trainor was formerly of St. John's, but died in Vancouver this weekend. He had a long involvement with sports and recreation in this Province, being manager of the St. John's Caps from 1972 to 1987, president of several hockey and softball leagues, a member of the Provincial and St. John's softball Halls of Fame. In view of his great contributions to sport and recreation in this Province, we think it only fitting that this House pass on the condolences to the family of the late Mr. Trainor.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Municipal and Provincial Affairs.

Mr. Gullage: Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House would like to add to the comments of the hon. Member in condolences going to the family of the late Terry Trainor. An individual who has served this Province well in many, many fields, particularly the field of sport. I knew him personally. He was a family man, and certainly will be missed by many people, in many areas of life in this Province. And we would like to add our condolences to those of the Opposition.

#### Statements by Ministers

The hon. the Minister of

Development.

Mr. Furey: Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the House that the Newfoundland and Labrador Development Corporation, soon to be known as Enterprise Newfoundland and Labrador Corporation, in conjunction with the Economic Recovery Commission has approved financing in the amount of \$2.9 million to provide the necessary support to ensure that Arctic Seafood's Limited is able to establish a shrimp processing plant in L'Anse-a-Loup, Southern Labrador.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Furey: This company, Mr. Speaker, is a joint venture between the Labrador Fishermen's Union Shrimp Company Limited, Ole Basse Mortensen Trading Company Limited of Denmark and Octagon Investments Limited. This venture will create new long-term employment opportunities for 73 people on a full-time, seasonal and part-time basis to process 6 million pounds of shrimp this year.

Mr. Speaker, fish landings and related processing employment were down to unacceptably low levels in Coast Labrador this year and the L'Anse-a-Loup operation of the Fishermen's Union Shrimp Company has adopted an aggressive approach to expand its capital facilities to process shrimp and thus provide more employment in this area.

Initially, NLDC had approved \$1 million in capital investment and a further \$1.6 million in bridge financing to support this initiative, but when sources of working capital were scarce, the Development Corporation responded by ensuring that the project will proceed with a further infusion of

\$300,000.

Mr. Speaker, another essential feature of this financial arrangement is the investment of \$1.1 million by the three principal private sector participants in the Arctic Seafoods joint venture. This demonstrates, I believe, the faith of the investors in this project.

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to inform the House that the Economic Recovery Team, which serves as the Board of Directors for the Development Corporation, played the role of a development lender rather than a purely commercial banker in supporting this very important project. Understanding as it did, that lines of credit are thin at this point in time, NLDC acted quickly to ensure that this project would proceed. With the total investment of \$2.9 million in this project, the 73 plant workers can look forward to employment in Southern Labrador.

While it is clearly the case that our economy must be diversified to provide growth from new sectors and economic initiatives, the Recovery Team is aware that the fishing industry is the lifeblood of the rural regions of our Province and has acted to ensure that the fishing industry in Southern Labrador remains viable through diversification of its processing capacity, while traditional stocks rebuild.

Mr. Speaker, \$1.3 million of the investment in Arctic Seafoods Limited will be repaid over a period of ten years from sales and the remaining financing will be repaid from the eventual pay-out of a \$1.6 million contribution to the project by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. I would

like to acknowledge and commend ACOA for their support in this worthwhile project.

I am very pleased, Mr. Speaker, to recognize the leadership role of the Economic Recovery Commission in fostering the growth of business and enterprise in our Province. The Recovery Team is not only responsible for helping to remove some of the bottlenecks that have prevented good business ideas from being developed, but it also serves in the demanding role as the Board of Directors of the Development Corporation. It is this leadership role, Mr. Speaker, which has resulted in the opening of the Twillingate Fish Plant this past summer thereby creating and maintaining 350 jobs. There are many other examples, Mr. Speaker, which I will be pleased to report to this House on another occasion.

Mr. Speaker, lastly, I would like to inform the House of the tremendous amount of time and effort undertaken by the MHA for Eagle River on this particular project.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Furey: Mr. Speaker, this hon. Member's considerable efforts to see this employment generating project take place for the people of Eagle River should not go unnoticed.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Grand Bank.

Mr. Matthews: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would first like to thank the Minister for providing us with a copy of the statement a few

minutes before the House proceedings began this afternoon, and would like to say initially that we welcome this announcement the Minister has delivered today. It is a very positive announcement for the people of L'Anse Aux Loup, Labrador, and I say it is about time that the Minister of Development stood in his place and delivered a few positive statements for the people of the Province. Some seventy-three people will get employment on a full-time, seasonal, or part-time basis, and a question mark to the Minister is, how many of the seventy-three jobs will be full-time, and how many jobs were there before at this operation before this announcement was made today?

Another thing that deserves applauding in the statement, Mr. Speaker, I guess, is that the people connected with the L'Anse Aux Loup operation, or the Fishermen's Union Shrimp Company, certainly deserve to be applauded for the aggressive approach they have taken to expand the facilities to process shrimp in this particular area of Labrador, and to provide employment, so they certainly deserve applause for that. I understand that a gentleman by the name of Mr. Flynn has certainly been front and center in bringing about this development to Labrador.

Another interesting observation, Mr. Speaker, in the statement, is that there is a \$1.6 million contribution to the project by ACOA, and, of course, that is something that has received a lot of criticism in the Province by certain individuals over the last number of months, so I think it is worthy that we draw attention to that \$1.6 million investment as

well.

All in all, Mr. Speaker, we find the statement very positive. We applaud the Minister for bringing it forward, we applaud all those in Labrador who have contributed and played a part in bringing this to fruition. We just hope that the people in L'Anse Aux Loup get much needed employment. In concluding I was going to mention the MHA for Eagle River, who certainly, I am sure, has played a very significant part. He stands up for Labrador. The only one I can compare to the Member for Eagle River in standing up, as he does, for his area of Labrador is the Member for Torngat Mountains. I applaud the Member for Eagle River for doing that, and thank the Minister for the statement.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

#### Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Rideout: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the House will recall that some days ago now in response to questions from this side of the House, the Minister of Education indicated that cuts in the Education Budget in 91-92 could exceed, to use his words, \$30 million.

In the absence of the Minister, I would like to direct a question to the Premier. Can the Premier confirm that the Department of Education has been told to cut its Budget for 91-92 by \$40 million, and they are to do that through a combination of expenditure reductions, increased taxation by

school tax authorities, and user fees for student transportation?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Premier.

Premier Wells: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Rideout: Mr. Speaker, the Premier, no doubt, will be aware that Department of Education officials met this weekend past with school board representatives to specifically target areas for expenditure reduction and revenue generation. I wonder whether the Premier can tell the House whether or not school boards have been told that there will be a freeze on per pupil operating grants this coming year, a reduction in grants for student transportation, declining enrollment grants will be frozen, energy conservation grants and so on will be frozen, the net effect being that school boards in the next fiscal year will have 8 per cent less to spend on school board operations, below what they had to spend this year?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Premier.

Premier Wells: Mr. Speaker, I say again no decisions have as yet been made. The Department of Education and all the boards that receive funding through the Department of Education have been asked to look at what would be the consequences of taking these decisions.

Now undoubtedly there is going to be some limitation on funding, and there may well be boards or divisions or offices in education which will not have any more money to spend in the coming fiscal year, that is 91-92, than they have in this current fiscal year.

There will undoubtedly be some boards and some offices that will have increases. I do not know what the situation is going to be, but in a specific answer to the questions put by the Leader of the Opposition, to the best of my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, no such board or agency was given any such specific direction.

Now the Minister of Education is not in the House today. He is attending OECD meetings, at, I might say, the expense of the Federal Government, in Europe. He should be back, I believe, on Thursday or Friday. So what he told them or what was told to them under his direction, I can get more specifically when he returns. It would be inconvenient until then.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Rideout: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, since the Premier is not prepared at this point in time to confirm what expenditure reductions were discussed with the school boards over the weekend, can the Premier confirm that the Department of Education has been told to ask school boards to ask school tax authorities to increase their revenue in the coming fiscal year by 25 to 30 per cent?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Premier.

Premier Wells: I can only say, Mr. Speaker, that no such direction came from Cabinet. Now I do not know who else would tell the Department of Education; only Cabinet would give such a direction to the Department of Education, and I can say no such formal request or instruction was

given by any Cabinet meeting at which I was present. And the President of Treasury Board can advise whether Treasury Board or the Ministry of Finance had issued such instructions. And I do not see any indication that is so, I think it is just one of those red herrings and rumours. No such instruction has been given.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Rideout: Mr. Speaker, we will see how much of a red herring it is over the next few days. I told the Premier, the meeting took place on the weekend.

Anyway, as the Premier knows, 75 per cent of the cost of education in this Province is taken care of by teachers' salaries, is eaten up with teachers salaries. Can the Premier tell the House whether or not the Government intends to change the formula for the allocation of teacher units around the Province and in so doing by changing the formula reduce, starting in 1991-1992, the number of teaching units in the Province by 200 a year starting next year, and 200 the year after, and 200 the year after, for a total of 600 teachings units to disappear in the Province over the next three years? Does the Premier know anything about that, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Premier.

Premier Wells: No, Mr. Speaker. To the best of my knowledge, that is all pure fabrication. I have never heard any such thing. Whether or not any teacher or any school board or any official at any time suggested this might be a way to control expenditures, I do not know. But his question is, has there been any instruction or

direction given from Government? No. The answer is no, and there is no doubt about that. There is no such instruction given by Government.

Mr. Rideout: The Premier doesn't know anything at all about the weekend meeting (inaudible), does he?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Humber Valley.

Mr. Woodford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the absence of the Minister of Education, I will direct my questions to the Premier. On October 31 the Minister of Social Services announced a child abuse prevention program called Put The Child First. The program involves workshops for adults working with children, and special emphasis has been placed on workshops for teachers. Does the Premier support this program, and has he asked the school boards through his Minister to co-operate with the agencies offering these workshops?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Premier.

Premier Wells: Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that the entire Government supports the program, but I have not asked any particular division or office of Government to co-operate. Of course, if it is a Government program of the Department of Social Services, then all agencies of Government will co-operate.

Mr. Efford: The St. John Ambulance program (inaudible).

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Humber Valley.

Mr. Woodford: A supplementary,

Mr. Speaker. Would the Premier be aware that the agencies offering this program requested a two-day workshop, in this case - I just heard the Minister of Social Services mention some of them. They are called The Child Protection Team - a two-day workshop for teachers in my area, especially from Pasadena to Port au Choix, and the dates, I think, are November 20 and 21, but because the boards do not have any substitute teaching days for professional development, the workshop has been reduced to one day and the children will be sent home on that particular day?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Premier.

Premier Wells: Mr. Speaker, in the Budget this year we reduced the proposed expenditure from \$14 million for substitute teaching down to 12.8 million, I think was the figure. Now I consider that to be adequate to provide 82,000 substitute days. Now the days are there. What we do not do is tell the principals or the boards what they will use them for. So if they use them for other things and decide not to use them for that, maybe we will have to look at the way in which they are using it; and if they are not using it in a proper way, we may have to reduce it still further or instruct them that it can only be used for certain purposes. But that remains to be seen.

But in the ordinary course, Mr. Speaker, we can entrust that responsibility to the school boards or the principals of the schools concerned who are discharging that responsibility, and I expect them to do what is right in the circumstances. But what the Government can not and will not do is allow the taxpayers

of this Province to be browbeaten into providing unlimited substitute teacher days under these kinds of pressure tactics. We just will not do it.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An Hon. Member: Pressure tactics?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Humber Valley.

Mr. Woodford: Since this is a programme supported and sponsored by the Provincial Government, will the Premier provide additional substitute teaching days for this programme which is an important initiative in the prevention of child abuse? And would the Premier take it upon himself today to look into the reasons why this particular school board can not send the teachers and put in substitutes? One of the main reasons is that this administration has taken 548 substitute days off them this year retroactively. Could the Premier take it upon himself to look into it? And that is fact, Mr. Speaker, retroactively.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Premier.

Mr. Tobin: Sock it to the teachers!

Premier Wells: Nothing has been done retroactively in that respect so far as I know, Mr. Speaker. But the answer is no, we will not provide additional substitute teaching days. We may direct the Departments to see that they are used for these kinds of purposes instead of other purposes that are less worthy. We may have to do that, I do not know. Basically we would prefer to leave it to the judgement of the school boards and the principals involved, where we

think it is best suited. But we will not allow the policies of the Government to be subverted in this particular way. I am told by the Minister of Social Services that the programme is run by the St. John Ambulance and that it does not have to take place during school days, it can take place on weekends.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Torngat Mountains.

Mr. Warren: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is also to the Premier. I understand that during the weekend the Minister of Education met with the Innu Band Council in Sheshatshit and, listening to the media reports, the Minister had said publicly he hoped that within two years the school board would be under Innu control for the school at Sheshatshit. Would the Premier advise or confirm that it is a policy of his Government that within a two year time frame the school at Sheshatshit would be under the control of the Innu Band Council?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Premier.

Premier Wells: I saw a news report attributed to the Minister and I have not yet had an opportunity to have a discussion with the Minister since his trip to Sheshatshit to deal with this particular problem, so I am not sure of the details of his discussion. I would prefer to wait until I have an opportunity to speak with the Minister to determine what was discussed and what was proposed.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Torngat Mountains.

Mr. Warren: Thank you very much,

Mr. Speaker: If it is factual that the Minister does foresee the school at Sheshatshit coming under the control of the Innu Band Council, would the Premier also consider that this same option would be open to the Innu community of Davis Inlet?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Premier.

Premier Wells: Mr. Speaker, what we can not and will not do is treat one Innu community differently than the other. If that is an option that is available in the Innu community of Sheshatshit, then I see no reason why it should not be available in the Innu community of Davis Inlet. But whether or not there are circumstances that would warrant that different treatment, I do not know. And until I have had an opportunity to consider all aspects of it, I cannot commit to it. But, on the surface, I would say I do not see any obvious reason why one community should be treated differently than the other.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Torngat Mountains.

Mr. Warren: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My final supplementary to the Premier. During the past few years the Labrador Inuit Association has been administering the post-secondary education funds and also the non-insurable health benefit program, and they have been doing a fairly good job with those two programs, Mr. Speaker. My question to the Premier, in view of the Minister of Education's weekend meeting with the Innu Band Council, if the two native associations, the LIA and the NMIA, wish to have control over their education and health programs, would the Premier of the



Province of Newfoundland and Labrador request that Federal funds go directly to those two organizations so that they can run their own health and education programs?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Premier.

Premier Wells: Mr. Speaker, I am not going to speculate on what I might do if such and such happens or if such and such does not happen. As the hon. member knows, we are in the process or just about to start discussions with the LIA on land claims, and I have no doubt that they may well want to discuss in the general context of negotiations respecting land claims the possibility of some level of self-governmental administration of public concerns in the communities affected. We will be discussing those, I have no doubt, at that time. I do not propose to deal with those issues in answer to speculative questions in the House at this stage.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Humber Valley.

Mr. Woodford: This question is to the Minister of Transportation, Mr. Speaker. In October, the Minister announced cutbacks in the Department of Transportation pertaining to foremen employed by the department. In view of the fact, Mr. Speaker, that the foremen are very vital to the safety of drivers on the highways and byways of this Province, especially in seeing that early in the morning and late in the night the roads are safe for people moving on the highways, would the minister now admit to the House that this is the reason for so many problems this year on the highways of the Province?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation.

Mr. Gilbert: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Humber Valley.

Mr. Woodford: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Statements made by the Premier and the Minister as of late have said that there were no other changes in the snow clearing policies and procedures this year. Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that the cutbacks concerning overtime to foremen - a foreman has to work thirty-five hours with no pay -

Mr. Speaker: Order, please!

The hon. Member is on a supplementary.

Mr. Woodford: Would the Minister tell me if a foreman has to work thirty-five hours with no pay, between thirty-five and seventy with one day off, and over that with 10 per cent of his gross annual salary, is he expected to get up early in the morning and to work late at night? Does the Minister consider this to be a fact?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation.

Mr. Gilbert: Mr. Speaker, the foremen in the Department of Works, Services and Transportation were switched to the regular management format overtime scheme and the system is working and working well.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Humber Valley.

Mr. Woodford: Mr. Speaker, if it is working well on the west coast of the Province I would not want to see it if it was bad, I will tell you that, with what is happening out there and on the Northern Peninsula, which the hon. the Member for St. Barbe represents.

Since October 27, Mr. Speaker, on the west coast of the Province and on the Northern Peninsula, and even just yesterday, I had to make a call to highways in Deer Lake to get the roads done down the coast towards Rocky Harbour. The conditions on the west coast and the Northern Peninsula -

Mr. Speaker: Order, please!

Is the hon. Member on a supplementary?

Mr. Woodford: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Then the hon. Member should get to the question.

Mr. Woodford: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister now tell the House if he would reconsider the position taken by Government with regard to paying overtime to foremen and consider the safety of the driving public first?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation.

Mr. Gilbert: Mr. Speaker, the decision we made was the right one. The system is working. Just for the Member's information, the Northern Peninsula Highway today has fair to good driving conditions, with some slippery sections in the Bonne Bay area. Equipment is operating.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Fogo.

Mr. Winsor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question, too, is to the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation. Last week in the House the Minister indicated that there had been no cutbacks in the level of service provided, that the trouble with the roads in the Province were due to the fact that it was the first storm for the year. Is the Minister still sticking to this assertion, that the problems of the roads are problems caused by the first snowstorm of the year?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation.

Mr. Gilbert: Mr. Speaker, what was said in the House last week was yes, if there were problems it was the fact that it was the first snowfall. As a matter of fact, I have some answers here to some questions that were asked last week which I will give in the right time.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Fogo.

Mr. Winsor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish the snowstorms ended as quickly as the Minister.

Mr. Speaker, the highways, a considerable number of days after we had our first snowstorm, are still in deplorable condition. In fact, they were so bad last night that several cars went off the road and so on. Can the Minister now explain the problem with the highways in light of the fact that the first snowstorm is over, the second one is over. Will the

Minister now tell us what is causing the problems?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Fogo.

Order, please! Order, please!

The hon. the Member for Fogo.

Mr. Winsor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary to the Minister.

In view of the fact that the road conditions have gotten worse over the past number of days, can the Minister indicate that he or senior officials in his Department have instructed the supervisory staff to tell foremen to only call in work crews in a pressing emergency situation and that the real reason the road conditions are as they have been for the past twenty-four hours on the Avalon Peninsula, is that the overtime crews were not called in as they should have been?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation.

Mr. Gilbert: No, Mr. Speaker. I think what I will table is the road report for today which I just received at one o'clock for the area, so I will table that, now -

Mr. Tobin: Why don't you table the one for last night?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Harbour Main.

Mr. Doyle: A question for the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation.

The Minister recently announced measures for expenditure reductions within his Department,

like overtime and what have you, and the Government made the announcement that the Budget for 1991-1992 would be frozen at the current level it is at right now.

Would the Minister inform the House if there are any further measures to be announced, as we are hearing there will be, to reduce the cost of snowclearing and maintenance this present winter?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation.

Mr. Gilbert: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Harbour Main.

Mr. Doyle: Mr. Speaker, there is a great deal of concern being voiced by motorists regarding the slow response time of the various depots across the Province, especially on the West Coast and the Northern Peninsula, and there is no doubt that that vital service is being downgraded, could the Minister tell the House if Government is giving any consideration to privatizing or contracting out the maintenance and snowclearing operations of Government?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation.

Mr. Gilbert: Mr. Speaker, I would say the concerns are the fearmongering of the Opposition, and no, is the answer to the other question.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Harbour Main.

Mr. Doyle: Mr. Speaker, in the

Minister's opinion it might be fearmongering, but the Minister has legislation before the House right now to contract out to the banks the services of renewing drivers licences and vehicle registrations, so let me put it to him this way: What further functions within the Department are being looked at to be contracted out to the private sector?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation.

Mr. Gilbert: None, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Grand Bank.

Mr. Matthews: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have a question for the Minister of Mines. I am wondering if the Minister could inform the House of the status of the St. Lawrence Fluorspar operation - temporary lay off notices they were referred to, were issued for November 16, I wonder if the Minister could inform the House as to the status of the fluorspar operation and if these lay off notices will indeed come into effect as of November 16?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Mines and Energy.

Dr. Gibbons: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have nothing further to add to what we already know on the status of St. Lawrence Fluorspar, but certainly over the next few days I hope to find out whether or not there will be an extension of that November 16 deadline. I have no further information at this time.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Grand Bank.

Mr. Matthews: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Could the Minister inform the House if St. Lawrence Fluorspar has requested any financial assistance, or extension of loan guarantees from the Province?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Mines and Energy.

Dr. Gibbons: The present loan guarantees to St. Lawrence Fluorspar do not expire until 1993, and there has not been any other request to me concerning any further money.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Grand Bank.

Mr. Matthews: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have a question for the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation. I am wondering if the Minister could inform the House if he is considering leaving the Sound of Islay on the Gaultois - Hermitage run? The people are very concerned about the condition of the fifty-three year old Agnes and Anne, and since the Minister has made changes to the ferry system, laying off some ten workers, it now seems apparent that he has a ferry that he can place in other areas of the Province. Is the Minister considering leaving the Sound of Islay on the Gaultois - Hermitage run?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation.

Mr. Gilbert: Mr. Speaker, we made

a decision for the Gaultois - Hermitage run for the remainder of this year, until March 31, and the Department intends to live with that.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Mount Pearl.

Mr. Windsor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Last week I asked the Minister of Finance if he would give us his latest estimate of expected revenue from retail sales tax for this year, and he undertook to get that information for me. I would like to ask the Minister if he has that information now? In view of the reports over the weekend that the Minister is proposing some changes to retail sales tax, would he tell us what changes he may be proposing, and what the implications might be for this year?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Finance.

Dr. Kitchen: Mr. Speaker, we are not making any proposals for changing the retail sales tax.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Mount Pearl.

Mr. Windsor: Mr. Speaker, that is contrary to what the Minister was saying in an interview - that they are looking at the possibility of changing and broadening the base for the retail sales tax. I should advise the Minister that if he broadens the base he does indeed change the retail sales tax drastically. Let me ask the Minister again, Mr. Speaker, is the Minister proposing to broaden the base for retail sales tax, and if so what will be the impact on the revenues from that source?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Finance.

Dr. Kitchen: I welcome the question. We have not made any statements about what we are going to do. What we have decided to do is to ask the officials in the Department of Finance to study the whole question of the effects of the goods and service tax on the people of the Province, and also, how it would affect the retail sales tax. Some of the problems involved are the hardships imposed on businesses in having to operate with two different sets of regulations, some items taxed under the GST and not under the RST, and some under the RST and not under the GST, and so on. It is confusing for businesses, and in addition it is confusing for people. We have no plans to piggyback, or to do anything like that. What we are planning to do is to just complete our study, and then we will look at what happens and see what we are going to do, but at the moment we have absolutely no plans to make any changes.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Mount Pearl.

Mr. Windsor: Mr. Speaker, it was reported on Friday that a report was being submitted on Friday to the Minister. Has the Minister received that report, and is he prepared to tell us what the recommendations might be?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Finance.

Dr. Kitchen: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The report is not quite finished. I had an oral briefing on the report, even the rough draft is

not ready yet. So I am expecting to get that rough draft in the next few days.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Dr. Kitchen: Well it is a draft, we will say, never mind the rough part. Rough means maybe the sentences are not always smooth and so on, rather than a hard draft. But when the draft is in I will discuss it with officials and then they will go back and polish it off and submit it back to the Government.

So shortly, maybe in a week or so the thing will be finished and then Government will study it as quickly as possible and make whatever decisions it makes. At the moment I might say this, that one of the big differences between the goods and service tax and the retail sales tax is that the goods and service tax proposes to put a 7 per cent tax on home heating and electricity, and for us to put 12 per cent or 10 per cent on these two items it would be extremely difficult, it would be very, very difficult. But there are certain compensatory things that are happening, maybe we could look at some base broadening. But it is too early to make any statements about that yet.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Mount Pearl.

Mr. Windsor: Mr. Speaker, obviously the Minister is looking at those options for the next Budget, hopefully not in the middle of a year at least. I ask the Premier: in a report over the weekend that the Government is considering some changes to the school tax system, could the Premier tell us what changes are being considered there?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Premier.

Premier Wells: No, Mr. Speaker. I simply restated the position that we have had all along. We were either going to abolish the existing school tax system and fund education directly out of General Government Revenue, or otherwise we are going to reform it in such a way as to ensure that people in all parts of the Province are treated equitably and fairly, so that those people who live in areas where there is not a substantial school tax base do not have their quality of education impaired by reason of having their boards having less revenue to deal with it. So we are either going to abolish it or going to reform it.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the ability to do that depends on a host of other things, a rearrangement perhaps of responsibility. We have to look at what the municipalities are doing or will need to do, because the kinds of tax that the School Tax Authorities collect are taxes generally of a municipal nature. So we have to look at whether or not there can be some rearrangement there to allow municipalities to collect a greater level of tax and take the School Tax Authorities out of it and spend more money on education instead of on grants to municipalities or whatever. So there are a number of things that we are looking at, but we are not yet in a position, Mr. Speaker, to make any final decisions.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Humber East.

Ms Verge: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier. At the end of last week

the Premier made statements to the news media about the current Public Service Commission competition for the position of Director of Cultural Affairs, a position that has been vacant since March 31, 1989. The Premier cast aspersions on the qualifications of the applicants. My question is: What is the Premier of the Province doing tampering with this Public Service Commission job competition?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Premier.

Premier Wells: I am not, Mr. Speaker. I do not know of a single person who has applied. I do not know anything about it. All I know is there was a public service job competition and what we did was used the job description designed by the O'Flaherty Commission. That was the job description which was used. Now I think the O'Flaherty Commission probably wrote the utopian description for that job. I am not sure that we can get applicants for the money available for the job to fit all the requirements, and this is an opinion that has been expressed to me by people whose judgement I trust in the matter, or information that was passed on. There is some uncertainty as to whether the applicants who have applied can meet all aspects of the job description. So this is all I was saying.

Mr. Speaker: Question Period has expired.

Presenting Reports by  
Standing and Special Committees

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Social Services.

Mr. Efford: Mr. Speaker I hereby table the annual report for the Department of Social Services for the year 1989/1990.

Notices of Motion

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Harbour Main.

Mr. Doyle: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce the following resolution on behalf of my colleague the Member for St. Mary's - The Capes who could not be here today.

WHEREAS the Liberal Party's 1989 election manifesto said our future economic success depends more on the improvements we make in our education programmes than any other single factor and;

WHEREAS the announced policy of the Liberal Government is to freeze 1991/1992 funding for education at the revised expenditure level for the current year;

BE IT RESOLVED that the House urge the present Government to exempt education from the announced budget freeze and to fulfill its commitment to fund improvements in our education programmes on which our future economic success depends.

Mr. Speaker: Further Notices of Motion? The hon. the President of the Council.

Mr. Baker: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move pursuant to Standing Order 50, that debate or further consideration on Motion Number 3 -

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

An Hon. Member: Not closure again!

Mr. Baker: - respecting certain resolutions for the granting of supplementary supply to her Majesty, Bill No. 66 -

An Hon. Member: After one day of debate?

Mr. Baker: - standing in the name of the hon. the Minister of Finance and any amendments to that Motion shall not be further adjourned. That further consideration of any resolutions, amendments, clauses, sections, preambles, schedules, titles or whatever else might be related to Motion Number 3 shall be the first business of the House when next called by the House and shall not be further postponed.

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Speaker: Order please!

Answers to Questions  
for which Notice has been Given

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Minister of Works, Services and Transportation.

Mr. Gilbert: Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Speaker: Order please!

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

Mr. Gilbert: Yes, Mr. Speaker. On last Wednesday the Leader of the Opposition asked the Premier some questions in my absence and

we heard him again today. So I was rather brief today because I intended to give the answer at the conclusion under this period.

The first question the Leader of the Opposition asked was: when was the Department going to be ready. The Department of Works, Services and Transportation starts to prepare for the winter operations in September. And the majority of it is ready for operation in November. Winter maintenance shifts usually start on December 1 in most areas when the highway crews report to work at 5:00 a.m. In the St. Anthony area the winter shift starts early in November, depending on the weather.

Now, a storm started on the northern peninsula area on the night of October 31. On November 1 the Department had two flyer trucks equipped with plows, wings, and salt-hoppers in operation on Route 430 between Plumb Point and Daniels Harbour where the storm was most severe. The equipment worked from six a.m. to eight p.m. during continuous snow and drifting snow. The roads were becoming blocked behind the plow most of the day and the equipment was removed from the highway in the evening due to weather conditions. On November 2 the plows worked from six a.m. to seven p.m. The snow stopped at 4 p.m. and there was packed snow on the highway at this time, salt was applied through the day in an effort to melt the snow remaining on the highway. On November 3, Saturday, crews started work at eight a.m. and worked for three hours cleaning up the roads. The Operation's Supervisor Foreman decided to wait until Monday morning to clean up the remaining slush on the highways, and that was his decision. All equipment



in this area was not fully equipped for Winter maintenance when the storm started on October 31, therefore many of the side roads to communities and school bus routes were not cleared until after the storm had stopped. Snowclearing equipment from Rocky Harbour unit was operating on Route 430 from six a.m. on November 1 and 2, between Daniels Harbour and Cormack intersection. The Operation's Supervisor decided that weather conditions did not warrant calling out the crews on Saturday, November 3. Baie Verte; prior to the snowstorm which started in the Baie Verte area on October 31 the majority of highway equipment in this area was working on Summer maintenance repairing washouts due to previous rainfalls. On Thursday,, November 1 equipment from Baie Verte and the La Scie units were out at five a.m. and worked until eight p.m. The graders did not have plows and wings attached therefore some community roads were not cleared until late in the day. One grader working between Burlington and West Port was out clearing snow all night. Avondale; due to an early morning storm on Wednesday, November 7, two flyer snowplows fully equipped for Winter maintenance left the Fox Trap depot at six a.m. to clear snow on the Trans-Canada Highway between St. John's city limits to Roaches Line. They completed their work at approximately seven p.m. after making four trips each way and placing 100 tons of salt on this section of the highway. Operation supervisors and highway supervisors are management staff, and it is their duty to patrol the highways under their jurisdiction, using discretion to order the Winter maintenance crew to work whenever they feel it is necessary due to weather conditions. The

policy for payment of overtime for operation supervisors and highway supervisors changed recently. They will be paid for overtime work in future according to the management overtime policy. Winter maintenance crews are paid for overtime work according to the collective agreement.

That is it, Mr. Speaker, and I will now table this.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Premier.

Premier Wells: Mr. Speaker, there were a couple of questions on Friday. One was by the hon. the Member for St. John's, East Extern relating to two or three automobiles. One was a Chevy Blazer which he said was reportedly seen on many occasions at the Bally Haly Golf and Country Club. Then I will deal with the others that he raised.

When we took office we eliminated the use by the parliamentary assistant to the Premier of an automobile at Government expense, and we used it and assigned it for general use in the Premier's office, where the staff have to go on errands all over the place. Now, Mr. Speaker, some time ago it was brought to my attention that the parliamentary assistant had this and I stopped the use of it, or so I thought. Mr. Speaker, the vehicle has not been used, I am told, for personal use, but the way the vehicle was managed was it was managed by the parliamentary assistant, and in fact, he did indeed, on a couple of occasions on the way home, stop by and play golf, so the Member was quite right. I discovered that when the Member told me about it, for the first time in the House. I

disagree totally, and I am strongly critical of the judgement of the parliamentary assistant in using the vehicle in that way, and I have left strict instructions, Mr. Speaker, that the keys are to be in the custody and care of the chief of staff, and for that vehicle to be used strictly for purposes of carrying out errands and discharging the duties of the office of the Premier by individuals on staff, when and as necessary, but otherwise it is to remain here. I regret that this has happened and I thank the hon. Member for bringing it to my attention. Now, he mentioned a grey Oldsmobile alleged to be seen and parked, I can find no evidence whatsoever that such is the case. If the hon. Member has particular evidence of it, I would appreciate his letting me have it. But I can find none, I have done a thorough search.

Finally, he referred to a blue automobile. I have forgotten when the accident occurred, but it was demolished in an accident about six or eight or ten months ago, I have forgotten when, he says it was somehow used to move furniture a year or so ago. I can find no evidence that such occurred. I have no basis for believing that it is so. If the hon. Member has any evidence of it I would appreciate his providing me with the information.

The second question, Mr. Speaker, was from the hon. the Member for Grand Falls and his question was with respect to the three members of the Public Utilities Board going to a conference in Florida, they were leaving Friday or Saturday, I have forgotten.

An Hon. Member: Saturday.

Premier Wells: Saturday, I think. And he enquired as to whether that was so. I caused an immediate enquiry to be made, Mr. Speaker, and I discovered that the chairman, the vice-chairman and one commissioner left on Saturday to attend the convention of the National Association of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners which is the counterpart to the Canadian Association. Newfoundland Public Utilities Board is a member of both Commissions, Mr. Speaker, and the Public Utilities Board of Newfoundland has sent a delegation every year since 1980. Its meeting is recognized as the leading forum for presentation of practices and theories regarding public utilities and their proper regulation.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think it is obvious that the PU Board should go, to stay abreast of Public Utility practice. I question the need for three members of any one board to go, and I raised that question. The situation at the moment is they took advantage of a seat sale, and they had their tickets bought and paid for on a seat sale basis and if they did not go the value would be lost anyway. So they are gone now. I can express approval. I am sure the former Government thought it was appropriate that they should attend such conferences in the past because they have been doing it for the last ten years. So I can understand the desirability of a representative being there. I question the need for three, and, Mr. Speaker, we will take steps to issue guidelines to the PU Board as to how they should operate in the future.

Petitions

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Menihek.

Mr. A. Snow: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to rise and present a petition on behalf of 366 residents of Menihek protesting the closure, not the closure that we heard about here today, closure of an office that delivered a Government service to Western Labrador for the last ten or eleven year, it is the Motor Vehicle Registration Office that was closed, with the loss of two jobs to Western Labrador.

But more importantly than the two jobs even, although they are very important to those two individuals who lost their employment, more importantly than that is the service that is now not given to the people of Western Labrador after their contributing so much to the wealth of this Province.

We contribute more economic wealth to this Province than any other electoral district in this Province and yet the Government sees fit to take this service away from them, to shut down this office, and no longer will the people of Western Labrador be able to go and buy their licences or renew their licences at a Government office in Labrador; they will have to wait one year, one year they will have to wait in order to be able to use this new streamlined service of which the Premier talked in response to the petition. They will have to wait one year and pay an additional one dollar in service according to -

Premier Wells: (Inaudible).

Mr. A. Snow: Yes? The Premier is

asking what?

Premier Wells: Why wait a year?

Mr. A. Snow: Because the service will not be available in the banks for one year, the people in Western Labrador, Mr. Premier, will not have this service the people in the rest of the Province can make use of, and this is terribly unfair. The people cannot understand when the Premier talks about how his mind was boggled that the people of Western Labrador would be upset over losing this service.

I am sure, now that he understands why they are upset, that he is going to be checking on this Minister to ensure that he does his job properly, and that is not remove this service for a complete year, but reinstate this service now, before the end of November, because that is when the office will be closed.

We are talking about a savings here, a perceived savings or a savings the Minister stated to be about \$80,000 a year. Now, he is going to save \$80,000 a year on the backs of these two employees mind you. The only two employees in Motor Vehicle Registration there he is going to fire them out the door, one with sixteen years seniority. So this compassion which is above the bottom line of which we have heard so much is definitely not applicable in Western Labrador, it is only applicable here, on the Island portion of the Province, I suppose, and the people of Western Labrador are thoroughly upset with it.

They cannot understand why they are going to lose this service for a complete year while the

Government, this particular Department, is attempting - attempting now mind you - to negotiate this new deal with a bank; they are going to privatize this service, they are going to give the banks some more money now. Not only will a resident of Western Labrador have to pay extra for his licence for this year or when this new service comes in, but the banks, I would assume, will also be charging this Government a service. I assume that is what is going to occur.

I am hoping the Minister will stand up on his two hind legs and respond to that. We are hoping he is going to be able to tell the people of Western Labrador where the savings are going to be, because they are visibly upset up there.

They are really demanding that the Minister come into Western Labrador to tell them how this new service is going to be implemented and how they are supposed to be excited about this new streamlined action in saving this Government money, when we all know this particular Minister bungled a contract on the Ossok bridge, on the Trans-Labrador Highway, and cost this Government, the taxpayers of this Province \$1.5 million extra, \$1.5 million which would have kept this office open in Labrador for another ten years, if they had done the contract properly in the first place. But now I ask this Government to reconsider, keep this office open so that the people of Western Labrador do not have to wait a full year for this new streamlined service to come into effect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Premier.

Premier Wells: Mr. Speaker, we are going to implement this program for the whole of the Province so that the whole of the Province will have improved access to drivers' licences and driver registration.

Now this legislation has been on the Order Paper since the spring. Hon. Members know what they have been doing in holding up Government legislation. We have great trouble getting legislation through the House, we have to invoke closure on every other piece of legislation simply because hon. Members Opposite just hold up the Government's agenda.

We cannot get the ordinary business through the House without invoking closure. The Government House Leader just stood here in the House today and gave notice of closure again, and, Mr. Speaker, we may have to do it. And if we have to do it to get the people's business done on every single piece of legislation because an insensitive Opposition care more about promoting their own political ends than they do about governing this Province in the best interest of taxpayers -

An Hon. Member: You are more (inaudible) than you are in the Province.

Premier Wells: If the Members of the Opposition are more concerned about promoting their own political ends than they are about looking after the interest of the taxpayers of this Province, we are going to have more trouble getting good solid legislation through this House, and other legislation, like that piece of legislation, will be held up.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Premier Wells: We will see. Mr. Speaker, we will implement that programme as soon as we get the legislation through the House and the authorization to do it.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. A. Snow: (Inaudible) the Department is saying and the public relations people are saying, Mr. Premier.

Mr. Rideout: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What a sad performance by the leader of a Government. Mr. Speaker, a piece of legislation that has been on the Order Paper since some time last spring, March 15, has not even been called yet by the Government. All they were interested in last spring when this House was in session was, night after night day after day, Meech Lake. There was no legislation called. This Government did not call any legislation for the last several weeks of last spring.

We have now been into the House this fall for two or three weeks and they bring forward a loan bill that was on the Order Paper since last spring. We co-operated with the Government to allow a piece of legislation related to Hibernia to go through with hardly any debate. If the Premier or the Government House Leader wants to call that piece of legislation, let him call it.

Ms Verge: Call it now!

Mr. Rideout: Let him call it today, Mr. Speaker. But do not think this Government is going to find a situation where this Opposition allows Government spending bills, money bills, to go

through this House in a flick, in a day or so, when this Government does not have the intestinal fortitude to bring in a budget. That is what they should be doing, Mr. Speaker. They should be bringing in a budget. Because the other document, of last March, was deceit, it was a fraud, the Government knew it, the Minister knew it, the Premier knew it and now everybody in Newfoundland and Labrador knows it.

And do you think we are going to let you hide behind the skirts of emergency legislation? You come talk to us if you have a problem. I told the Government House Leader before, when this session started, that if he had a problem on a piece of legislation, come talk to us and we will be receptive and co-operative.

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible) when he talks?.

Mr. Rideout: Mr. Speaker -

Mr. Speaker: Order, please!

Mr. Rideout: - the point of the petition just brought forward by my colleague from Menihek is this. Even if this legislation is passed today, if the House agrees to pass that legislation today, my understanding is that it will be one year hence before the new programme will be implemented in Labrador West. And that means that the people of Labrador West are being discriminated against. You are going to close the Motor Registration office up there and have two less people working, that is bad enough. You are going to do that at the end of November, but you are going to treat the Newfoundlanders and Labradorians living in Labrador West differently than anywhere else in

this Province. And that is not fair, Mr. Speaker.

So it has nothing to do with passing the legislation, with the foolishness or nonsense the Premier got on with. This Government is too incompetent, Mr. Speaker, to have or bring forward a legislative agenda.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Rideout: Yes, that is another piece of truth that old Pinnocchio over there gets on with every now and then. I heard the Premier on Open Line - I did not hear him - yesterday talking about this House being open longer this year than any other year. What another piece of nonsense and deception, Mr. Speaker. I have some statistics on other years. We will talk about them in debate later today.

But, you know, this Government now has used closure more times than any other Government since Confederation and they have only been in office eighteen months. What a legacy. You should be some proud. You should all be clapping your heads and clapping one another on the back for how competent you are in managing the affairs of the people of this Province.

Mr. Speaker: Further petitions?

The hon. the Member for Green Bay.

Mr. Hewlett: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from thirty-seven people from Green Bay, one from Windsor District, who, by the surname, obviously originated in Green Bay. The people, apart from the person from

Windsor, were from Springdale, King's Point, Robert's Arm and Rattling Brook. And the prayer of the petition is as follows, Mr. Speaker:

Because an expenditure freeze in the health care system will mean layoffs and bed closures, we, the undersigned residents of Green Bay District, petition the hon. House of Assembly not to approve such a freeze.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is a petition, the wording of which I presented on a number of days following in this hon. House, but obviously with no effect on the Government opposite. I was in my district again this weekend and the concern out there is growing. People are really worried about their health care system. In particular, there is one concern that seems to be growing as a result of the comment the Minister of Health made in response to one of my petitions the other day, and that was rather than spreading the pain of the freeze throughout both the senior citizens complex and the hospital, the Government is actively considering the actual closure of the hospital itself. I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, if it does that, the job loss will be considerably more than the twenty persons that would have come out of the scenario put forward by the administration of the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, the nearest hospital is Grand Falls. The other hospital the people of the area use is in Corner Brook. Now if we close the local hospital in Springdale and we have a major cutback program at both Corner Brook and Grand Falls, that is only going to make a bad situation worse.

Mr. Speaker, the health care system in this Province, especially in the larger regional centres, is badly overloaded. Closing small regional hospitals certainly will not help. Nursing home beds: There is already a considerable lineup; many, many months of waiting in order to get into the Valley Vista Senior Citizens Complex. If this freeze goes about with the impact on the Valley Vista Home as calculated by the local management, twenty-four beds will close. In other words, twenty-four people will either have to move out or pass away. Excuse me, twenty-five will have to move out or pass away before there will be one new admission. That means that a waiting list which is normally months will become years, and that is the only major nursing home facility in that entire area.

Mr. Speaker, this Government got elected on a mandate to expand the health care system in this Province. It basically promised to open health care beds where the demand existed. I remember very well they were very negative to the former administration when in times of restraint beds were closed temporarily during the Summer period. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this Government seems to have had a very short memory as to its political commitments to the people of this Province and, quite literally, people are amazed that the major plank in this Government's platform, i.e., health and education would be sacrosanct and exempt from cuts, are becoming the very targets of this Government's restraint program.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Green Bay are concerned. They continue to send me my petitions, and I

table this one today and ask that it be referred to the department to which it relates. Thank you.

#### Orders of the Day

Mr. Baker: Motion 3, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: It is moved and seconded that I do now leave the Chair for the House to resolve itself into Committee of the Whole on Supply.

On motion, that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole on Supply, Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

#### Committee of the Whole on Supply

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

Bill No. 66.

The hon. the Member for Mount Pearl.

Mr. Windsor: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, last week we were debating the Supply Supplementary Bill and a number of very important questions, I think, were being addressed. Before I get into that, Mr. Chairman, we have to consider this question of closure being introduced here again. This is two money bills now in the last couple of weeks on which closure has been used to gag the House of Assembly, gagging the House of Assembly, Mr. Chairman, and forcing through legislation, forcing this Parliament to give this Government more spending authority.

Mr. Chairman, as I indicated in the debate on The Loan Bill in which closure was used last week, closure is not appropriate when asking for supply. It may be appropriate if some general legislation is being filibustered, which is the parliamentary term that is used, it is the business of Government, and the public good is being disrupted because of the Government's inability to get a piece of legislation through the House. And always after a very lengthy debate, and Government always has that right if they are prepared to take the political risks associated with using closure. I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, it is not a mechanism that should be taken lightly or that should be used lightly or without due consideration for the interruption of the democratic process that it really represents.

This House, Mr. Chairman, has the responsibility and the right on behalf of every resident of this Province who elected the fifty-two representatives here, we have a responsibility to consider at length every piece of legislation that is brought forward by this Government. We have a responsibility to the people who elected us.

When closure is invoked on any issue, but particularly on an issue like this, it is a dereliction of responsibility on behalf of every member in this House of Assembly who allows that to happen.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Windsor: I beg your pardon?

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Windsor: There is no doubt -

the Government did not give notice just for the heck of it, Mr. Chairman. Closure will be coming through. And I will be speaking to the Bill. I have lots of time to speak to the Bill yet.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Windsor: Closure, Mr. Chairman, is something that should not be taken lightly, particularly when you are talking about a money bill. This Government is asking for supply and that is why, Mr. Chairman, money bills are always considered to be so serious. If the Government loses a money bill it means automatic resignation of the Government - as opposed to any other piece of legislation - if the Government loses it they lose a piece of legislation, they will come back next year with the same piece of legislation or they will amend it and bring it back. But closure or a vote against a money bill, the loss of a money bill is, in fact, a vote of nonconfidence in the Government and the Government has absolutely no alternative but to resign. That is how important a money bill is considered in the parliamentary process. I consider it absolutely completely inappropriate to use closure on a bill such as this, to force this Parliament in an undemocratic fashion to give additional supply to this Government. Now, Mr. Chairman, it is particularly more abhorrent when you consider the reasons for which the supply is being requested.

Mr. Chairman, we looked at the enterprise development operations, \$2.6 million being requested basically for the Economic Recovery Team, \$27 million being requested for Enterprise Development Loan Fund. As we



pointed out last week, Mr. Chairman, there is no requirement at this point in time to repay those loans. We are eliminating an opportunity for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians to invest in their own Province. Although it is not stated in this piece of legislation it should be abundantly clear to everyone that this means the death of the Newfoundland Development Savings Bonds, eliminating the opportunity for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians to invest in their Province. The Minister said, 'oh yes, but we can borrow at more favorable rates.' Yes, of course, we can. And so could the Government of Canada, Mr. Chairman. We are not competing with our ability to borrow in Japan or in Switzerland we are competing with Canada Savings Bonds. With Canada Savings Bonds, that is what we are competing with, and the rationale for having Canada Savings Bonds is two fold. It allows the Government of Canada to borrow in Canadian dollars to borrow at home and it gives Canadians an opportunity to invest in the development of their country.

Now, Mr. Chairman, Newfoundland Development Savings Bonds are exactly the same thing at a provincial level. It allows the Province to borrow here in Newfoundland and Labrador; it allows Newfoundlanders and Labradorians an opportunity to invest in their future and it keeps that money in Newfoundland. It keeps it here, which is a very real benefit, so we should not be comparing the cost of that money with the cost of equivalent money in Switzerland or France. We should consider whether Newfoundlanders and Labradorians are going to buy Canada Savings

Bonds or Newfoundland Savings Bonds. I think it is one quarter per cent more than Canada Savings Bonds we are paying, maybe it is one half, I am not sure. I can be corrected on that. Does the Minister know the difference in the rate? Could we wake up the Minister? The Minister does not want to be awakened. It is about one quarter to a half per cent, and I would submit, Mr. Chairman, that that is the real cost of keeping that money in Newfoundland and Labrador, and that the benefits far outweigh that one quarter or one half per cent, whatever the case may be. It was a good program, it was well received, and the fact that most of the investment comes from the urban regions, Mr. Chairman, what does that have to do with the price of tea in China? Is the Minister suggesting for one moment that Newfoundlanders who happen to live in St. John's, or other urban centers, should be denied the right? That because they are the ones who primarily take advantage of this opportunity, that that in any way suggests the program should be eliminated? I would suggest not, Mr. Chairman. It just happens that those people are the ones, perhaps, that were most aware. Perhaps, the Minister needs to do a better awareness program to allow Newfoundlanders all across this Province, in rural Newfoundland, to take advantage. I am told that there are in fact more actual investments from rural Newfoundland but in smaller amounts, and that the larger amounts are from urban centers. Does that simply mean that the more affluent are residing in urban centers and therefore they have more money to invest in this manner? That is hardly a reason, Mr. Chairman, to eliminate that program, but certainly the

rationale of eliminating the program and causing Government, at a time when money is so tight, to have to repay the \$17 million now outstanding, and therefore having to give NLDC, or Enterprise Newfoundland, or whatever it is going to be called, it really does not make any difference what it is called because it is the same organization with the same people, doing the same job.

Mr. Hogan: A rose by any other name.

Mr. Windsor: A rose by any other name. The hon. Member for Placentia is quite right, a rose by any other name, and that is the point we are making with this ridiculous statement. We heard this afternoon that the Economic Recovery Commission somehow had something to do with funding Arctic Fisheries. What foolishness. It was something that would have taken place anyway with Newfoundland and Labrador Development Corporation. The Economic Recovery Commission had nothing to do with it, absolutely nothing to do with it. It is just utter nonsense, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Your time is up.

Mr. Windsor: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have another opportunity later.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. the Member for Eagle River.

Mr. Dumaresque: I just want to take a few minutes to respond to some of the remarks that have been made by the Opposition in respect to the announcement today of the Shrimp Peeling Plant in the Labrador Straits. Just recently, when the Member for Mount Pearl, talked about the role of the

Economic Recovery Commission, I want to touch on that as well, Mr. Chairman, and to conclude by thanking a number of people for their initiative.

Mr. Chairman, the employment projections that the fisheries critic talked about in his response to the statement, he was wondering how many jobs were in this area before this initiative today. I would like to tell the hon. Member there were zero jobs there from this industry. I would like to let hon. members know that what we are talking about here is a \$100 million offshore shrimp industry off the Coast of Labrador and we did not receive, up until today, not one job in the secondary processing of this \$100 million shrimp industry. All the secondary processing, up to this point, was done in Europe, in Denmark, and in the Faroe Islands, so what we see here today is a move by this Government, certainly in conjunction with the Federal Government and the private enterprises involved, what we see here is a concrete example of how diversification can take place in our fishery. The diversification of meaningful employment can take place in our fishery and in all places of the Province, including the remote places of Labrador, and what we are seeing here is a diversification into a new species, Mr. Speaker, a new species of the fishery that for too long has been gone underexploited in terms of our employment possibilities in this particular industry. And I hope that over the next few months we will see the operation on the Southside go into force again as a result of initiatives that this Government is taking, and we will see the further benefit of the offshore shrimp industry coming

here to the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador with the creation and maintaining of a couple of hundred jobs on the southside of St. John's.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to also let hon. members know what the significance of this particular announcement was today, because it is extremely historic in my view, that hon. members should know that for the first time ever, for the first time ever from L'Anse-au-Clair to Nain, we now have a project in place where people can look at up to ten months work each year for the sixty to seventy full-time people, ten months work.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Dumaresque: You know this is something that nobody ever thought was possible on the Coast of Labrador because we are isolated, because we have the ice factor down there that nobody else does on the Island, but, Mr. Speaker, this is an industry of which we can take advantage because shrimp can be stored for fairly long periods of time and it can be used as you process, as you have the capability of processing it, so it is almost like finding a small mine that would - something similar to what used to be I guess, in Daniel's Harbour, it is the kind of thing that needs to be done.

I do not mean to make that known in light of the fact that it is not there anymore, I hope that it will be re-activated or certainly those jobs will go back to the hon. Member's district in one fashion or another, but this is what it means to the Labrador Straits.

In the last three years in particular, we have seen the Gulf cod fishery decline, as the Minister noted, to unacceptable levels. We have seen a total failure in that particular fishery in the Labrador Straits and therefore to have this particular initiative today, we are going to see a stable economic environment from which businesses can operate. They will know that there is this degree of economic activity taking place for eight to ten months of every year and I think that will give a lot of comfort to that business community and certainly not to the least of which is to the sixty or seventy successful people who will be working there to make this industry a very viable one indeed.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to also note the participation of the Economic Recovery Team and particularly, Mr. Wayne Humphries, who has been known to the Coast of Labrador for a number of years and with whom I worked closely over the last number of months to put the details of this proposal together. And of course, Miss Susan Sherk, who is also on the Economic Recovery Team and looks after a number of affairs in Labrador.

But Mr. Speaker, their participation has been invaluable to the success of this venture, because they have shown their commitment to Labrador, and I might also note the commitment to this type of activity, the type of activity which produces the sixty - seventy jobs which are so important to us, a small community like the Labrador Straits. So I am very appreciative of the role they have played, and I know hon. Members will see more examples of the kinds of things this

Commission is doing and working diligently at, that in the long term, Mr. Chairman, when we start tying these things together, good, meaningful, solid employment is what this Economic Recovery team is producing. And I look forward to more of their particular initiatives and, of course, I look forward to more of those things happening in Eagle River. I know we will always have a competitive situation here for these kinds of dollars, but we hope to get our share.

I guess, Mr. Chairman, to conclude, I would like to congratulate this Government and the Minister of Development and the Minister of Fisheries in particular. These two Ministers have worked diligently and certainly explored all possibilities to make sure this project was a reality.

Mr. Chairman, I know times are tough and that money is tight. As I mentioned in this House on a number of occasions before, often when things are bad usually the first places you feel it are in the more remote places of this Province, and certainly Labrador would be in that category. We feel it the quickest, it usually lasts the longest, and we are the last one to get it put back into our economy. So, Mr. Chairman, I would like to congratulate these two Ministers and the Government today for seeing that justice and fairness is given to the coast of Labrador, even in these tough financial times. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. the Member for Green Bay.

Mr. Hewlett: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, am pleased for

the hon. Member's constituents on the coast of Labrador. It is rather amazing that the Newfoundland and Labrador Development Corporation has been in existence for many, many years now and no doubt over those many years has assisted many many enterprises get off the ground. But somehow now, every time it does its routine normal business, its mandated business, it is a matter to send an ERC flag up the flagpole. Mr. Chairman, I think they protest a little too much.

I, too, Mr. Chairman, must protest closure, to be on the record, with regard to this particular bill. This Government has plenty of opportunities to bring other items forward on their legislative agenda. As we did during the Hibernia legislation, we co-operated and the thing went through with minimal debate. Therefore, I can only assume, as I indicated to my colleague from Bonavista South on the panel there the other week, closure on general money bills is to keep us from exposing the weaknesses of this Government to the public at large.

Now, Mr. Chairman, on the weekend I had a Member's clinic and a couple of items came up that I undertook to my constituents I would raise on the floor of this Assembly. One of them had to do with the condition of the highways in the area and the lack of snow clearing. I understand that morale in the Department of Highways staff is at an all-time low. We have a scenario where foremen are earning far less than the people they supervise. Mr. Chairman, the Government has a general rule of thumb that says a supervisor will earn 5 per cent more at least than the people he or she supervises. Unfortunately,

the new snow clearing policy of this Government got us into a situation where foremen are going to earn several thousand dollars, probably, in a given year less than the people they supervise. That does nothing for the morale of the foremen and, I would suggest, does nothing for the overall efficiency of the snow clearing activities of his Department.

I also had a number of truckers drop in to see me, Mr. Chairman, and they were dejected as to the current state of their industry and their current economic prospects. One of the truckers I wrote the hon. Minister of Transportation about just a few days ago. On a brand new bridge on the Trans-Canada, between Deer Lake and Howley I believe it is, there is an extremely rough surface even though the bridge is brand new. A fully loaded tractor-trailer got such a bang that its drive shaft destroyed its air-brake system. The trucker was lucky that he did not end up bottom up in the ditch. He did manage to cripple his truck over to the side of the road, he put out the appropriate flares to mark the disabled vehicle, and, Mr. Chairman, when he did return with help to get his truck fixed, he found his flares had been stolen and he had a ticket on his windshield for having no flares out.

That particular trucker thought that was a typical example of the way he and the other people in his industry feel they are being squeezed. They are in tight economic times, their costs are rising, the price of fuel is rising, the cost of parts is rising. At the same time, the Department of Transportation is

more stringently enforcing the rules of the road and the truckers who came in to see me basically indicated they feel they are getting squeezed in the situation between the cruel economic realities of the day and the more stringent enforcement of rules by the Department of Transportation.

A couple of complaints they had specifically, Mr. Chairman, and I wish the Minister of Transportation might address this. When it comes to wood trucks, Mr. Chairman, the load on a wood truck be judged, measured and enforced by the cord rather than by weight, as is often the case now. One trucker indicated he was pulled over for a size check as to the configuration of his load in the nighttime. He decided to step out of his cab to see what the officials of the Minister's Department were doing in checking the load. He was told he was not allowed to watch his load being measured, Mr. Chairman, because it was nighttime, and if you were run over by a passing vehicle it would be the Department's responsibility. So even though his load was being checked he, as a citizen of this country, was not allowed to watch the officials checking the load.

So, Mr. Chairman, here we have a situation where we have increasing truck traffic on our road. Our railway is gone. Since this administration came to power, Mr. Chairman, three new bridges have been installed on the Trans-Canada between Deer Lake and Springdale, and the surface of those bridges is extremely rough at the expansion joints; you get quite a thumping going over and you can imagine the jolt to a large tractor-trailer fully loaded. And, as I said, the trucker who

dropped in to see me, along with a couple of his friends, nearly ended up in the ditch as a result of an extremely rough bridge surface.

So I told these individuals, Mr. Chairman, I would bring their concerns to the floor of the Assembly. As I indicated, I have written the Minister with regard to the damage done to the truck of one particular individual. Although I suppose he is not allowed to speak in this debate because of closure, I would invite the minister to address these issues. Because they are of real concern to people who are trying to earn a living on the road. They feel they have no friends in the world, that they have an image problem, that it is the old Smokey and the Bandit routine. The authorities that be think they are a menace to the road.

The economic realities are getting their bankers on their backs, their costs are rising, they are getting caught in the squeeze, they have tremendous competition from large mainland trucking firms, many of whom may be subsidized in their home jurisdiction. We have no enforcement of gasoline regulations at the entry port in Port aux Basques at the moment, therefore, trucks are coming fully loaded with cheaper gasoline from the United States and mainland Provinces. This is providing unfair competition to the individuals who make their living on our highways.

So, Mr. Chairman, I indicated I would bring their concerns before this Assembly and I would certainly hope that the hon. Minister of Transportation would address those concerns. Thank you

very much.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Minister of Social Services.

Mr. Efford: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A couple of points I want to address. I have listened for some time now to Members opposite talking and complaining about their freedom and their rights in the House of Assembly, and especially against the President of Treasury Board for bringing in closure on this particular bill. I think if every Member in the House of Assembly, on both sides, took a look at the information coming out of the thirty minutes provided every day in Question Period, I wonder why we allow any debating time in the House of Assembly at all.

Because Question Period today, I think, was about the weakest time I have ever seen any Question Period in my experience in the House of Assembly, which has not been too long.

Mr. Power: Since you went over there, you mean.

Mr. Efford: No no. In my experience in the House of Assembly. There is no comparison at all to when we were on the Opposition, because at least there was some life in Question Period. But it got to the point today where there was absolutely no structure to Question Period at all. You are grasping at straws in trying to get questions. I mean, if you need information, need questions, why do you not take the newspapers? You do not have to do any research in your own office, you do not have to hire any people up there to do research, take the newspapers. You would get enough information

out in Question Period if you just followed the news media trend.

So do not stand up in this House of Assembly calling names on the Government because they are bringing in closure. It is a waste of time, because there is nothing said on the opposite side of the House anyhow. There is no information getting out there. The only information getting out there is what Government Members -

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Efford: That is right - is what Government Members and Ministers bring out to the general public. So for the Member for Green Bay to stand up here and say it is a crime or it is shocking that we bring in closure on a particular bill, I think we are doing the public a favour. We are certainly doing the taxpayers of the Province a favour by bringing in closure and lessening your time in the House of Assembly, and lessening the cost to the taxpayers.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Efford: Severance. Oh, Mr. Severance.

The Minister of Works, Services and Transportation. I am not too familiar with what is happening around the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. I cannot swear, because I can't be everywhere nor should I be, on what is happening on the highways. But I can honestly say -

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Efford: I can honestly say what is happening on the highways around Conception Bay. I left home, Port de Grave, this morning

at 5:30. That is pretty early to leave a community and expect the snow to be cleared away. It snowed quite heavily last night on the Avalon Peninsula, especially out home, but I left home 5:30 this morning and from Port de Grave to St. John's the roads were completely ploughed and salted. In fact, I met at least three to four pieces of equipment; that is only a sixty mile drive, and that was 5:30 or 5:45 this morning on the highway coming in from Conception Bay.

Ms Verge: It stopped snowing at ten o'clock last night.

Mr. Efford: But the roads were cleared and salted then, so it had to be done last night. It could not be done while there was a snowfall blistering down, it had to be done after the snow stopped. So what is your point? When should they have done it, before the snow fell?

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Efford: In other words, they should have done it before the snow fell. Now, for goodness sake, what a mentality. Send the ploughs out before the snow comes down. Boy! Make no wonder we are \$5.4 billion in debt, with a mentality like that. That certainly explains the administration. Probably in some parts of the Province it may be cleared a bit slower. Probably it is. But you cannot dictate the weather: when the snow is going to fall, when it is going to stop. And it is pointless to throw away hundreds of thousands of tons of salt unless there is something on the ground to put it on. And I am not one to stand up, because I am as nervous driving on the road as anybody in this Province, but I

can assure this hon. House of Assembly that at 5:30 this morning, when I drove through Bay Roberts, Roaches Line, the Trans-Canada, right to Confederation Building, everything was salted, cleaned and ploughed.

Now, when they did it. They may have had some magical moment when they did not allow the snow to fall on those areas which I drove on, but I can assure you there was nothing on the highway.

Ms Verge: (Inaudible).

Mr. Efford: So I think the hon. member should take a lesson from the former Opposition who takes great pleasure in looking across the House and seeing the change-around, and takes delight in seeing everybody confused and frustrated over there. Take a lesson. If you are going to ask some questions in the House of Assembly to ministers on this side, put some thought, some commonsense into it and get something of reality to bring in, that will at least keep us awake.

Probably we should have a mock House of Assembly one of these days where myself and the hon. the Minister of Development will go back over for a day or two and show you how it is done. But please put some energy into it and get something going for once so we can get rid of the boredom of having nothing to do but just sitting in the Chair, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. the Member for Humber Valley.

Mr. Woodford: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I cannot wait for Hansard to come out. I have to try to get that tonight so I can send it out to the people around

the Deer Lake, Rocky Harbour, Daniel's Harbour and Hawkes Bay area. I have to get that one.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Woodford: Yes sure. I can give them that, too. I could give them lots of that, too. You stopped the chance of that happening out there, and nothing has happened since. But for the Minister of Social Services to get up today and talk about Question Period.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I will give you some facts on Question Period today and the two questions I asked in particular. I am not saying there was anything glamorous about them. I never shouted and bawled and squealed. But I do get calls from my constituents. I do talk to my constituents. But hearing some members opposite, you would swear they never get a phone call, let alone talk to them. In talking to some of the constituents in the area the weekend, I can assure you, Mr. Chairman, that some people better get in their district and get in them fast, I can assure you.

But one of the questions -

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Woodford: - asked today, Mr. Chairman, was concerning the professional development program that was supposed to be held concerning child abuse. It is going to be held in the Member for St. Barbe's District on November 20, in Rocky Harbour. That is the workshop on child sexual abuse that I mentioned today.

Ms Verge: The one that the Premier insinuated (inaudible).



Mr. Woodford: Yes, I probably would have gotten a better answer, but then again when asking the question, the feeling coming from the other side is that there was nothing to it. Well, I can assure members opposite, and the Member for Carbonear who snickered and hollered when I was talking about substitute teachers, I can tell him right now that what I said today was factual. There were 548 days knocked off the Deer Lake-St. Barbe School Board last year retroactively and without any warning, nothing, for February and March there was 548 days. Now, if they have 1,322 days left for the rest of the year for sick leave alone, compared with last year that is a twenty-six per cent cut. Now, the Minister the other day stood in his place and said that every teacher in the Province only has to give up one day.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Woodford: Well, that is their own fault. I mean all he had to do was ask. When they got sick they certainly knew what they could do and what they could do with regards to compassionate leave or anything else. But right now the school boards are hurting. They have to cancel all professional development days, all workshops, and all seminars. The only way a substitute teacher is gotten now for the classroom, Mr. Chairman, is to take the place of a teacher who is sick, period. And it is sad to think that a workshop or something like this has to happen and be put off and at the same time they have nobody. And they are sort of caught because I think it is article twenty-nine - correct me if I am wrong - of the collective agreement says that the school board has to make a special

attempt to have a substitute in the classroom. Now how do they do it? They do it, Mr. Chairman, because they are told if they have no substitute days left, to take it out of operating. That is also a fact. Take it out of operating. Now, the school boards today - I can only speak for the one in my area - are strapped for cash in any case. They have not got one cent to spend on operating because they have to try to keep it for school busing and heat and so on.

Another example of what has been happening with regards to the school boards in that area, Mr. Chairman, is that 126 students are gone out of that system this year. The enrollment is down by 126 students. Now, as we know the Government pays I think it is \$135 or \$145 on a per capita basis for each student in each school board. Now, 126 students out of that particular school board means that they have to come up with extra funding from someplace, school tax authorities or from somewhere to try and keep the system running. Regardless of how many students are gone out of the system the same schools are in place; they have to pay the same fuel bill; the light bills are still there; everything is the same. And the members in rural areas of the Province can certainly sympathize with what I am saying and I do not think they can argue about it because what is happening is that with the enrollment going down they are leaving and going to the urban centers where there is probably a better chance of picking up a job and the schools in the rural areas of this Province are suffering, and suffering badly. So, you take that out of that system alone and you are talking about quite a few

dollars, Mr. Chairman, and at the same time then come back and ask the school boards to come up with extra money for substitute teachers and take it out of operating. Now, if someone can tell me where they can get it - I mean those are facts. This is not something hypothetical, this is something that is happening today. This is not something that is going to be looked at in the next budget, this is happening today, right today, and to have a seminar such as this to be jeopardized for the sake of no substitute days in the system, to me, is wrong. Now, the Premier said today that he would probably take a look at it if he knew that was happening, and if they could not attend those workshops, he would take it upon himself to order them. The understanding I got was that he was going to order them to attend the workshops and to make sure that substitutes were put in, but they have no days left. They have absolutely nothing left, only the bare necessities for sick leave.

An Hon. Member: That is not a fact.

Mr. Woodford: It is true.

An Hon. Member: They have substitute days left after -

Mr. Woodford: Sure, they have 1322 days left. I am not misleading the House, Mr. Chairman. This is a fact, and if you want to come out and talk to my school board, and talk to the teachers in my area you come out and do it.

An Hon. Member: Let them use it.

Mr. Woodford: Let them use it for what? What do they use for sick

leave? What do they do then? Where do they get them? Do they go to the prisons and take them out to teach the kids?

An Hon. Member: Ask your wife how many sick days she had left last year?

Mr. Woodford: Not one.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible) what do they do with them then? What do they do with the sick leave then they got built up?

Mr. Woodford: Never mind what the teacher got built up. Do not go putting it on the teacher. I gave you what is left, 1322 days left for seven months.

An Hon. Member: What does the board do with them?

Mr. Woodford: I can understand now why members opposite laugh and snicker at it, because they do not understand it, and this is a gentleman who has been in the system for years. From September to March there was seven months, five months now, but from September to March there was 1376 days left. I do not know how many are gone now, I only know the figure as of September. Now, based on last year that is a 26 per cent cut, and you might say 251 days out of that system for one year. That is one day per teacher but based on last year's total allocation for substitute days it comes to almost 27 per cent, and what killed them this year was the fact that they made it retroactive to February and they lost 548 days, because that was not put in. They put it in May or June, or whatever, and that was taken off last year.

An Hon. Member: What did they do,

load it up to take advantage of it?

Mr. Woodford: They did not load it up to take advantage of it. The Member seems to have the answers for everything. They muzzled the Member with regards to Bill 53, but I can assure you the Member is going to have to speak a lot to try and muzzle me on this side, I can guarantee you that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Woodford: If the Member still wants to keep putting his foot in his mouth keep talking because the more you talk the less campaigning I have to do.

Mr. Walsh: Did they use too many early?

Mr. Woodford: No, they did not use too many early, they used the regular days out of the system but the only thing about it was they were not put in, and the same thing would happen this year but they have been told this year that there would be no carry-over. What they got, they got, there would be no carry-over into the next year, so this is what is catching them this year. The 251 days, for instance, in the Deer Lake - St. Barbe school board would probably be livable. They would probably be able to live with that if they could take it from fiscal to fiscal.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

The hon. Member's time has elapsed.

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

Mr. Parsons: Thank you, very much, Mr. Chairman.

With all the gibberish that is

going on on the other side it is hard to gain a bit of composure. It is quite a job for me. I will gladly sit down if the hon. Member for Carbonear wishes to rise. Tell the teachers what you just said, repeat what you just said. I am waiting for the hon. Member. They are going to take away the paid holiday? You say they do not deserve it, the teachers out there do not deserve that one day because they have a hundred years anniversary?

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Parsons: You said that. The hon. Member for Carbonear said it.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!  
Order, please!

Mr. Parsons: I am only repeating what the hon. the Member for Carbonear mumbled across the House. I do not know if Hansard picked it up or not, but now, Hansard does have it, that the hon. the Member for Carbonear said they should take it back from them.

An Hon. Member: So they should.

Mr. Tobin: 'And you can quote me on it,' he said.

Mr. Parsons: Yes, and for the record, he said, 'And you can quote me on it.'

Mr. Chairman, I was not in the House today for Ministerial Statements and I must say, that I heard it on the radio though coming out, that there were some monies provided through the Economic Recovery Commission, through the commission of Government, to provide some financing in Labrador and I am glad to see that finally they have spent some money, and they told

the people about it because there are a lot of dollars out there that presumably they have spent but no one knows where it is.

Mr. Tobin: Yes, where did it go?

Mr. Parsons: No one knows where it is. I have asked the Minister of Finance, where did the money go, out of the nine hundred and sixty-seven millions of dollars that he was talking about last year in March, 1967, thirty-four of which were in and out, because it was an over payment to the Federal Government. I have asked him, and every member over here on this side, has asked over and over and over, where did the money go? You know what, you know what, the Minister does not know.

We all watch Jeopardy every now and then, boy would he be some actor on Jeopardy. Where did the money go? I do not know. Is it just overspent? I do not know. Did you collect less taxes than you anticipated? I do not know. There he is, he cannot tell you, he is a real stylist, he should be performing, he is getting paid for it. We should elect him to go up there and answer some of those real basic questions as far as finances are concerned.

He had \$967 million, he did not own \$34 million of it and now he comes to the House and asks for more money, asks for more money from this hon. House, to allow this Government to spend more money, for what?

Well, as I was finishing up the other day, Mr. Chairman, I mentioned the fact that I saw Dr. House being interviewed on one of the television stations and he said, you know, that this Economic Recovery Commission, was there to

set the pace, to set the pace for employment and he said that they were in the process then of delivering step programs.

So boy, you know, I had to sit up and listen and look and say, well, here it comes, this is going to be the announcement and the announcement was, that the recovery commission had devised a plan that they were going to manufacture toilet paper, paper cups and tongue depressors.

Well, I am old enough, Mr. Chairman, to remember the rubber factory, the battery factory, and I do not know how many more factories. All I can get from the Minister of Social Services over there, is his reminding me and all my hon. colleagues about cucumbers.

Well, if I were to say tomorrow that I was an investing man and were to look at the proposition as far as cucumbers are concerned and then put on the other side, toilet paper, paper cups and tongue depressors, then I would certainly have to take the shot at the cucumber.

Mr. Tobin: Recycled toilet paper, that is what he did, recycled toilet paper.

Mr. Parsons: Recycled toilet paper. No, even the Minister of Environment has not started that yet.

An Hon. Member: He has to get the money to (inaudible).

Mr. Parsons: Tongue depressors. Now, there are less than 600,000 of us Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, less than 600,000 of us. How many tongue depressors can we sell throughout the Province of Newfoundland and

Labrador, are we going to export our tongue depressors, are we going to export them, Mr. Chairman? Now the paper cups. The paper cups-

An Hon. Member: I wish we could get something to depress your tongue.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh! This is heavy (inaudible).

Mr. Parsons: A vicious personal attack. I will excuse the hon. Member.

Mr. Matthews: Ray Guy said he figured he could get about 25,000 tongue depressors out of one fir tree. So how many toothpicks would he get out of it?

Mr. Parsons: Yes, there is a mathematical question to be answered here. Ray Guy said that out of one fir tree you could get 25,000 tongue depressors. Now how many toothpicks can you get out of that one fir tree?

Mr. Matthews: A lot more.

Mr. Parsons: That is a question for Dr. House.

Mr. Matthews: That is right.

Mr. Parsons: It has to be a question for Dr. House. He is the only one who is coming up with the answers to our problem.

Mr. Matthews: They can commission a study for that.

Mr. Parsons: Yes, perhaps a commission. Yes, perhaps another study could be held here.

An Hon. Member: Paper cups.

Mr. Parsons: Now let us go to the

paper cups bit. You know, how many paper cups can we use in Newfoundland and Labrador? Now this is a big development issue. And toilet paper: Six hundred thousand people, how many rolls of toilet paper? Are we going to export the toilet paper? He is going to recycle the paper to make this toilet paper. The hon. Minister of Environment and Lands is coming in now, I am sure he had something to do with the Economy Recovery Commission as it pertains to toilet paper. I do not know if he is going to recycle the paper too for these paper cups. Now how many paper cups can we use in Newfoundland and Labrador? That is the main question here. Are we going to export toilet paper?

Now the cost of the product itself, then to export it, because naturally we are living on an island, everything has to be exported either by air or across the Gulf - and imported. Now we have to import the raw material to make the toilet paper. Or if the Minister of Environment and Lands perhaps intends to recycle the paper to make the toilet paper that will make it that much easier on the Economy Recovery Commission. This is what Dr. House said, this is what they are looking at now, manufacturing toilet paper, paper cups, and tongue depressors.

An Hon. Member: What is wrong with that?

Mr. Parsons: There is nothing wrong with it. I am only asking questions about it. How much is it going to cost to make the tongue depressors? How much are we going to be able to use here in Newfoundland? And how much of this product are we going to export?

Mr. Efford: (Inaudible).

An Hon. Member: We are going to spend one gag for the Minister of Social Services.

Mr. Parsons: Yes, I was reminded by my hon. colleague over here that we need one gag for the Minister of Social Services.

An Hon. Member: One gag.

Mr. Parsons: Only one. Thousand of tongue depressors.

But let us go back to a more serious aspect of this, in Bill 66, the Economic Recovery Commission needs \$705,800 over and above the millions that they spent, because the Minister of Finance does not know where the money is gone. There is \$80 million out there that is unanswered. There is no answer to it. There is no answer where the money went.

Mr. Efford: (Inaudible).

Mr. Parsons: The Minister of Social Services puts up -

Mr. Efford: That is where the money went.

Mr. Parsons: That is the only defence that the hon. Minister of Social Services has, is the cucumber plant. At least there were 200 or 300 people working there.

Mr. Tobin: What a mess you got the Department of Social Services in? What a mess?

Mr. Parsons: That is the only line of attack that the hon. Minister has. I will take the Minister up on it and say look, there was a lot of people employed

out there. At least they tried. What has the Economy Recovery Commission done? Have they tried anything?

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

The hon. Member's time is up.

Some Hon. Members: By leave!

Mr. Parsons: Ah, I only just got started.

Some Hon. Members: By leave!

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member for Fogo.

Mr. Winsor: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I was sitting down listening to the Member for Carbonear and I know my eyesight is failing because I have to wear glasses. I am sure of that, and I am absolutely certain driving last night coming in over the road. In fact, I was half convinced I might have been going blind. But the Minister of Social Services spent some time addressing the road conditions. And I could spend a little time addressing the road conditions too, because I had the unfortunate experience to drive on them late this morning or early this morning in the range of one o'clock or so. I can tell the Member for Port de Grave that while the road conditions might have been cleared this morning when he came in over the highway, they certainly were not in that condition when I came in last night. And it was not snowing, either.

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: That was right through the middle of Roaches

Line. Is that possibly -

An Hon. Member: That's Liberal.

Mr. Winsor: That is Liberal, is it? Well that is where the road conditions were at an all-time worst. From Whitbourne in, that is where they -

Mr. Efford: (Inaudible) another twenty years, by the way.

Mr. Winsor: From Whitbourne in is where the road conditions were worst.

Mr. Parsons: It is coming to an end now. It is coming to a close.

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: Mr. Speaker, if I could be permitted to go on.

Mr. Tobin: Roger, want a ride home?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Winsor: If I could be permitted to continue. Road conditions in the Province have been a subject, and the Minister of Social Services can slough it off as much as he wants to. There are lots of concerns and complaints out there about the conditions of the road for the past number of days, and I certainly had some concerns last night driving in. Maybe it was a little bit too late in the evening but, as a matter of fact, I had some people from the Department of Highways who came to talk to me last night quite concerned about the status of the division in their area and the amount of work they are getting on. And it is not good enough for the Minister of Social Services to get up and come to the defence of the

Minister of Transportation who, in his usual response, answered all the questions with the word no.

I also thought I heard the Member from Carbonear say something about substitute teachers; he kept interfering when my friend from Humber Valley was speaking on substitute teacher days, and he kept insisting that teachers were allowed to have substitute days for in-service. Now I can tell the Member from Carbonear that school boards in this Province and in Exploits, where the Parliamentary Assistant to the Premier is from, that that school board has told their teachers in no uncertain terms that there are to be no in-service days used up until the end of Christmas.

Now the Member from Carbonear can tell -

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: Who told them? School boards told them. They told them that in-service up until Christmas is cancelled for all teachers.

An Hon. Member: How do you know that?

Mr. Winsor: They called me and told me. Good buddies of mine who teach out there. I used to teach with them. As a matter of fact, I can also, if the Member from Placentia is interested, quote from a letter.

An Hon. Member: Careful now. Table it.

Mr. Winsor: No, I do not have to table it. Only a Minister has to table it. I know this person in my own work for the Notre Dame Integrated School Board. He goes

on to say in this letter that substitute teacher cutbacks - it is required that teachers no longer take part in his activity. And for the benefit of the Member from Carbonear, because I do not think he was really addressing the matter when he spoke, substitute teacher leave is comprised of five or six different categories.

One is down for in-service, another one could be for legitimate sick leave, people off sick. It could be compassionate leave. In the case of a death of a member of a family there is a little formula, three days for some occasions, and one day on another occasion. It can be for illness in the family, you have to take a son or a daughter to surgery and it is necessary that you accompany them. You can have it to work for different curriculum committees throughout the Province. The Department of Education is an ongoing process in education where they are developing new curriculum so they take teachers out of the school system for the day, send them off to a meeting, sometimes two, three or four days, and they try to develop new curriculum for the following year. In addition to that there is special paid leave for teachers, at the discretion of the Minister and in some cases the superintendent, depending on the amount of days, for things like -

Mr. Baker: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: Oh, the Member for Gander says they are supposed to be in the classroom teaching. Well, sometimes the Member when he was a town councillor in Gander, if I recall some years ago, might have had occasion to come to St. John's to have a delegation -

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: No. Well, let me put it this way. I am sure the Vice-Chairman of the Economic Recovery Commission for central Newfoundland, whatever that position is, he spent enough days out of the classroom attending meetings.

Mr. A. Snow: Did he spend (inaudible) many?

Mr. Winsor: Hundreds. If it is too many, then I do not know how many it was for that member. That is the fellow who has the new car. He spent hundreds of days. So all of these days are combined, and the Minister of Education looked at his total number of substitute days he had last year and said, okay, you had 82,000 days in total, we are going to cut one day off each for a total of about 12,000 days. Now, the Minister knows that in that number of days, quite a number of these days are set. If someone is sick, what are you going to do take the days away? You cannot do that. If someone's brother or sister dies, are you going to deny them this leave? No, you cannot do that because that is in the collective agreement. So the only place he could get any days was in in-service. The collective agreement says that a teacher is entitled to up to five days. It does not say you have to give it, but it says up to five. And while the Minister is technically correct in saying it comes from an old range, in reality the only place these days can come from is from in-service days. Now, the Minister throws about, and bandies about -

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).



Mr. Winsor: I will deal with the President of Treasury Board's assertion in a second. The Minister throws about this one day per person that is taken from each teacher. That is fine, except for the fact that many teachers do not have five days in-service. Many teachers only take one or two days in-service. For the teacher who does not have any in-service, where can you take that day from? Take two from someone who has eight, or two from someone who has five? Perhaps there is a case where there are four teachers who do not have in-service. I taught on a staff of thirty and quite often in certain areas there would be no in-service for that year.

Mr. Baker: Shame!

Mr. Winsor: Shame. What hypocrisy to say shame. What hypocrisy for the President of Treasury Board to get up and say shame, when here he is administering a sum of money that has all but cut out in-service. Shame he said. When I said the teachers did not get in-service, he said shame. Now, how can the Minister square that with what it going on? Because the President of Treasury Board knows there were many years when I had eight days, and there were some years I had two.

An Hon. Member: But some years you had eight.

Mr. Winsor: Yes, and it was special leave.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible) curling bonspiel (inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: I did not use any for the curling bonspiel, no. I am invited to one out in Gander next weekend. I am sure the President

of Treasury Board didn't get invited to the hospital curling bonspiel out in Gander, because he has been so miserable, so niggardly in his Budget.

Mr. Baker: That is not this weekend.

Mr. Winsor: The 23rd.

An Hon. Member: He is going to attend.

Mr. Woodford: He is going to attend? Well, he could be going down on a stone. I am sure there are enough people out there mad enough at the President of Treasury Board now that when he gets to release the stone, there is going to be someone behind to give him a push and send him down the ice on that stone.

Mr. Baker: I am on your team.

Mr. Winsor: You are on my team? Oh, what serious trouble we have here. So what we have happening in education is we have a system that has been in place for years. If there is any chance for the economy recovers, it lies in the education system. As the Premier says, it is perhaps a seven, eight, or ten year job for the economy to recover. I suggest that for education in this Province -

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

The hon. member's time has elapsed.

The hon. the Member for Burin - Placentia West.

Mr. Tobin: I want to say a few words in this debate.

An Hon. Member: Say something sensible now.

Mr. Tobin: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I will say something sensible when I look at the social assistance caseload. If the Minister of Social Services wants me to say something sensible, when I look at the social assistance caseload and see that it has increased by 15,000 - 15,000 more people on social assistance in 1990 than in 1989. Now that will tell you what the Economic - I do not blame that on the Minister of Social Services either, by the way. There is not much he can do about it except provide assistance to the people who need it. But there is an example of why the Economic Recovery Commission should be abolished.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Tobin: There is the reason right there why Doug House and his troop should get the flick. Mr. Chairman, there it is right there, 15,000 more people on social assistance in 1989-90 than in 1988-89. If that is not justification for giving the Economic Recovery Commission the flick, then what is? What do they have to do in order to get the flick?

Mr. Efford: Where did you get the 15,000?

Mr. Tobin: Two hundred and forty-nine thousand versus two hundred and thirty-five thousand. That is what is going on.

Mr. Matthews: Total cases.

Mr. Tobin: Total caseloads in this Province. The Minister of Social Services cannot be blamed for that, he has to provide a service to the people who need it. But the Government he is a part of has to accept full

responsibility, Mr. Chairman, for the lack of economic direction or policy in this Province. Well, you can take it further than that. We are debating a bill to give Doug House, Dr. Valdmanis and a bunch of them, the tribe - the Valdmanis of the Smallwood era is now the House of the Wells era, Mr. Chairman. Do not ever lose sight of that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Tobin: Smallwood had Valdmanis, and now we have another doctor, and the only man who had half enough courage to say anything was the Member for Pleasantville. The only one over there who had enough courage to say anything was the Member for Pleasantville. But when he found out that he had to make decision and vote, what did he do?

An Hon. Member: He left the House, did he?

Mr. Tobin: He looked at the Premier, and he got a ride on the chartered plane to Ottawa as a result. That is what happened. He was put on that chartered plane the taxpayers of Newfoundland paid for - chauffeur-driven to the airport, put on a chartered plane - a commercial one was not good enough for the Premier - and the Member for Pleasantville, who changed his mind and voted in favour of the Economic Recovery Commission, got his reward. That is what went on, Mr. Chairman. And you talk about what is happening.

And when questions were directed today to the Minister of Transportation in this Province, the arrogance that Minister of Transportation got on with, Mr. Chairman. At 1:30 this morning my

phone rang. I do not know how often it rang before I heard it, but I finally answered it and it was a taxi driver who had spent five hours between Terrenceville and Marystown because of road conditions, with fourteen men aboard. Mr. Chairman, do you know what the taxi driver told me? In all his years as a taxi driver, he has never seen road conditions the way they have been so far this year. That is what is going on.

Mr. Murphy: (Inaudible).

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Chairman, he was never anywhere. The Member for St. John's South was never anywhere.

Mr. Murphy: (Inaudible) fish plant (inaudible).

Mr. Tobin: Do not tell me how often you visited the fish plant. I can tell you how often you were supposed to visit and didn't.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Tobin: They could not get him outside the Overpass when he worked with FPI.

Mr. Murphy: No?

Mr. Tobin: No. He would not visit a plant. Don't you tell me.

Mr. Murphy: (Inaudible).

Mr. Tobin: Yes, and they were phoning you and saying come out.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible) officer.

Mr. Tobin: Yes. You talk about people getting stuck inside the Overpass. Well there is one, and do not ever talk about travelling.

Mr. Murphy: (Inaudible) save life and limb.

Mr. Power: You are sorry for saving one, I suppose. Yes.

Mr. Tobin: Now, Mr. Chairman, the Member for St. John's South talks about travel. Well, I will tell you what that taxi driver said to me. He had never seen before in his lifetime as a taxi driver road conditions the way they are this year. Five hours from Terrenceville to Marystown. It was never heard of. Last Thursday, Mr. Chairman, the day the Liberal Party had their convention with a total of 167 people, I drove home that Thursday night. It took me five hours and I didn't see, Mr. Chairman, a plough. And it is all because of cutbacks, and don't let anybody tell you any differently. That is what is going on.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Tobin: Yes. According to reports from your district, you should point your finger. It is cutbacks, and let the world know that this Government has cut back education, health, social services, transportation, municipal affairs.

An Hon. Member: Forestry (inaudible).

Mr. Tobin: Well, I do not know who is going to bring it in. That Minister is not capable of it.

An Hon. Member: What, of bringing in cuts?

Mr. Tobin: No, Sir, the Minister of Forestry will never be blamed for bringing in cuts. But that is

what is going on. And when you have to drive -

An Hon. Member: We might be (inaudible).

Mr. Tobin: What was that? Mr. Chairman, the Premier said the other day he was going to trim the fat out of Government.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Tobin: Now, Mr. Chairman, I do not like being interrupted. But that is where we are going. And as long as this Government goes in the direction in which they are going, attacking the most vulnerable people in our society - That is another thing, Mr. Chairman. I had a call from the Community Living Association in my own district over the weekend wondering what is going to happen to the group home if a strike comes.

Mr. Efford: Which group home?

Mr. Tobin: The one in Marystown. To all of them in the Province, I guess. If there is a strike, what is going to happen, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Efford: Don't you worry. It is taken care of.

Mr. Tobin: It is taken care of.

Mr. Efford: Yes, Sir. Don't you worry.

An Hon. Member: And you are not the Minister.

Mr. Tobin: I can tell the Minister that it is not taken care of. There is one case in my district, Mr. Chairman, that is not taken care of, nor was it taken care of up to 2:00 today. I can tell the Minister that it is

not taken care of. And there are other cuts in this Government. The way they attacked the students in the classrooms. No wonder the Minister of Education would not come into the House today. No wonder the Minister of Education is running away from the issues. No wonder the Premier went all over the place in response to the question from the Leader of the Opposition as it relates to education, as it relates to the cutbacks that were announced this past weekend. That is the question and that is the answer. No wonder the Minister of Education refuses to come into this House as a result of the cutbacks that have taken place.

Where is the Minister of Health, Old Chop himself. You know, what is taking place in the health care system is that that Minister this year closed Grand Bank and St. Lawrence hospitals. Now they are going to close the hospital in Burgeo, on the south coast. And do you know what they are going to do? They are going to cut \$1.6 million out of the health care system on the Burin Peninsula in addition to those cuts that have already taken place.

An Hon. Member: That is not true.

Mr. Tobin: That is what is taking place in this Province. And what did the Premier gloat about yesterday? I did not hear him on Open Line, but I heard the local new cast on CHCM in Marystown. Do you know what the Premier said to the people? He said, 'We are going to make up for the jobs lost by the motor registration closure by moving the headquarters; we are going to take the headquarters from Burin and move it. That is his economic policy and direction. That is what is taking

place.

An Hon. Member: Is that a Tory district?

Mr. Tobin: Should it matter? Is that fairness and balance?

Mr. Efford: It used to matter when you fellows were in.

An Hon. Member: You did not have any.

Mr. Tobin: The Member for Carbonear, he should stand up after me and repeat what he said, the vicious attack he made towards the teaching profession today. That is what the Member for Carbonear should do, stand up when I sit down.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

The hon. Member's time has elapsed.

Mr. Tobin: By leave, Mr. Chairman.

An Hon. Member: No leave.

Mr. Tobin: Bill will get up. Same difference.

An Hon. Member: We should have given him leave.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. the Member for Grand Bank.

Mr. Matthews: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The member's opposite are saying, say something sensible, but what the Member for Burin - Placentia West just said to this House is all sensible. It is all factual. What he has gone through is factual.

An Hon. Member: Are you in the SPCA by any chance?

Mr. Matthews: SPCA - what does that stand for? Tell me what it stands for and I might say, yes, I am a member of it.

An Hon. Member: Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Mr. Matthews: I certainly support that, but there are times I wonder though what I am doing in here. The Minister of Finance is the reason we are here today talking the way we are, the man who has put the Province in such a deplorable, financial condition. What a state. People say how could one man put the Province in such a state in such a short period of time, and now he is in there asking you to approve more money.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Matthews: Brian who?

An Hon. Member: Our Brian.

Mr. Matthews: Well, I tell you one thing you do not hear too many people out in the Province talking about our Clyde. They do not attach 'our' to Clyde. There are a few other things they put in front of Clyde but it is not our.

An Hon. Member: What is it?

Mr. Matthews: I cannot repeat them in this House.

An Hon. Member: Why not?

Mr. Matthews: I really would not because I do not have the personality to say these kind of things, the names people are calling the Premier. I called him something there awhile ago that I am still sorry for. As many times as I have been proven right since I am still sorry for calling him

that. I am not saying what I called him. People are asking the question out and about this Province, Mr. Chairman, because the Minister of Finance, and the Premier, the only two that speak on finance, mostly the Premier, people are wondering where this \$80 plus million has gone, sort of unaccounted for. Everyone can understand a Government predicting a surplus and then ending up with a deficit, it happens quite often, but it has not been explained to the people of the Province where the money went, because when you look at what this Government has taken out of the taxpayer's pockets in the last two Budgets, it is about \$180 million in two Budgets in new additional taxes. Then the transfer payments were up this year over last year, so people are asking the question, where did the money go, and the Minister of Finance is not explaining to the people where it went. Now, I know where some of it went, and the Member for Burin - Placentia West alluded to it. I know where some of it went, by the way. Some of it went right here, this Minister had to spend it. When we get his report it shows 15,000 more people on social assistance this year than there was last year.

An Hon. Member: That is the Liberal year.

Mr. Matthews: Was that your Budget year? It is going to be worse this year. It is up by 25,000 now, Mr. Chairman, and we know what that costs this Government a month.

Mr. Winsor: Perhaps the Minister of Social Services will tell us.

Mr. Matthews: Perhaps he will tell us the accurate case load.

What is the case load today? It has gone up, skyrocketed, 25,000 and a few. Now, what is that doing to the Budget of the Province? I want to talk on a few things that the Member for Burin - Placentia West talked on. He talked about road conditions and it is worth talking about.

An Hon. Member: Was the Burin highway ever closed?

Mr. Matthews: Of course it was, and so was the Burgeo road. It was not going to be under this Minister but it has been more since he became Minister.

An Hon. Member: Was it ever closed under your administration?

Mr. Matthews: Yes, it certainly was, Sir. There was so much snow there at one time that they had to get helicopters to bring people back and forth. It was blocked up for ten or twelve days and there was nothing equipment could do with it. The operators had to come off the road because of road conditions. It did close up, but I can tell you one thing, under a day like we had yesterday, and the day after, being today, in my nine years in this Legislature today was the first time I left Fortune at eight o'clock in the morning and did not see a piece of machinery until nine forty-five.

An Hon. Member: The road was done before you left.

Mr. Matthews: No, the road was not done before I left, and I tell you it was hazardous today driving in here. If I did not drive it I would not know.

An Hon. Member: The report (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: Never mind the report on it. I drove the highway today, and was not asleep like the Minister. I drove it, and I almost went off the road a dozen times because of the slush that was built up. If you had one of your flyers out it would have been pushed off the highway and the highway would have been good by 12:00 p.m. today. But the road conditions were bad today. I drove it Mr. Chairman.

I am not taking that from somebody who phoned me. I drove it. And the divided highway was bad today when I came in over it at 12:00 p.m. let me tell him.

Mr. Winsor: The Member from Carbonear said it was clear.

Mr. Matthews: It is all because of cutbacks. And we have had this already this year because of it and we are going to have a lot more. I saw three cars this morning bottom up. And that is not the first winter that that has happened. I am not suggesting that.

Mr. Tobin: It has never happened because of cutbacks in October.

Mr. Matthews: But you know it is frightening. And I mean I hate driving that highway in the middle of summer to be very honest with you, I do not like it.

Mr. Tobin: All of you are responsible.

Mr. Matthews: Because any time you are on it you take your life in your hands anyway. But this time of year -

Mr. Tobin: You are just as responsible as he is.

Mr. Matthews: - when the highway is not cleared, or not salted or sanded, then I think people should not go onto it unless they absolutely have to.

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: Listen to the old expert. I wish the Premier would have a shuffle, because we finally found a place for the Member for St. John's South. In Works, Services and Transportation.

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: That is where he should be.

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: Now we now that you should be shuffled out but until now I did not know who should be shuffled in. But now I know. He probably would. He understands the Burin Peninsula highway, he probably would see to it personally that it was plowed and salted and sanded. But it is a matter of grave concern, I will tell you.

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

An Hon. Member: You have never been down there, b'y.

Mr. Matthews: Now let me just say to the Member for St. John's South about how serious it was. Seriously, there were a lot of students that drove in yesterday, because they had the long weekend. And there were people who left down there at 3:00 p.m. who did not get here until 9:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. last night.

An Hon. Member: That is not unusual.

Mr. Matthews: No but I am just saying it -

Mr. Tobin: It is unusual! It is unusual!

Mr. Matthews: It happens on occasion.

An Hon. Member: Go down and drive it, b'y, go down and drive it.

Mr. Matthews: But what I am saying is, you know -

An Hon. Member: You were never down there in your life.

Mr. Matthews: - it is worse this year. And I just hope the Minister -

An Hon. Member: You don't know where the Burin Peninsula is.

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: Yes it does. A strange thing about it.

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: John, we never had a blossom, not a blossom in Fogo district, not a blossom.

Mr. Tobin: (Inaudible) closure.

Mr. Matthews: Closure? What is that? What is closure?

Your Minister was the first one who gave a road report today. I would suggest to the Member for Bonavista South that he should check on the roads down in his area -

Mr. Tobin: Hear hear!

Mr. Matthews: - and what impact the cuts in the health budget is going to have on your district.

As a matter of fact I say to the Member that he should enjoy the next couple of years as the Member for Bonavista South.

Some Hon. Members: Morgan is taking you out.

Mr. Matthews: He should enjoy it. But Mr. Chairman getting back to this bill here, this Bill 66, supplementary supply that was on the order paper since March 15 or 16. Some things in here do not bother me, but Article 2601 does bother me. On that wonderful team, that great recovery team. Seven hundred and five thousand eight hundred dollars, is it, that they are asking for?

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: What is that again?

An Hon. Member: Money well spent (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: Money well spent. We have had the Premier stand in his place and admit, confess, where some of the money from the Economic Recovery Commission has gone.

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: Let me say to the President of Treasury Board, he is going to have a more difficult time with each passing day to convince the people of Newfoundland and Labrador that any money spent by the Economic Recovery Commission is money well spent.

Mr. Chairman: Order please!

The hon. Member's time is up.

Mr. Matthews: By leave?



Some Hon. Members: By leave.

Some Hon. Members: No leave.

Mr. Matthews: Alright John,  
(Inaudible).

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Minister  
of Social Services.

Mr. Efford: Thank you, Mr.  
Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is  
unfair to ask the Members on this  
side to give leave and sit down  
and listen for another ten minutes  
of what just came out of the hon.  
Member. But you talk about a  
group of people who are afraid  
that there is something positive  
happening in the Province. They  
gave some statistics on the  
Department of Social Services  
Annual Report, after they gave the  
statistics they condemned The  
Economic Recovery Commission, but,  
I have always said that the former  
Minister of Social Services could  
not read, now I am sure of it.

The hon. Member, his colleague  
there, should not always listen to  
what he is going to say because he  
could get you in trouble. Listen  
to this, able-bodied case loads in  
1988- 1989, 56,912. Able-bodied,  
I will tell the former Minister of  
Social Services, those are people  
who can go to work, those are  
people.

In 1989-1990, able-bodied case  
loads, 53,000, 3,000 less, 3,000  
less. Which means there were  
3,000 less people, all those  
social assistant case loads, in  
1989- 1990, than were in the  
previous year, which means  
somebody is making some  
improvement, right -

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

Mr. Efford: - which means, Mr.  
Chairman -

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

Mr. Efford: Ah, the truth hurts,  
now, we see Mr. Chairman. They  
totalled up the number of case  
loads, 235 to 249, which means  
there are an awful lot of those  
cases where people cannot go to  
work because of health reasons,  
disabled, developmentally delayed  
people and for a number of reasons.

The actual figures that you talk  
about, if you are talking about  
statistics of people who should be  
working and who should not be  
working is the first column, so  
the next time the hon. Member  
listens to his colleague, be very  
careful, because we are owed -

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

Mr. Efford: - we are now owed an  
apology, Mr. Chairman. They owe  
an apology to this side of the  
House, and I think, the Minister  
of Development and the Economic  
Recovery Team because we have  
3,000 less people on social  
service today, who are able to go  
to work and are working than were  
in the previous year. I suspect,  
that if we go back through the  
former year, when the former  
Minister was there, I would  
suspect you would see drastically,  
drastically, a major difference in  
the numbers there.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible) you  
got on the computer.

Mr. Efford: Now blame it on the  
computer. Now we are coming down,  
now your argument is getting  
pretty weak, now your argument is  
getting pretty weak, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I did not want to stand up and take ten minutes to speak, but I wanted to clear up the misleading statements the former Minister of Social Services is giving about the job that this Government is doing in putting people who are qualified and willing and able to go to work into the work force in the private sector.

Now there is an example: 3,000 people less on social service this year than the previous year and I suspect that if we go back through the numbers they would probably double that from the previous Minister of Social Services.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Chairman: The hon. the Member for Grand Bank.

Mr. Matthews: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have to get up and speak.

Mr. Winsor: You wouldn't call it a point of order?

Mr. Matthews: No, I would not call it a point of order because the Minister has done a pretty good job of trying to stick-handle through this one.

An Hon. Member: It is no stick-handling.

Mr. Matthews: Yes, that is the only thing now that Dr. Doug did not suggest we get into, and that was hockey sticks. Having said that, there is an interest in coming into the Province to make hockey sticks, let me tell him, so we are really going to be into the wood, with the tongue depressors, the toothpicks and hockey sticks.

But let me say to the Minister of

Social Services, it is a pretty good explanation you know, and if you were lying back half asleep, Mr. Chairman, today, you would have swallowed it all, but what he did you see, was in the 15,000 increase that we see from 1988-1989 to 1989-1990, she has gone up by 15,000 cases on social assistance, that in that 15,000 you will find the 3,500 whom he says are less able-bodied on social assistance today because they were on the roll so long, the social assistance roll so long, what did they do?

Mr. Winsor: They took them off.

Mr. Matthews: They took them off, whacked them on their computer list, automatic social assistance recipients, so in that 15,000 -

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: That is right, the 3,500 is in the 15,000 increase, so that makes your able-bodied cases look like it is reduced by 3,500. Now that is a fairly good try. That is a fairly good try, let me tell the Minister. That is a good try.

The first thing I thought about was, the 3,500 was part of the 11,000 or 12,000 who were gone to Toronto. That there are 11,000 or 12,000 of them who left since last year as well, and I am sure some of them, some of them, I suppose, what is the old saying, something about amusing or something I do not know, small things amuse small minds or something like that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Matthews: But when you have 11,000 or 12,000 people who had to leave this Province this year, Mr. Chairman, to look for employment,

I do not think that is a laughing matter. Any year is never a laughing matter when you have thousands of our people who have to leave and go somewhere else to look for work. It is far less amusing eighteen months after we saw the Premier of this Province promise to bring them all home. 30,000 or 35,000 are going to come back to the rock.

Mr. Tobin: We were going to be building ferries at the Marystown shipyard (inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: Oh my, oh my.

Mr. Tobin: A subsidy program to build ferries down at the Marystown Shipyard to bring them all home.

Mr. Matthews: So, Mr. Chairman, getting back to the Supplementary Supply Bill and the Economic Recovery Commission. We saw the Minister of Development today give a positive statement in this legislature. I rose and welcomed that. I congratulated all those who had anything to do with it, but there is only one thing that irked me about the statement, and that is how he had to try an attempt to give the Economic Recovery Commission some credit for what happened here. We saw the same thing happen with Twillingate. Trying to give the Recovery Commission some credit for what is going to happen in L'Anse-au-Loup in Labrador. The Economic Recovery Commission had no more to do with it as the Newfoundland and Labrador Development corporation, and this Economic Recovery Commission is just an added bureaucracy, an extra cost of millions of dollars to the people of this Province. For what? the Newfoundland and Labrador Development corporation

as it always was, Mr. Chairman, in essence they are still doing it, put in place this financial arrangement for L'Anse-au-Loup, put in place the arrangement for Twillingate, and on two occasions Ministers of the Crown have had to stand in this Legislature and try to justify -

An Hon. Member: And Port-aux-Basques.

Mr. Matthews: And Port-aux-Basques - three occasions.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: No, that is right. They had nothing to do with that. That is the people up in LaPoile who deserve all the credit for that. No one else should take credit for that. As a matter of fact with the LaPoile situation and Port-aux-Basques the Province had them written off because only two weeks before the announcement the Minister was down at the Canadian Fisheries Association Conference or whatever it was down there and announced that Port-aux-Basques would not re-open for the winter fishery. That is what input they got from the Province from the Provincial Government. The Community Development Fund, their community futures, that is where the money came from.

An Hon. Member: \$200,000.

Mr. Matthews: So, that is what we are up to. That is what we see with the Economic Recovery Commission. And the Minister of Finance comes here today and expects us to approve another \$705,000 for the Economic Recovery Commission. To do what? The President of Treasury Board keeps saying, 'good expenditure, money

well spent.'

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: Sorry?

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: You gave me the details. I did not hear the details. All I got was a copy of the Bill. Any cars? Furniture?

Mr. Winsor: \$1 million for furniture and office rental.

Mr. Matthews: \$1 million for furniture -

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: Yes, we will bring up that furniture any time we want, let me tell the Member for Carbonear, and a few other things we will bring up any time we want, about teachers and substitute teachers, teachers pensions and teachers letters.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: No, but let me say to the Member for Carbonear that all these options were open. Let me say to the Member for Carbonear that any time a Premier leaves the rank of Premier - the office of Premier - there are certain things that happen -

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

An Hon. Member: What about the home on Roaches Line?

Mr. Matthews: That is right. Go back to that like I said the other day. The chauffeur driven cadillac and the home on Roaches Line. And after he left he had an office with a secretary provided by the taxpayers of the Province

for the transition period. The same with Premier Moores; the same with Premier Peckford; it will be the same with Premier Wells I am sure. I am sure it will be the same with Premier Wells once he leaves. I mean that is consistent. It happens after a Premier leaves office. That provision is there for the Premier or the former Premier. So, we could go back to the days of the Ark if we want and we could dig up all kinds of things that former Premiers got or did not get, but the next Premier will get the same, or this Premier.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: Who lost his car?

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: Well I feel bad about that, really. I feel bad about that.

An Hon. Member: He told the truth.

Mr. Matthews: That is right. He is the only one who told the truth. I said it across the House and I will say it in public for the record, he is the one who told the truth. There is one other person who did not tell the truth about the car situation, but the Member for Exploits told the truth and I commend him for that. The other person implicated did not tell the truth. We knew more about the other case than we knew about the Member for Exploits let me tell him. Pointed out everything to us.

Mr. Winsor: Time and dates.

Mr. Matthews: Time, dates everything.

Mr. Winsor: The place.

Mr. Matthews: But I guess that is the way it goes. So enough of that.

The Minister of Finance says he has tabled the details of the \$705,000 expenditure - have you tabled the details of that?

Mr. Winsor: He tried to, he mumbled something out the other day.

Mr. Matthews: What were they? I did not see any. Did you -

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible),

Mr. Matthews: Where are they?

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: He knows who it was.

But I want, Mr. Chairman, before I sit down I just want to allude to another situation that - it is an irritant that the Member for Burin - Placentia West alluded to.

Mr. Winsor: This is recently.

Mr. Matthews: The situation in Clarenville, with the phasing out of the Taxation Office and the Motor Registration. To hear the Premier when he was questioned on that issue to sort of try and console the people of Clarenville, that well, yes, you are losing your Motor Registration Office, you are losing your Taxation Office, but however we are moving the headquarters of the Eastern Community College from the Burin Peninsula down to Clarenville, so you should not be too upset about that. Now that was very good for the people of Clarenville, I suppose. A person said, well, yes, Premier that is right. Probably job-wise we did not lose any. But -

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: Oh, I am sorry?

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: But I tell you it was sort of irritating to sit on the Burin Peninsula and listen to it, I tell you that, for an administration that has phased out in-patient services at two cottage hospitals. Shut down sixty-five and opened up forty-five, still a loss of twenty like I told the Minister last year. It is still a loss of twenty beds. But then, of course, with the mathematics we see coming out of this Government budgetwise and otherwise, I can see why the Minister of Health would think that is a plus.

Mr. Winsor: That solar powered calculator that (inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: Yes, the solar powered calculator. But to see that happen, and then to hear the Premier of the Province on the public airways of this Province trying to justify to the people in Clarenville that I am going to move this off the Burin Peninsula.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Matthews: Well Governments come and Governments go.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: Well of course we would never think of taking it back. We would take back the Government, we would never think about moving it back.

An Hon. Member: Poor members.

Mr. Matthews: No, it has nothing to do with poor members.

As a matter of fact it had something to do with the strength of the members why it was down there.

I remind the Minister of Health that at the time I was the Minister responsible for post-secondary education, and announced first year university courses for the Burin Peninsula and established the headquarters in the Burin Peninsula, and it is kind of irking to see some other political games being played by some people to take that away, for no educational value. You talk about times of restraint. There is not one ounce of educational value or benefit in the move of the headquarters from Salt Pond to Clarenville. Not one bit.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

Mr. Matthews: No more than it would by moving it from Clarenville from Carbonear.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

The hon. Member's time is up.

Mr. Matthews: By leave, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: By leave?

Some Hon. Members: No leave!

Mr. Chairman: No leave!

Mr. Matthews: No educational value. No leave?

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

Mr. Furey: Yes, there is leave.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

Mr. Matthews: I thank the Minister of Development for

(inaudible).

Mr. Chairman: The hon. the Minister of Finance.

Dr. Kitchen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I have a couple of points. The hon. Member was wondering about the details of the \$705,000; and rather than repeat it I will just refer him to Thursday, November 8, starting at page L43.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Dr. Kitchen: Alright. And if that is not satisfactory, we can provide more if you like. There is another point. I would like to take the opportunity, Mr. Chairman, just to mention that there is an error that occurs in Friday's Hansard, on page R39. I am attributed to have made two sets of remarks there and I believe it was the hon. Member for Grand Bank who made those statements, because it follows along with his statement there. In one point he says: "Oh, yes, they have made up! As a matter of fact, the newscasts this morning are carrying the Ministers as saying there has to be more downsizing in the fishery."

Now I can not imagine myself saying that. I am not sure it was the hon. Member but it certainly was not me. And then going on again: "No, the Provincial Minister. He agrees now there has to be more downsizing and all this stuff."

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Dr. Kitchen: Yes, right. I just wanted to correct that because I would not want to take credit for something I did not say.

An Hon. Member: The other page you quoted?

Dr. Kitchen: L43.

L43 on Thursday. On the details of the \$705.8. While I am on my feet, Mr. Chairman, I would like to state this. That somebody mentioned about - we were not really doing a good thing by saving 2 per cent or 3 per cent on the borrowing. We borrowed from our own people and we paid them 2 per cent or 3 per cent more by doing so. They thought that was a great thing. I do not think it was a good thing.

And let me just indicate this. That 2 per cent on the 38 million bonds outstanding, 2 per cent extra money means \$750,000 a year, \$760,000 a year. Because if we had continued that mode and borrowed another \$24 million this year, which is what they wanted, that would be \$62 million. And remember the interest rate in the last year - the cost differential was 3 per cent, I presented in the final year. So 3 per cent. It averaged out over the three years as over 2 per cent higher but the final year it was 3. And if we project that as 3 for another year, 3 per cent for \$62 million, thirty-eight plus twenty-four, if we had continued the same way of borrowing as NLDC and paid an extra 3 per cent, 3 per cent on \$62 million is \$1.86 million a year extra in interest payments.

Now, then, I come back to an announcement that was made today by the hon. Minister of Development with respect to Eagle River, where he said that the shrimp company - was it? - was being given \$2.9 million. Now part of that was bridge financing for ACOA I think, by about \$1.6,

but that left \$1.3 million which the Province - which the NLDC I believe put up, \$1.3. And this saving of \$1.86 more than covered that amount.

So what we have to do, what our strategy is, or part of our economic strategy, is not to waste money. And by not wasting we can do more things. I make no apologies for saving \$2 million here, \$250,000 here, and \$750,000 there - here a million, there a million, everywhere a million. I make no apologies for that, Mr. Chairman, none whatever. And if hon. members opposite want to call that nickel and diming, so be it. We are going to save money, we are going to make this Government lean and efficient and effective, and by so doing we are going to be able to do the things for which we were elected.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. the Member for Menihek.

Mr. A. Snow: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to have the opportunity of rising and speaking on the Supplementary Supply Bill. It is interesting to note what the Minister of Finance had to say with regard to the Newfoundland enterprise savings bonds, when he talked about how he was accused of being nickel and diming because he was saving the people of this Province or the Treasury an amount of money. But it is interesting also to note, of course, that any monies that were paid out to this would have been paid to Newfoundlanders and Labradorians who had bought these bonds. Now, he failed to mention that. These are nurses, doctors, social workers, maybe even some people who are in the private sector would have bought a couple

of savings bonds and invested money back into this Province, by the way, which is the most important factor that he lost sight of.

The whole idea of this was to create capital. Now, capital as in the sense of investment capital, not a larger capital as in the sense of a few more little jobs for the Minister of Finance's Department here in St. John's. I am talking about investment capital. Now, that is what this was all about. And it came to be that a lot of people in this Province felt we were failing to develop what is commonly referred to as an enterprise culture. And one of the things a lot of people are asking me is if I did invest in that. It does not matter whether I did or not, what has got to be noted is that a lot of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians had the faith to go out and invest their hard earned dollars in these bonds, which in turn was to give capital to investors in this Province. That is what is important. And it is not available anymore. Now that is very important.

But what really bothers me is that it is a failure of this particular administration that they do not recognize that. I know there is one person in the Cabinet who does recognize it, in the sense that I have heard the Minister of Development talking about how he has faith in the private sector. And I agree with him, and I believe he is being honest when he says that. I am sure that if he had his way with the proper economic development of this Province, this would not have occurred. This is something that came from somebody else, another powerful person within the Cabinet

of this Province. And it is unfair that the faith and trust and responsibility has not been bestowed or kept within the Department of Development rather than transferred out into a commission. It is a commission that is ruling the Economic Development of this Province and that is wrong, fundamentally wrong.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. A. Snow: You people, me included, have been elected to the responsibility to govern and guide this Province, and part of that responsibility lies in providing the economic tools for the people of this Province to do it.

One of the other factors I am afraid may occur here with the Minister of Finance and his shortsighted economic policies, is that he will probably wipe out the Newfoundland Stocks Plan, which is again a good tool to provide capital.

Now I do not know how many of you people ever went out to look for capital to invest in the private sector of this Province, but it is a difficult thing to do. It is a difficult thing to get your hands on. And I commend the administration - I do not mind saying when you do something right. I will stand up and say that you did do it. The minister announced that he is providing an initiative, an Asian initiative I think it is referred to as, to go to Asia to look for capital to be invested in this Province. That is a good initiative and I hope and believe that it will be successful. What bothers me is the shortsighted fact that we do not encourage more Newfoundlanders and Labradorians to invest in this Province. We just went and looked



elsewhere.

In order to properly provide that atmosphere of wanting Newfoundlanders and encouraging Newfoundlanders and Labradors to invest in this Province, we have to create a climate. And you are not going to do it by wiping out these few tools, if you want to call them that, or vehicles that encourage private investment in this Province. What we are going to do - there is some suggestion that all this we are talking about is a lack of complete understanding of the total economy. We have too many people in there who have never ever had any association with the private sector. And it is unfortunate that you do not understand how the private sector works. And when I say 'in there', I am talking about in the positions of responsibility within the administration of this particular regime, that is in Cabinet and within the Economic Recovery Commission itself.

Now the Minister of Finance stood and he talked about, he quoted out to the hon. the Member for Burin - Placentia West - was it Burin, where he talked about the figures?

An Hon. Member: Grand Bank.

Mr. A. Snow: Grand Bank. He listed out what some of the expenditures were.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. A. Snow: He certainly did. He talked about the anticipated salary of \$70,000 for a VP in Newcorp, I guess it is, a new VP.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. A. Snow: I am merely quoting what the Minister said. He said

\$70,000. I do not know if that includes his car or not. That is salary, it does not include the car, and there is \$30,000 for travel - \$30,000 for travel and a \$70,000 salary. Now those are some of the figures he mentioned, and he is proud of that. He is proud that he creates this so-called one-stop shopping that is going to decrease the amount of bureaucracy. In point of fact, if you talk to anybody in the private sector out there you have increased another level of bureaucracy. You have increased it. You have driven up the cost and created another level.

He also mentioned some of the luxurious new refurbishings.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. A. Snow: Yes, I invested early into this Province, not only my time and effort, but also some of my hard-earned money that my wife and I both worked hard to earn. We are proud to say that we invested in it. That is why I am disappointed when I see the lack of faith this regime has in the private sector. I came from the private sector. My involvement in this Province has been, since I started working when I left school, either as a steelworker or as an operator of a small business. And I am proud of both livelihoods that I have had the opportunity of earning in the last twenty-six years that I have been working. But I am disappointed at the direction in which this administration is going, putting too much faith in a commission that has absolutely no experience in the private sector. That disappoints me. But more importantly than that, it disappoints an awful lot of people in the private sector of this

Province. We have a small 'c' conservative attitude with regard to the delivery of Government services, but when we talk about encouraging the entrepreneurial spirit of this Province, we have just sloughed it off to a commission.

It being near 5:00 p.m., Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee rise and report progress.

On motion, that the Committee rise, report progress and ask leave to sit again, Mr. Speaker returned to the Chair.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Trinity - Bay de Verde.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Speaker, the Committee of the Whole have considered the matters to them referred and have directed me to report progress and ask leave to sit again.

On motion, report received and adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Government House Leader.

Mr. Baker: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is approaching 5:00 p.m. I just want to point out that I do not intend to move the normal adjournment motion, so if we could call it 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Burin - Placentia West.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please!  
Order, please!

The hon. the Member for Burin - Placentia West.

Mr. Tobin: I would like to ask the Government House Leader if there is any consideration being given to the members from the St. John's area who would like to vote. Is there anything that covers that? Is there such a thing as consecutive hours for municipal elections?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Government House Leader.

Mr. Baker: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I understand that the polls opened this morning and that there were a number of consecutive hours before the House opened at 2:00 p.m. So, in terms of that regulation, we are still within the regulation. I would encourage all hon. members to get out and vote between now and 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Member for Burin - Placentia West.

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, if that is the case, we have no difficulty with doing it, but it certainly shows a lack of concern and some arrogance on the part of the Government, not to provide members with the opportunity to vote. Because most will not have voted until tonight. It shows a lack of concern for the municipal election.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please!  
Order, please!

It now being 5:00 p.m., and no motion to adjourn being before the Chair, I ask hon. members to join me at 7:00 p.m.



Province of Newfoundland

FORTY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF  
NEWFOUNDLAND

---

Volume XLI

Second Session

Number 75(A) (Night)

---

***PRELIMINARY REPORT***  
*(Hansard)*

*Speaker: Honourable Thomas Lush*

Tuesday

[Preliminary Transcript]

13 November 1990

The House resumed at 7:00 p.m.

On motion that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole on Supply, Mr. Speaker left the Chair.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

Bill No. 66.

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

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Parsons: The only time that hon. group down in the corner get any kick out of this House at all is when they start tapping on their desks. It is mostly for their own people on the other side but tonight I am really pleased that they decided to give me a tap when I got up. Thank you, very much.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Parsons: I am sorry that the Minister of Development is not here.

An Hon. Member: He is going to be here in a few minutes.

Mr. Parsons: Dr. Doug House is really the Minister but what would you call someone who stands in another person's place?

Ms Verge: (Inaudible)

Mr. Parsons: Okay, I will accept that. I was thinking about having a few words with the Minister of Development and then I was reminded that he is not the Minister of Development and really, Mr. Chairman, that is not the issue. I was delighted today that finally a statement came from the Minister of Development, who

by the way is a good friend of mine.

An Hon. Member: What?

Mr. Parsons: Yes, he is. When I saw the Premier making up his Cabinet, and that young man was Minister of Development -

An Hon. Member: You expected big things.

Mr. Parsons: I did. I saw great strides being made in our economy. The Premier was pretty smart. I think he did the right thing and made the right move. Development or die. We have been listening to this for the last thirty or forty years. I said at least we are coming with a young man and we will develop or perish, and the Minister of Development became a non-Minister because the same day this all happened the Premier got up and said; well, we have the saviour coming.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Parsons: Yes, he did. He said, we have it. I was like the rest of us here. I do not know about the members on the other side, I suppose they knew about it. I was listening and saying, what is it he is going to announce? Finally he said it, we have another commission, a commission to lead the way to prosperity, and sure enough he has led us all the way to prosperity. When I went home to supper tonight we were talking about this, that, and the other thing and a teacher arrived at the house, a very good friend of mine.

An Hon. Member: And the President of Treasury Board got (inaudible) he has not friends -

Mr. Parsons: Oh, absolutely. This lady who has been teaching for perhaps the past twenty years said to me, you must know there are 600 of us on the chopping block within the next three years. I said, yes, I heard of it, but we have been asking questions of the hon. Government House Leader, President of Treasury Board, the Premier, and all they kept saying to us was that there is nothing definite. And this lady told me in no uncertain terms that it is definite. There are 600 teachers to go. Mr. Chairman, I find that hard to believe. I really do. I find it hard to believe that a Province where so much emphasis has been placed in the last number of years on our educational standards, for this Government to embark on this ego trip of saying we are going to balance our budget no matter what happens. We are going to bring people to their knees no matter what happens. We are going to deprive children of the right to an education no matter what happens. This Government is saying it. If you eliminate 600 teachers in this Province you will have a stagnant educational system.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Parsons: Some of the hon. gentlemen opposite irked me a bit today because they were talking about me bringing up the cars. But we have -

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Parsons: Oh yes.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Parsons: No I am not. Anything that I say I will stand with it. You know there are

teachers out there. Some of that 600 are in my district; they could be laid off. Let me tell the hon. the Member for St. John's South, there are people out there hurting in every respect. I have a friend whose father went to the hospital last Thursday night. He was five hours in the corridor with a stroke. Still you look at the Minister of Health over here and he says there is nothing at all happening. The health care system is not going down, it is held at the status quo. That was not the status quo. That was never the status quo in Newfoundland. It was only the status quo since this Government took over, since this Minister of Health took over. I mean here we are tonight discussing a money bill. The Government needs more money.

You want me to go back to the car bit. Yes, there are people out there hurting. They do not want to see the Governments cars going around at these sports events and whatever. They do not want to see it. And I must say, the Premier was pretty up front. He has come along - what he said in essence was, 'it might of happened, but it is not going to happen any more.' And he said that before, but that is a lesson to everyone else over there. I am sorry the Minister of Social Services is not in his place as well because I was going to have a few words with him.

The Minister of Development - I am sorry that he was not here when I had my opening remarks. I gave him all kinds of praise.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Parsons: I said he was a fine young fellow. When I saw him become the Minister of Development, I saw great things or

I thought I saw great things.

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Parsons: No, I did. I thought I saw great things, but then the Premier killed them. The Premier cut out the legs from underneath him. He did, he cut off his legs. He said, 'you will only do what Dr. House tells you'. And today when the hon. Minister made his statement, I was surprised. First when I started reading it I said, 'here is something from the Minister of Development. This is the Minister of Development's statement'. And then just a few lines down from that it is mentioned coming from the Economic Recovery Commission. I think there was in excess of \$2 million to be spent in Labrador. I have no qualms with that, but this should be coming from the Minister of Development.

Now this \$3 million that has been spent in that particular area, where is the rest of the money that this Commission has spent, where is the \$30 million that this Commission has spent. This Commission has spent \$30 million and there is no answer to it. Someone even told me that there are promises of money to be spent; there are promises to people, who (inaudible) pay as soon as we get the money. This is what we are here for tonight because this Government brought in closure to stop us from telling the people of Newfoundland and Labrador where your money is being spent. What happened to your money? I was here last week and asked the Minister of Finance, what happened to the \$84 million, he could not tell me, I do not know-

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!  
Order, please!

The hon. Member's time is up.

Some Hon. Members: By leave?

Some Hon. Members: No leave.

Mr. Parsons: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. the President of Treasury Board.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just going to take a couple of minutes as I want to straighten out some points which were raised by the previous speaker and I hope he listens.

He is now, I guess part of the cry around the Province and part of the scare tactics which are going on and by talking about 600 teachers who are going-

An Hon. Member: Over three years.

Mr. Baker: - to be booted out, 600 teachers are going to be booted out? The implication being that the teachers in the Province, somehow have heard from this Government that we are somehow going to get rid of 600 teachers.

First of all, nobody has ever heard that from this Government because this Government has never even considered it. The source of the information is, I suppose, the Opposition and perhaps some other people out around who have their own special interest to pursue and so on.

They are trying to stir up an awful lot of fear and anger amongst teachers, while the collective bargaining process is going on, and I think this is absolutely disgusting, trying to

interfere with the collective bargaining process!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baker: In actual fact, over the last number of years in this Province, before we took over, there were declining enrollments and because of the declining enrollments which in some instances were rather severe, Government introduced what they call a 2 per cent rule, where the reduction in teachers could not in any one district go beyond 2 per cent and the reason for doing that

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Baker: - yes, but do you want to listen to the answer or do you want to shout?

An Hon. Member: I am sorry, (inaudible).

Mr. Baker: Okay. The reason for doing that was, it was felt by the Department of Education and by Government and correctly at the time, rightly so, that if there was a school district that had a 7 per cent or 8 per cent decline in enrollment, that the district could not possibly take a 7 per cent or 8 per cent drop in teachers and the reason it could not happen is because schools still had to be kept open, classrooms still had to be maintained and so on, therefore, you needed the teachers and the drop in teachers could not be in proportion to the number of students and that is perfectly correct. But the point I would like to make was that over these last few years there has been a decline in the number of teachers. Okay?..because of declining enrollments. But

because of the 2 per cent rule and a couple of other things our pupil-teacher ratio has gone down. We now have the lowest pupil-teacher ratio in Canada. And there is nothing wrong with that. That is great, that is wonderful.

But the point I would like to make is that the 2 per cent rule is still in effect. So if - I say to the hon. Member - in fact there is a decline in the number of teachers in the Province it will have to do with the declining enrollment and there will not be more than 2 per cent lost in the districts. The same kind of agreement that the previous government had in place.

So for the life of me I cannot see what the problem is. We are continuing a process that was started a number of years ago. Because of declining enrollments we are continuing it. Now I admit that this will probably result in a reduction in the total number of teachers in the Province. But it is because of the declining enrollments and nothing else. Now I say to you in all honesty, in total honesty, that that is the only thing that is in existence right now in terms of dropping the number of teachers. And yet at the same time we hear statements like this: oh, 600 teachers are going to be cut.

An Hon. Member: And how many will (Inaudible)?

Mr. Baker: I am not suggesting that the hon. Member is deliberately going about and trying to spread fear. What I am suggesting is he had better realize where, perhaps, a lot of this stuff is coming from and it may in fact be an attempt to

interfere with the collective bargaining process that is going on. And as long as you realize that and go into it with your eyes open, fine.

Now, there is some discussion about a meeting that was held over the weekend. I have seen the complete text of the discussions at that meeting and nowhere was there mention made of 600 teachers being laid off or anything else.

An Hon. Member: How many million dollars?

Mr. Baker: Since it was brought up this afternoon, as a matter of fact, I had a look at it.

Some Hon. Members: How many million dollars?

Mr. Baker: How many million what?

An Hon. Member: How many million dollars (Inaudible)?

Mr. Baker: Well, we are trying to do the same thing in education as we are doing with all Departments and we have explained that in detail to the Province a number of times. We are saying to every Department, tell us what would happen if you have to survive next year on this year's budget. Explain to us the effects of that, what would happen. And we will get input from the people in the field - as we should be getting - and then we will make our decisions. It is as simple as that.

But anyway, Mr. Chairman, I did not intend to spend very long (Inaudible) except to tell Members opposite that it is unfortunate that they are making statements like, you know, 200 teachers a year, 600 teachers being slashed,

and so on. When in actual fact down the road a very short time it will be discovered that what they are saying has no basis in fact at all. And I will tell you something else too. That I spent four years in Opposition, okay? And I was always very conscious of the fact that I could criticize government in general terms, and I thought that was fair ball. I could make statements about government and the intent of government and government's policies. I thought that was fair ball. But I always realized that if I went after something factual like that and said government is now making plans to lay off so many people, I was very conscious of the fact that in a very short time down the road the people of the Province would know who was right and who was wrong, and you have to be careful of those kinds of statements.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baker: The second point that I would like to deal with -

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baker: No, no. I am just giving you some free advice that I think you really should listen to and I know that behind the bluster and all the comments back and forth that you are paying attention. I understand that. You are listening and I think you will take it into account.

The second point, Mr. Chairman, that I would like to deal with has to do with the reason for closure. The hon. member mentioned the fact that closure was being brought in. Well notice has been given of closure. It has to appear in the Order Paper. I could not do it tomorrow, tomorrow



is Private Member's Day, so I suppose on Thursday I could then call that Order of Business and could bring in closure. So it is kind of important that the reasons for closure be explained.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baker: I have been told that the Opposition - and you can judge yourself whether it is correct or not - I have been told that the Opposition intends to keep going forever a certain number of bills, especially the money bills and so on.

An Hon. Member: No, that is not true, Sir.

Mr. Baker: Now that is what I have been told.

Mr. Doyle: That is not true.

Mr. Baker: I am saying it openly in the House and that is what I have been told.

Mr. Doyle: Who have you been talking (inaudible).

Mr. Baker: If that is in fact true, and statements have been made by the Leader of the Opposition actually, publicly in the press to that effect, so I have it not only in conversation, but I have it from the comments the Leader of the Opposition has made to the press that these things will be held up forever. I would like to explain for the sake of the myriad of media in attendance tonight -

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible) time is up.

Mr. Baker: - I would like to explain that according to our rules of procedure -

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baker: - according to our rules, during the committee stage of a bill the Opposition can keep the bill going forever. There is no way to control that kind of thing. The Opposition can keep the Committee stage going forever.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible) closure on it.

Mr. Baker: Now, when we were in Opposition we decided not to do that.

Mr. Doyle: I used to see (inaudible).

Mr. Baker: But I have been told that on at least seven or eight of the bills that we now have before the House -

An Hon. Member: His time is up, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Baker: - I have been told that the Opposition intends to keep it going forever.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

Mr. Baker: So there is no choice, in order to get the business of the Province done -

Mr. Chairman: The hon. member's time is up.

Mr. Baker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Some Hon. Members: By leave! By leave!

Mr. Tobin: He never spoke the truth (inaudible).

Mr. Chairman: The hon. the Member for Humber Valley.

Mr. Woodford: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to have just a few short comments pertaining to some of the questions I asked the Minister of Transportation this evening concerning -

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

Mr. Woodford: - the cutbacks with regards to foremen around the Province, foremen employed by the Department of Transportation. Now on October 27, we witnessed the first snowstorm on the west coast of the Province and I am talking primarily around the Deer Lake, Hampden, Howley area of the west coast.

I can understand at that time, probably, if Highways were not ready that morning to go out early. October 27 is fairly early. Always around the first or second week of November everything is pretty well in full swing. Now that morning when I drove from Cormack to Howley to attend a Humber joint council meeting there were six to seven inches of snow on the road all the way to Howley with no sign of any plows or any sand trucks or salt trucks or whatever.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I mentioned a few comments to Members opposite and just see, let them be the judge when I am finished, and if I am wrong the Minister of Transportation can stand in his place and correct me. Before, and up until some changes were made a couple of weeks ago, the foremen and the operators - snow plow operators and especially pertaining to winter to snow clearing and sanding and salting -

were all paid on the same scale. The operators were paid -

Mr. Tobin: There goes the old (Inaudible).

Mr. Woodford: - for their overtime when it comes to winter work and the foremen were paid the same thing. Now, when they changed it and put the foremen on a scale with the rest of the managerial staff and the supervisory personnel with highways, my understanding is that they have to work now thirty-five hours of overtime without any pay whatsoever. Nothing. Thirty-five to seventy hours, they get one day off. Over seventy hours - all this is within an eight week pay period - they are eligible for 10 per cent of their gross annual income up to a maximum of \$3,000.

Now if someone opposite can stand up tonight - any Member - and tell me that they are satisfied and they agree with that type of an arrangement, and at the same time, and having said that, tell me that snow clearing operations in this Province are not going to be hurt because of what is being done to the foremen with the Department of Transportation this winter, then I challenge them to stand up when I sit down and tell me whether they agree or do not, and what do they think the attitude of those particular personnel is going to be.

It would be one thing, Mr. Chairman, if the overtime hours were cut from those individuals and at the same time when they were going to be put on a par with the supervisory personnel, up their wages. Even half, or comparable to what the supervisory personnel were getting. That would be a different issue. I

would probably have nothing to say about it. But to cut their overtime hours - it is just as well to say, if they are going to work any overtime they are working for nothing. Absolutely nothing. Now, what individual, regardless of the amount of commitment and dedication he has got to the Department of Transportation or anywhere else in this Province, or any other company, who is going to get out of bed at 3:00 a.m. or 4:00 a.m. or go out after hours in the night and check the roads to make sure that the operators come out and clear the road? He is not going to do it.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Woodford: Well, I just told you. If the Minister wants to tell me I am wrong get up and tell me if I am wrong after. Now, it is worse than that.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Woodford: But what I am saying - okay, I am wrong. Well, okay, so someone stand up and correct me. I want to know the truth! I thought I understood it. And if I do not I am willing to sit down and let someone tell me.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Woodford: Pardon me?

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Woodford: Always part of the job but they got paid overtime for it! The foremen got up 3:00 a.m. and went out and checked the roads coming from Carbonear to see if the roads want to be plowed. He got up and checked the roads, then he phoned the operator, the operator was out earlier. But he

is not doing it now. He is still supposed to do it but he is not getting paid for it and you know what is going to happen.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible) do not understand, even the Minister does not understand, (Inaudible).

Mr. Woodford: Oh. Oh well, okay.

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Woodford: He is not getting paid for it and you know what is going to happen.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

Mr. Woodford: If it is not true I stand to be corrected, but from my experience over the years with highways, especially in the Deer Lake area, this is factual. Now, no human being, I do not care who he is or how dedicated he is, or she is, is going to do that. They are not going to do it. They will do so much, but can any member expect those people in the dead of Winter to check those roads early in the morning and late at night? They are not going to do it, period, and not get paid for it. Mr. Chairman, I have talked to some people, not only foremen but also some of the operators, because they are getting paid the overtime. The Member for St. Barbe mentioned the other night about the 160 hours overtime down on the Northern Peninsula. Well, those operators got paid for that. They got paid overtime for every hour they were out.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Mr. Woodford: No, the foremen did not get paid.

Mr. Tobin: (Inaudible) Minister of Transportation.

Mr. Woodford: He is right. Unless I am wrong what he is saying is right. The foremen do not get paid and to me, I do not think that even members opposite who figure what I am saying is wrong, if it is the truth, I think they will go along with what I am saying. I do not think they want to see any man, especially with the type of Winters we get around this Province, have to get up and work thirty-five hours for absolutely nothing, and then go to seventy with one day off. Now that is one day off in seventy hours is eight hours, and over that the maximum is \$3000, and that, as far as I am concerned is wrong.

Mr. Chairman, there are a few other comments I would like to make with regards to the Economic Recovery Commission, and also to a few of the comments made by the Minister of Finance earlier. I have a question for the Minister of Finance, that he can probably answer for me later on. In the breakdown the other day concerning the \$705,000 under 26.01, he said there is \$480,00 in existing loans or grants, and the rest is anticipated. There is \$400,000 in one, \$80,000 in the other, and there was \$600,000. Would that be in grants? I thought he said grants. I do not know if it is grants or loans.

An Hon. Member: That was the previous.

Mr. Woodford: That was the previous, an extra \$480,000.

So the other question is, grants to where? Is it to companies? Is it to small businesses in the

Province? Or examples like the Board of Trade? Two hundred thousand dollars went to the Board of Trade. That is not included in it and \$200.

Now the other question that I would like to put to the Minister that \$200,000 that went to the Board of Trade, was that bridge financing or was it an actual grant?

An Hon. Member: It was an actual grant.

Mr. Woodford: It was an actual grant.

So ACOA came up with another \$2, about \$400,000.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Woodford: Now one of the things that I am concerned with with regards to this new enterprise, Mr. Chairman, and more particularly with the west coast part of it, is what kind of emphasis? My experience so far in having constituents approach those people is that they are not meeting with a great deal of success.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Woodford: No, they are not meeting with a great deal of success. I do not know exactly where it is coming from yet, whether it is the attitude of the individuals involved or whether it is because of the fact that there is no funding in place for this local - to give the regions a certain amount of power to loan X number of dollars, I do not know where that is coming from. The exact (inaudible). But there is no legislation gone through yet on that. So I take it that is one of

the reasons why there is no powers given to regional boards.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

The hon. member's time is up.

Some Hon. Members: By leave! By leave!

Mr. Chairman: The hon. the Minister of Health.

Mr. Decker: Mr. Chairman, along with my colleagues on this side of the House, some of my colleagues, I had the privilege of spending four years in the Opposition. And during these four years I came to respect the role of Opposition because in the British Parliamentary system it is indeed an integral part of the system. There is a place for Opposition.

Mr. Tobin: (Inaudible).

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

Mr. Decker: The role of the Opposition Office, Mr. Chairman, is to take the various pieces of legislation which government is putting forward and to dissect that legislation, to ask questions about that particular piece of legislation, point out any weaknesses which might be found in a particular piece of legislation. The Opposition, Mr. Chairman, is representing the general public out there to point out to the general public what kind of legislation the government wants to bring in.

Now one thing which we did when we were in Opposition, we made sure that every single piece of legislation that came before this House was dissected, was cut apart,

we pointed out the weaknesses. Mr. Chairman, on many occasions during these four years we actually did see weaknesses in pieces of legislation and the government consented and changed, the government realized that they had to make some. For example, the Hibernia legislation, Mr. Chairman. During the Hibernia legislation I remember we pointed out a few errors, and we had the thing corrected. That was the role and that still is the role of Opposition, Mr. Chairman. And with very little research assistance.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Decker: When we were in Opposition we only had Rex Murphy, that is all we had. Very little research. But we did one tremendous job for the people of this Province, Mr. Chairman. What a job we did.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Decker: History will show that the best Opposition that was ever in place in this Province was between the year 1985 and 1989. History will show that. When the Member for St. Barbe would get up, Mr. Chairman, I saw him once take on the former House Leader Mr. Marshall, I saw the Member for St. Barbe take him on and Mr. Chairman, it was - I pitied the Government House Leader at the time, his words were chopped apart, Mr. Chairman, he was chopped to pieces the legislature was dissected and the people of this Province benefitted because we took the legislation and we analyzed it.

But above all, what did we do? We co-operated, we co-operated with the Government, we did not go

against something just for the sake of being against it. If there was something positive brought forward, we got up and we said to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, this is a positive piece of legislation, we would probably do this a little different but here is what the Government is doing, here are the advantages and here are the disadvantages. A very reasonable Opposition and it was a pleasure to be a part of that Opposition.

Now, Mr. Chairman, today, we have a little different situation. Those of us who made such a tremendous Opposition in the years 1985 to 1989, the people of the Province looked at us and said you know, why are we keeping those people in Opposition, they really should be in Government, they really should be in Government, so last year they got up and they turfed out the previous group and they put us in Government because we did such a wonderful job, when we were in Opposition, they knew and rightly so, that we would be a great Government to put in power.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the people of the Province have been let down. They have been let down and I am going to be the first one to admit it. They are not let down because they put a great Government in place, they were right in that regard; but they are let down because they put an Opposition in place who is letting down the people of this Province.

We are putting through a fairly substantial piece of legislation tonight; we are coming in this House and we are asking the people of the Province, we are asking the House of Assembly to permit us to borrow \$30,935,800. We have been here, Mr. Chairman, for hours and

hours debating this piece of legislation, supposedly debating it, but I have not heard one single remark from the Opposition which relates to this piece of legislation, not a remark!

I hear about the forecast, I hear about the weather, I hear about slippery roads, I hear about the recycled toilet paper the Member for St. John's East Extern get up and talks about, and here we are, here we are, the Government asking for almost \$31 million and the Member for St. John's East Extern gets up and talks about recycled toilet paper? Mr. Chairman, this is an absolute and total disgrace!

The people of this Province are being let down, they are being sold short because we have an Opposition which is more interested in disruption than they are in pointing out the other side showing their weaknesses in our legislation, Mr. Chairman.

Today, I heard the hon. Minister of Development get up and make an outstanding announcement; it was just the normal thing that we have been doing for the last year and a half, opening fish plants, opening hospital beds, putting people to work.

The Economic Recovery Commission, like ourselves, has not been blowing its own horn, it has been working behind the scenes, laying out the groundwork so that we can give people permanent employment which will go on, not three, not ten weeks, but will go on year in, year out, year in and year out.

The hon. Minister of Development got up today and made one of these announcements, the Opposition was disgusted, they were upset, they were disappointed and I never

heard such a negative criticism in my life, Mr. Chairman, what was indeed a good announcement; to create seventy something jobs down in the district of the Member for Eagle River by putting a shrimp operation in place. It was good for the Province, what did the Opposition do? They got up and tried to talk about the negative things; they tried to criticize the Economic Recovery Commission who was involved in this as they were involved in Twillingate, as they are presently involved in a marble mine up in my district, as they are involved day in and day out with companies who want to set up business in this Province. Because all they can do is obstruct and interfere, that is why, Mr. Chairman, we have to bring in closure tonight, we have to govern. Whether the Opposition likes that or not I cannot help that. We were elected to govern and if they are going to be obstructionists, if they are going to interfere with everything we do we have no choice but to invoke closure.

Now, Mr. Chairman, in fairness I should say that not all hon. members over there see their role as being purely negative, being against in everything, being an obstructionists. I believe there are indeed some very reliable hon. people over there. I believe there are hon. members over there who take their position seriously, who realize that there is a role for the Opposition, Mr. Chairman.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Decker: No, I believe there is a role for the Opposition, Mr. Chairman.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Decker: No, I believe the hon. Member for Humber East -

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Decker: I think she is. I do not think she is an obstructionist. I can say this that the former member for St. John's East Shannie Duff saw her role as being a constructive one, constructive criticism, some of the most piercing, biting questions that were asked since we have been elected came from Shannie Duff when she represented St. John's East over here.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

The hon. member's time is elapsed.

Mr. Decker: Her questions - thank you, Mr. Chairman, I will retire.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Chairman: The hon. the Member for Humber East.

Ms Verge: Thank you Chairperson.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Ms Verge: In listening to the Minister of Health actually, my resolve to oppose this bill was weakened. The member talked about the need for additional funding for the Economic Recovery Commission. And I suddenly remembered that one of the goals of the Economic Recovery Commission is to manufacture tongue depressors in the Province and I suddenly thought if only we could get on with passing a bill giving the money to the Recovery Commission and getting those tongue depressors off the assembly line how they could be applied to

improve the quality of presentation in this House of Assembly.

Now, Chairperson, I want to go back to the remarks of the President of Treasury Board when he spoke a half hour ago or so. He says that what is being said in the Province today about the possibility of massive layoffs in hospitals, in nursing homes, school boards, and the public service generally amounts to scare tactics. Chairperson, that may well be true. I am inclined to think that there is scaremongering going on. But, you know, all of this talk and these questions have been initiated by the government. If the Department of Health and the Minister of Health who have told in written form and orally the administrators of hospitals and nursing homes that the government wants them to consider operating next year during the fiscal year 1991-92, with the same operating grants as they have this year, and the Minister of Health asked all those institutions to give him, to use the bureaucratic jargon, impact statements, to let him and his officials know what would be the consequences of health care institutions having to operate in the next fiscal year with the revised net amount for the current year.

Naturally the administrators have to talk to their subordinates, to their department heads, and to the rank-and-file staff, to get reaction, to prepare their responses for the Minister of Health. The consequences, in short, as the administrators were quick to point out, would involve basically with operating \$60 million to \$65 million less than what would be needed to carry forward the current level of

services and programmes. And since the bulk of operating budgets of these health care institutions is needed for payroll costs, then obviously the only way the institutions could absorb a \$60 million to \$65 million shortfall would be to lay off hundreds of employees. They estimate they would have to operate with something like 1,500 fewer positions.

The Department of Health followed suit last week. The Department - I am sorry, the Department of Education followed the lead of the Department of Health last week.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Ms Verge: I am not going to be distracted now by the Minister of Health because I want to deal with what the Department of Education did last week. Officials of the Department of Education met with school board administrators across the Province. Now, I was not privy to those discussions, nobody over here was, but I have heard school board superintendents talk about what was said in those consultations last week. The Bay of Islands - St. George's Integrated School Board Superintendent said that the measures that the Department of Education officials discussed with him and his colleagues would have consequences ranging from bad to disastrous. According to second-hand accounts the Department of Education officials laid out the possibility of primary, elementary, secondary education - that is essentially kindergarten through Grade XII - having to operate next year on \$40 million less than they have this year. There were various proposals evidently for cutting costs and there were options laid



out for generating revenue.

Now, Chairperson, all these ideas are, I suppose, essentially trial balloons that are being floated by the Government. The President of Treasury Board and the Premier are reserving unto themselves the role of standing back from all this and saying, oh no no no, we did not direct these discussions, we did not tell -

An Hon. Member: We did.

Ms Verge: - Department of Health and Department of Education officials to raise with hospitals, nursing homes and school boards the idea of their having to absorb cutbacks. We are aloof from all this. We really do not know what they are saying, we have not given any firm instructions, we have not made any decisions, we have just sent Government staff out to consult and just to ask, well, what would happen if we did X, Y or Z? What would be the consequences? We are clean, we are innocent. We really would not want to lay anyone off. That would be the last resort.

Well, Chairperson, all I can think, quite honestly, is that the Government is embarking on a Machiavellian public relations exercise. The Government is, through these consultations and meetings, stirring up fear. It is the Government themselves who are doing the scaremongering, making people fear for their jobs. And eventually, when the Departments complete their discussions they may get some ideas that they have not thought of already for cutting expenditures or for charging new fees; new taxes. And eventually this will lead to a Government Budget in March which will contain measures, but they will be

insignificant in comparison to what people are now being induced to believe are eminent. And in next March or April, the Government hopes and expects that people will actually accept cutbacks and spending in health and education, and people will tolerate new revenue measures because they will pale in comparison to what is being discussed now. And perhaps, Chairperson, the President of Treasury Board is right when he faults often the Opposition. Perhaps we are playing right into their hands. Perhaps we are being implicated in this game by repeating questions that the nurses are asking us for raising fears that teachers have. Perhaps this is all part of the game, circulating these fears, escalating the nervousness and worrying so that next Spring the actual decisions will be fairly well received and the public of the Province will breath a sigh of relief. Well, Chairperson, that is an extremely cynical view. It's also, I believe, quite an unrealistic and naive expectation that people could be manipulated in such a callous way by this Government and not realize they have been had next Spring and not hold it against the Government. Every single teacher around the Province now has a badge that says, 'teachers betrayed will not forget'. Now the Minister of Health is saying that they have the same badge as when I was Minister of Education. Actually they do not. When I was Minister of Education the rallying cry was 'teachers will remember'. The Member for Carbonear will remember that. But now, only a year and a half after the Liberals assumed office, the teacher slogan is, 'teachers betrayed will never forget'. And I would say to the

Members opposite, to the smiling Minister of Health, perhaps to the nervous Member for Carbonear, that teachers, nurses, physicians, hospital and nursing home workers, and other public servants, once betrayed will not forget. People are much better informed now than they were twenty years ago when the Liberals were last in office, and perhaps tactics that worked for Joey Smallwood, the present Premier's political mentor, just will not wash today because people are much more astute. The news media is doing, on the whole, a good job of covering -

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

Ms Verge: I will have to continue later, Chairperson.

Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. the Member for Mount Scio - Bell Island.

Mr. Walsh: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

An Hon. Member: We have to get some paper and record this.

Mr. Walsh: I want to advise the Opposition that there is no need to get paper to record it. Hansard will record it on their own.

Having sat here for the last couple of days listening to the beginnings of the fearmongering all over again that we had a chance to hear this Summer, the most amazing thing that comes to mind is that obviously when those hon. members were in Government they never heard of consultations, and because our Government has decided to do something a little different, we decided to actually go out and consult with people,

the fact that we have asked them to assist us and are relying on their knowledge to help us in preparing our Budget next year, I have never seen a crowd before in my life so much like Labrador dogs. They have been jumping up and going crazy simply because we have gone into the consultative measures that we have. Now, the hon. Member for Humber East really frightens me. When I look at her background, her being a lawyer and a former Minister of Justice, I listened to some of the observations.

An Hon. Member: And Minister of Education.

Mr. Walsh: She was Minister of Education but I think the NTA dealt with that in their own way. My observations about how the mind can warp around ideas such as, we are throwing out these thoughts, we are talking about the fact of cutbacks, simply to stimulate some dialogue, or to paint a blacker picture than it really is, it makes me wonder how they stayed in Government as long as they did, or they used that kind of philosophy and tactics to hold onto power, maybe that was the reason for it.

Some comments have been made about the NTA tonight by other members, and I suppose it is only right that I say something with regard to the NTA as well. I am extremely disappointed in the NTA for their actions some years ago when the Minister was invited by them to speak. She was actually invited by them to speak but they heckled and booed her, and would not allow her to finish her speech.

An Hon. Member: I agree.

Mr. Walsh: You agreed, yes. That was the first time that my esteem

for the NTA fell somewhat because having received an invitation the hon. member should have been given the opportunity to speak.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Mr. Walsh: Oh, yes, that was an official invitation and they would not allow her to speak. Now, what amazes me more than anything, Mr. Chairman, is that listening to them talk about the things we are doing, and the measures that we entered into over the last twelve months, they remind me of the song, Jumping Jack Flash, they are all over the place. Anything that is good is afraid to be brought out, anything they can perceive as being bad they will bring out, and anything that they can mix up, jumble up or misconstrue for the media, they will.

Mr. Decker: Misrepresent.

Mr. Walsh: Misrepresent is the operative word. So that is the one we are dealing with. Needless to say, Mr. Chairman, they can certainly be soothsayers when they want to.

An Hon. Member: Go back and go pluck chicken.

Mr. Decker: I do not know how much down they are going to get.

Mr. Walsh: If you made the money plucking chicken that I made plucking chicken you would be happy to go back to it too.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Walsh: So anyway, Mr. Chairman, I am not sure, you have attempted in the past I have heard, but I have not.

In the meantime, Mr. Chairman,

when we hear the aspersions being cast upon the Economic Recovery Commission it makes me also wonder why, and I do not intend to mention the Sprung Greenhouse affair other than the fact -

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Walsh: - it was an attempt to try something different. The hon. Minister, when he was there, said that is exactly what he tried to do. We are not looking to do something different. We have actually taken Doug House, who wrote the report for the previous government, who produced the report, thought it was one of the best things that had ever been produced -

An Hon. Member: Doug did.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Walsh: No, the best thing that was ever produced and you thought it was too.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Walsh: You mailed out more copies of that report across Canada than anybody else did.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Walsh: Oh, I have been told that by your previous officials.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Walsh: So here we are -

Mr. Furey: And they borrowed \$4 million to do it.

Mr. Walsh: The problem was they gave them more.

Probably wanted to give Doug House more than the \$4 million they gave

him, but Doug did not need it.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Walsh: So here we go out and take the individual who is the architect of building on our strengths, the architect that people have asked for copies all over Canada. We hired that individual to help implement the recommendations that you had paid for and now you attack us as a government for following through on one of your own ideas. Unbelievable! Unbelievable!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Walsh: Is that what we refer it to as Conservative logic? No question.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Walsh: I will tell you as long as I am over here supporting this government I will be closer to government than you ever will be.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Walsh: I would suggest now that you take an opportunity tonight to review your pension plan because you are going to need it the next few years.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Tobin: I might go plucking chicken.

Mr. Walsh: You know, I would not mind having you for that. You spend enough money there that you probably should have had shares in the company, but you did not. But we could probably do that.

Now, Mr. Chairman, the funds that we are looking for here tonight

and the other legislation that we would like to get on to that the government would like to bring before this House, this is a good opportunity for us to find another way to get the legislation in that we need. And a typical example was brought up today by the Member for Menihek who was quite concerned about what would happen with the Motor Vehicle Registration down there. And as the Premier said if we only had an opportunity to get that legislation in here and dealt with properly we would not have to be concerned about them, and their needs would be met.

Ms Verge: Call it.

Mr. Walsh: But you backed up and you have held it.

An Hon. Member: What bill was it?

Mr. Walsh: We will call them one at a time. We will deal with this one first and then we will move on to all of the other ones.

An Hon. Member: Call it tonight and we will pass it.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Walsh: I am more than willing to accept your offer to call it. Are you also saying to me that you are willing to allow this piece of legislation to go through now?

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Walsh: Again, that goes back to conservative logic. Conservative logic is, rather than deal with the issue at hand, let's run all over hell's half acre or all over God's creation, deal with anything else rather than what is at hand. We are more than willing to pass this bill, and I am sure

the House Leader will call that one immediately.

Ms Verge: Call it right now.

Mr. Walsh: Can I accept your offer? I will tell you what I will do. In order to allow us to bring that legislation forward right now, I will sit down and that will allow my colleague the Minister of Finance to stand up. We will finish this bill and we will move onto the other one. So, by leave the Minister of Finance.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. the Member for Torngat Mountains.

Mr. Walsh: What? You are not going to let us put the bill through so that we can get on (inaudible). Well, I would never have sat down (inaudible).

Mr. Warren: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to have a few words on this particular piece of legislation also. And at the same time while listening to the hon. Member for Mount Scio - Bell Island, Mr. Chairman, I find it interesting that he said we consult with people.

Mr. Chairman, I was part of a Resource Policy Committee that went throughout the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. We listened to the views of the people on bill 53, and not one person who appeared before the Committee agreed with clause 7-2. And, Mr. Chairman, let me say at the same time, neither did the Member for Bonavista South, the Member for Lewisporte, the Member for Humber Valley, the Member for Torngat Mountains, or the Member for Mount Scio - Bell Island agree with 7-2. So, no one of the five agreed with section 7-2 in bill 53. Now, what happened, Mr.

Chairman?

Mr. Chairman: The hon. the Member for Mount Scio - Bell Island on a point of order.

Mr. Walsh: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. There is no question that a number of hon. Members of this House, and not just the ones mentioned, have problems with sections of bill 53. But as the Member said himself, bill 53 died on the order paper and the filing of our Committee report the other day was nothing more than a formality. Let's wait and see when the new bill comes back and then we will discuss that in the terms that it needs to be discussed in. The bill is dead, boy. Smarten up.

Mr. Chairman: No point of order.

The hon. the Member for Torngat Mountains.

Mr. Warren: Let me say, Mr. Chairman, the report came back and all of a sudden, because I understand - now, the hon. Member can get up on a point of order again if he wants to, but I understand that he was called to the eighth floor by the Premier and he was rapped on the knuckles.

Mr. Walsh: A point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. the Member for Mount Scio - Bell Island on a point of order.

Mr. Walsh: Mr. Chairman, it is shameful that the hon. Member would interrupt my valuable reading time with this misinformation or direct lies.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Walsh: I was never called to the eighth floor to be rapped on the knuckles. I was never called to the eighth floor to be asked -

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!  
Order, please!

Mr. Walsh: Never called to the eight floor to be asked what my thoughts were on -

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!  
Order, please!

Mr. Walsh: - bill 53.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

Did I hear the hon. Member utter unparliamentary language?

Mr. Walsh: Gosh, what would be unparliamentary language.

Mr. Chairman: I thought I heard the hon. Member -

Mr. Walsh: I withdraw the word lies and interject bending the facts as far as one can bend them.

Mr. Chairman: No point of order.

The hon. the Member for Torngat Mountains.

Mr. Warren: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Anyway, let me just say that the hon. Member from Mount Scio - Bell Island has been trying for the last eighteen months to get on the floor but he can not get up there. Maybe that is the reason, Mr. Chairman.

However, I want to make a couple of other comments particularly as it pertains to the Minister of Health. And the Minister of Health - I notice he just yawned -

but I noticed a few days ago on October 23 I tabled a piece of paper here in this House -

An Hon. Member: You didn't table it right (Inaudible).

Mr. Warren: - and at the same time the Minister got up on a point of order, a point of privilege and everything else, and he said there were no names to the paper, produce the names, and all this kind of stuff. And I guess the Speaker at the time ruled that it was not out of order so I sent the paper back to it. So I would think it is an appropriate time now that I would table the same piece of paper. And it does have signatures on it.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!  
Order, please!

I want to remind the hon. Member that he neither has the right nor the privilege to table any document as a private Member.

Mr. Warren: Mr. Chairman, to beg your indulgence, Sir, I have the right to table anything in this House as a Member.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible) not in Committee you can't.

Mr. Warren: I can table anything I want to in this House as a Member, whether the Speaker will agree with it or not, I can table it.

Mr. Chairman: It is my understanding that the ruling - well, okay, we will check to have the Table Officers check that out, okay?

Mr. Warren: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. However at the same time I will ask the Page, if there

is a Page around, if they want to take this here and lay it on the Table. It does contain a number of signatures from the community of Postville who are upset with the Minister of Health by the action that he has taken with the dispensing of drugs in that particular community.

And I should also, while I am speaking, say to the Minister of Health that he is going against the laws of this Province. Because as I understand it, through this Legislature bills have passed and the only people that can dispense drugs in this Province are doctors, nurses, and the pharmacists, but no one else. And I say to the Minister that he is breaking one of the laws of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador by allowing lay dispensers in remote areas of this Province to dispense drugs. And the Minister has gone against the pharmaceutical Act in this Province.

An Hon. Member: How long has that law (Inaudible)?

Mr. Warren: Mr. Chairman, this law was in effect for years and years. And I say to the hon. Minister of Health, that just because it was wrong yesterday does it still have to be wrong today? I say to my hon. colleagues opposite, why don't you change it now? Why don't you change it now!? You are in Government so change it now! And you have it in your hands to change it, and I will say to the hon. colleague, to my hon. friend from the Strait of Belle Isle, the Minister of Health, that if something does happen - which I pray to God it does not - where you are okaying lay people in this Province dispensing drugs, knowing

the court case that has gone on now with the Janeway Hospital and with a medical doctor. Knowing that this case has gone through the court and if anything does happen in this Province by a lay dispenser, dispensing drugs to patients, I would say the Minister is the one who is going to have to take responsibility for such action.

Mr. Chairman, I guess I should go back to my last five minutes on the bill and I was hoping that the Minister of-

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible) they are talking about money, not on the bill.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

Mr. Warren: I was hoping that the Minister of Development would be listening because I want to say a few comments about the bill as it pertains in particular to the Department of Development.

Mr. Chairman, a number of months ago, three or four months ago the Department of Development; I heard a consultant group travelled to Labrador coast to check into future possibility of the operation of the Government Stores. Touche Ross I believe was the consulting company who travelled throughout the Coast of Labrador looking at ways and means of improving the operations of the Government Stores, and I understand that the Minister of Development has had that report - I would like to get the Minister of Development's attention because it is very, very important what I am trying to say to him.

The Minister of Development is not

interested, but I say to the Minister of Development that I am talking about the Government Stores and I understand the Minister has had the report from the consultant group for at least a number of days now-

Mr. Furey: I have not had it.

Mr. Warren: - so maybe your staff has it if you do not have it, but I understand -

Mr. Furey: No, I have to tell you that I do not have it.

Mr. Warren: Okay, but I understand from what I can gather is, that the Minister has been briefed on the -

Mr. Furey: (Inaudible).

Mr. Warren: Yes, sure.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. the Minister of Development.

Mr. Furey: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think you asked a number of questions: Has the Minister received the report on the Government Stores yet? The answer is no. I have not received the report on the Government Stores yet. Then your second question was, has the Minister been briefed on the report on the Government Stores yet? The answer is no. The Minister has not been briefed on the report on the Government Stores yet.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. the Member for Torngat Mountains.

Mr. Warren: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Do I have another ten minutes now? Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

Order, please!

Did the hon. Member give leave to the Minister just to answer those questions?

Some Hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: Then the Member does not have ten minutes as I understand it.

Mr. Warren: Okay, no problem, Mr. Chairman: However, I understand, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister's Department has been briefed on the contents of the report and I understand, and I will say this Mr. Chairman, that there are three options thrown open. One is to leave as status quo, the second is a Crown Corporation and the third, with which I do not agree-

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Warren: No, no, not at all. The third, with which I do not agree, is to go into private -

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

The hon. member's time is up.

Before I recognize the hon. Minister of Environment and Lands I want to come back to the point raised by the hon. Member for Torngat Mountains with respect to tabling a document. It is my understanding from Beauchesne that he neither has the right nor the obligation to do it but I believe precedent in this House is that private members can table documents. I want the table officers to check that out and we can probably report later.

The hon. the Minister of Environment and Lands.

Mr. Kelland: I will not take up a



lot of time, but I know that when we talk about money matters the practice is, I guess, that we get into fairly wide-ranging topics. There was a reference to what had been Bill 53 which no longer exists, as we all know, and I want to make some quick reference to it, if I could, and not take up a lot of time. What the hon. Member for Mount Scio - Bell Island said is quite right in that Bill 53 no longer exists. I should restate also that what had been Bill 53, that piece of draft legislation has been around for quite a number of years and had not seen the light of day, so to speak, in this Legislature. In fact the former Progressive Conservative administration had approved that piece of legislation. There was some denial of that fact, but nevertheless the former Cabinet had approved that piece of legislation in its draft form, or in the form it was in. There was a denial that that was indeed the case, that they had not approved it, but the Premier has, I think, straightened that matter out publicly. I understand that the only question that was raised by the former administration prior to approval of the draft legislation was that departmental officials wished to see a fifteen meter reservation around freshwater bodies. That was the officials request, however the administration of the day, the former Tory Government, thought that the ten meter strip was sufficient and there was some disagreement on that. Approval was given to the legislation with that rider. Subsequent to that, after the current administration took over the reigns of Government, that draft legislation was reviewed and approved by the present Cabinet. In fact my colleague for Torngat Mountains

raised the issue in the public hearings. He asked what I thought was a good technical question. I am sorry, I made a mistake there, I gave credit where credit was not due, actually the issue was raised by the Member for Mount Scio - Bell Island and in effect, I do not know the exact words, he asked a fairly technical and probably important question, if a person, or if an individual, an organization, or whatever, obtained title to the ten meter strip around a freshwater body, could that person, organization, company, or whatever, erect a fence down to the waterline? The official from my Department in fact technically answered correctly, that if a person did indeed have title, or could obtain title, they could also put a fence to block off, or to encompass that particular grant or lease. What was not probably pursued to any great length, Mr. Chairman, was the fact, how do you go about getting title or a lease? There was no intention, and I said this before in the House, there was no intention in my understanding by the former administration, nor the present administration, to give exclusive rights to anybody other than those which were specified in the old Lands Act. The former administration clearly indicated it was not their intention to block people's traditional right of access to freshwater bodies. It was clearly stated by myself and the Premier on different occasions that it certainly was not our intention to restrict anybody's rights. However, it got into the public forum and it became an emotional argument, and back on February 7, I believe, I held a press conference and at that time gave clear indication that if indeed people had concerns about Government's intent to

restrict their traditional right of access to freshwater bodies that I would require of the Legislative Council that they redraft the bill to provide wording that would ensure that traditional rights be respected. Subsequent to that, two or three weeks later, the Premier made a similar statement, that we would make sure, and provide wording to make sure, that people would not be restricted from access around freshwater bodies. There were some exceptions but the same exceptions were in the previous legislation as well. It was still in the emotional arena however, and it became a highly emotional issue. The Legislation Review Committee did make visits around different parts of the Province and heard input from quite a number of people and organizations as to what their concerns were. They felt that perhaps the wording that had been in Bill 53, as it was known, "Paragraph 7 (2) in particular which provided the exceptions to the rule, may give the Lieutenant-Governor in Council a bit too much power. Keep it in mind, however, that the same drafting, the same wording had been approved by the former administration which is now raising this issue in the public mind and somewhat resorting I would guess to a form of scare tactic, raising the fears in people's minds that they would be restricted in the traditional rights. They had approved the same thing themselves earlier on. So unfortunately when the House closed that bill died on the Order Paper, Bill 53. So Bill 53 as such and that particular wording no longer exists. As a matter of course and a matter of requirement the chairman filed the report on the hearings on Bill 53, which is no longer in existence and

currently on the Order Paper in first reading we have what is now Bill 25. It is not the same bill. It is largely the same bill, however Legislative Counsel has re-drafted the sections that deal with the areas of concern with respect to access and the rights to access around freshwater bodies, and that will be debated in the House in due course. I just want to make that clear and confirm what the honourable Member for Mt.Scio-Bell Island says that there is no Bill 53. That wording and that report subsequent to the public hearings relates to Bill 53. Bill 25 with different wording will be brought in for second reading in the reasonably near future I guess and on to the normal course of debate. So let us not mislead anybody, Mr. Chairman, the former administration approved the original bill with 7/2 included. We subsequently did the same thing. We made a public commitment however, when the concerns were raised that we would re-draft. Bill 53 died on the Order Paper. Bill 25 will shortly be presented in second reading and I see no cause for concern based on that.

Mr. Chairman: The honourable President of Treasury Board.

Mr. Baker: Mr. Chairman I will yield to him if he really wants to speak.

Mr. Chairman: The honourable Member for Burin-Placentia West.

Mr. Tobin: Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. I'd like to say a few words in this -yes Mr. Chairman, and if the Minister of Development didn't draw you all into the book you would have seen what was happening. I would like to say a few words on this bill as

well. As I spoke this evening I didn't get a chance to finish up.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Mr. Tobin: The overpass syndrome speaking again look. There are a few points I would like to make particularly as they relate to the unemployment statistics in this Province and the number of people on social assistance. The Minister of Development and the President of Treasury Board, the Government House Leader, the Deputy Premier, the master of-

An Hon. Member: No he is not, no he is not Deputy.

Mr. Tobin: Yes he is Deputy. Yes he is. Master of cuts, acting Minister of Finance and-

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Mr. Tobin: Well I heard-what's that?

Hon. Member: He's the Minister of cuts(Inaudible)

Mr. Tobin: No as a matter of fact I think the Minister of Finance looks after the haircuts. As a matter of fact I heard the reason why there's a lot of new fresh haircuts over there is they are trying to beat the GST. I don't know if there is any truth to it or not, but I also heard they are going to piggyback on it, but anyway, Mr. Speaker, basically as it relates to what is taking place here in this Province, that this administration and the Minister of Social Services, I knew I would bring him back in the House. I knew that if I got up the Minister of Social Services would come back in the House, Mr. Chairman. This evening he got up and he tried to explain what took place here. And

you know about the able-bodied versus the total case load and all of that. The Minister of Social Services knows full well that the people who are called "able-bodied," we all know how long they spend on the short term case load or the disabled case - short term case load, I always called it. And then they are transferred to the long term case load or to the computer programme.

And this is where they are to, and yet the Minister of Social Services can cut the cloth how he likes. Is that there is approximately 15,000 more people on the payroll of the Department of Social Services today than there were a year ago. Now, the Minister says he is not responsible for it, and I agree he is not responsible, but he has to accept collective responsibility by being part of a Government that has done absolutely nothing except put the economy in a tailspin. And that is what is happening in this Province.

I mean, Mr. Chairman, when you look at the 249,826 people on social assistance. That is more people than there is in the work force. There are more people receiving social assistance than are in the work force in this Province. That is the economic blueprint of this Government. That is justification now for the House Report. (Inaudible) unless the Minister's report is not right. That says there, total case load, April, May, June, July, right down through, it adds up to 249,826.

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Tobin: Two hundred and forty-nine thousand, eight hundred and twenty-six people on social

assistance, and there are 220,000 people working in the Province. Now that is what is taking place in this Province. That is the record of this administration. More people on welfare than there are working. And it is somewhat a shame. No wonder the Member for St. John's South looks so distressed. Look, you can almost - can't you see it?

An Hon. Member: Anguished, anguished.

Mr. Tobin: Yes, anguish, anguish is the word. No, Mr. Chairman, the Member from Placentia is not suffering tonight. The Member from Placentia -

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Tobin: Well, I will tell you one thing -

Mr. Speaker: Order, please!

Mr. Tobin: When the Member from Placentia ran for the Progressive Conservative Party the statistics were not like this.

An Hon. Member: Who won? Who won?

Mr. Tobin: And the Member from Placentia ran, he ran for the PC nomination and we did not have these statistics. Nor, Mr. Chairman, when the President of Treasury Board ran for the NDP in Newfoundland, nor when he ran for the NDP in Ontario, did we have these types of statistics. Nor when the Minister of Fisheries, before he moved seven times, before he made his last move which was his seventh, did we have these statistics in the Province.

That is what is going on in this Province today! More people receiving social assistance than

are working. Now this brings me to this bill that is before the House. Economic Recovery Commission. Economic Recovery team support. Team, team support, \$705,800. Why does the Premier not scrap the Economic Recovery Commission, give the autonomy and the authority that the Chairman has to the Minister of Development, and I will wager with anybody that the Minister of Development will do a better job than the President of the Economic Recovery Commission.

An Hon. Member: No he will not.

Mr. Tobin: Yes, he will so. If the Premier would give him the controls of that Department and let him run it and go out and do what needs to be done, I would venture to bet that there would be more of an economic stimulus in this Province than there is today. What we have seen in the -

An Hon. Member: Let me know (Inaudible).

Mr. Tobin: Yes, I agree with that, I agree with that.

An Hon. Member: What?

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Chairman can you ask the Member for Placentia to keep quiet? He is interrupting. Every time I get up in this House the Member for Placentia is interrupting.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Chairman the Minister of Social Services, I think he probably knows what I was about to say -

Mr. Efford: (Inaudible)cabinet

room.

Mr. Tobin: No I was not going to say that at all because I don't care where you go. I couldn't care less where he goes.

An Hon. Member: Where he has his supper.

Mr. Tobin: Where you have your supper or what you eat. Now Mr. Chairman 705,800 dollars for the Economic Recovery Commission in this province and that is unacceptable to this caucus and to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. Why? Why? are they asking for 705,000 dollars?

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Mr. Tobin: Yes.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Tobin: Yes Mr. Chairman 705,000 dollars to do what? Is it to buy more cars for the friends of the President of the Treasury Board, is that what it is for? The former campaign manager of the Liberal Party. A good bosom pal of the President of Treasury Board gives him a 70 or 80-thousand dollar a year job and gives him a car to drive around in besides. Is that patronage Mr. Chairman? Is that patronage at the best? No! No. Mr. Chairman, that is the worst kind of patronage in this Province and the President of Treasury Board has the gall, has the gall to sit down and defend 705,000 dollars so that the Economic Recovery Commission, the Newfoundland Senate is what it is referred to now. It is referred to as the Newfoundland Senate in this Province because all the buddies of the Liberals are now going to the Economic Recovery Commission, to the Senate and what is not

going there is driving around in big Chryslers in this Province at the taxpayers expense, and I think that should not be tolerated and if the members opposite had any courage, the members opposite like the Member for Placentia, who can never keep his yap quiet when someone is speaking. Why doesn't he stand up to the Premier in caucus or at the emergency caucus meeting they had a few months ago one night. Why didn't he stand up then and tell the Premier that he disagreed with the Economic Recovery Commission. Why doesn't the Member for Pleasantville continue on the course that he was on when he was right. There are some members there Mr. Chairman, I do not expect the member for Mt. Scio-Bell Island to get up, I don't expect it, he wants to get in cabinet too bad and he would do anything to get in Cabinet. I do not expect the Member from St. John's South to cross the Premier, because he too wants to get in Cabinet.

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Tobin: Yes, but that is not foolishness, Mr. Chairman. It is a fact! And if I was -

An Hon. Member: Silly and stupid (Inaudible).

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Chairman, I can not put up with that kind of attack. Let me say to the Member from St. John's South, and it is too bad that the Minister of Manpower and Labour is not here, it is too bad she is not here. Because I tell you something, she had better watch what is going on behind her back with the Member

for St. John's South. I suspect he wants that job so bad it is not even funny.

An Hon. Member: Who?

Mr. Tobin: The Member from St. John's South.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible) job? Employment and Labour?

Mr. Tobin: Yes. Yes, indeed he does.

An Hon. Member: He was after Roger's job until Roger lost the car.

An Hon. Member: Roger lost the keys (Inaudible).

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Tobin: There are a lot who do not want Roger's job now that he is walking. Even the Member from Placentia has given up on it. Once they had to walk for his job they gave up on it.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Tobin: Yes, and there are none of them who want to. So Roger does not have to worry, Mr. Chairman. But I can tell you one thing, that the third time is lucky and Roger is after having the keys twice now. And the next time he gets them - and he will get them - he will not be walking for long. He will not have to hire a Caddy or anything. Now, I got carried off the topic there a little bit -

Mr. Ramsay: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please! Order, please!

The hon. Member's time is up.

Some Hon. Members: By leave! By leave!

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member for LaPoile.

Mr. Ramsay: Alright. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Bill 66. I just wanted to speak about the bill and also about the manner with which this Government has dealt with the people of the Province. We have certainly learned to ignore the way that the Opposition's convoluted logic is put forth as a good alternative to the people. Because of course -

Mr. Tobin: Time is up, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Ramsay: - the more that we listen the more we realize that it is probably far and away not anything to be considered as a reasonable alternative to what we are offering to the people of the Province. The alternative is not, and for not, the people of the Province I am sure, will certainly see through the smoke screen that is offered.

In speaking about the Newfoundland and Labrador Development Corporation Savings Bonds there is something that one must say. To allow the people of the Province the opportunity to invest in the Province I am sure is a very good opportunity for them to participate. But to allow the people to do this at such a high expense of a two or three per cent difference in the over all cost of borrowing does not really allow much sense really when you are spending all this extra money in -

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Ramsay: Now now!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Ramsay: Anyway, Mr. Chairman, as far as that goes -

Some Hon. Members: No leave.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

Mr. Ramsay: The matter as far as the extra percentage goes, it does not really make a lot of sense to go to the people of the Province and say, 'well, this is going to cost you your own administration for the Development Savings Bonds, and it is also going to cost you the money to remit back to the Province at a given time without due notice as to when you are going to cash in these bonds'. The Province automatically has to go and borrow anyway in a bad market and come up with the funds. So, it does not really make a lot of sense to allow us to continue on that path. To borrow in a cheaper market might be the better thing to do.

Although, to preach doom and gloom for a minute, I will offer you something that I have just been reading as far as the actual financial situation that we may be in. In a recent article in Forbes magazine we may be in for something even worse than we are expecting, not just here in the Province but throughout North America and the globe as far as the recession goes. It was noted in this article that I speak of that the recession has been brewing for a long period of time and economists have not realized that this is so. The economists throughout the globe have looked at it totally from a standpoint of the actual economic forecast based on expenditure, based on, as we

said when we were looking at the actual predictions for the economy that Micheal Wilson was using in determining what the interest rates would be were based on the actual expenditure expectations of the Governments throughout the Province. Now, if you take a look at that and then you compare it to what the actual economic results are and what the actual performance of the economy is, it is quite a bit different from what we are actually looking at as far as the predictions go.

In this article by a gentleman named Gary Shilling, who is an investment and consumer spending analyst, he says that we are in for a world wide recession but most economists do not see it because they are looking in the wrong direction. Now the problem, of course, could be in effect larger than the great depression. It could in effect, if you look at what will happen in the future if the large companies that need the money from increased economic activity to service the junk bonds that they have issued. They need them to service the investment portfolios that they are managing for their various clients. This is not allowed because of the economic situation. We are going to end up in a worse situation and it is totally uncharted territory, territory that may come upon us. And as we speak here of \$200 million and \$300 million deficits next year, we may very well have a much more difficult time, Mr. Chairman, than has ever been had before. From this article I just want to read one part here which is talking about recession caused lay offs, which is a strong possibility I am sure in this Province and has happened throughout North America with results of the Free Trade

agreement as well as the recession now. So the recession caused layoffs are depriving consumers of the income needed to service their crushing personal debt loads. This also applies to government.

An Hon. Member: Want a drink?

Mr. Ramsay: No thanks no. As the recession spreads globally and Canada and the UK are already faltering demand for Third World exports and their abilities to service immense debts will crumble, likewise economies that are on shaky ground. As far as the Province of Newfoundland goes we could also be on shaky ground economically. Likewise any provinces that are in severe financial circumstances could also have a lot of problems along this coast. It also speaks of the problems when foreign countries like Canada and the US default on debt, which is definitely the kind of thing that will happen in the near future given the current economic recession. We are not buying enough of their goods so that they then are not getting enough transfers back through to their countries and therefore they then will falter. Their economies will falter and they will not be able to pay the debts to Canada and the US and they will have to renege on their obligations. That in turn puts more financial pressure on our economy and also if you look at the junk bond issues as I mentioned before, when a lot of these large corporations which were depending on the economists' forecast of the future in order to justify their purchases and leverage buy-outs of large name brand companies, R.J.Reynolds Tobacco and Nabisco as the leverage buy-outs, the largest ever happened up to now as

far as I can understand when-

An Hon. Member: Rolls Royce.

Mr. Ramsay: No Rolls Royce did not have anything to do with it actually. That part there, the individual investors are going to receive a very sharp blow because these junk bonds have no collateral. In effect the economy itself is lacking the collateral for the economic activity that is happening throughout the globe. To look at it that way we might have to say that an economist's view of the economy might be faulted. Now I have the deepest respect for economists but their scope is limited to their field of study and if you have to get into the basics of it, it is often joked that you can get a half dozen economists in a room and they will never agree with each other as to what will happen in the future. I will note, the last part of it here in this article which might give us some sense of what might happen in the future. It does say when an economist tells you that a deep recession is unlikely because few imbalances exist, he is looking at the economy's income statement, not it's balance sheet, rather like a hunter looking down the empty barrel of a double-barrel shotgun, he doesn't realize the other barrel is loaded and about to go off in his face. Now if we don't tighten up and batten down the hatches now and attend to the economic difficulties that face the Province we may very well be looking down the second barrel of a double-barrel shotgun, notwithstanding the Opposition's contention that we may be looking down the second barrel of a political shotgun, but that is the chance we have to take to make sure that the future of the



economy of the Province as our part in the economy of the country is attended to. Now, Mr. Chairman, with regards to this bill I have no problems with the bill asking for supplementary supply. In effect a margin of expenditure is required to assist you in making sure that you spend your way somewhat out of an economic recession. Now I say a marginal amount of expenditure not necessarily an outlandish amount to try to stimulate the economy, but enough to stimulate general business interests in the Province that are desirous of starting the businesses, of investing in new opportunity and making sure that the Economic Recovery Commission is provided with resources so they don't have to turn away individual investors who are interested in starting up new businesses here in the Province. Now in speaking about this 27-million dollars that is noted in this bill-

Mr. Chairman: Order please, the honourable Members' time has elapsed.

Mr. Ramsay: All right Mr. Chairman thank you.

Mr. Chairman: The honourable Member for Menihek.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Mr. Chairman: Was that a point of order or a point of clarification? The honourable Member for Menihek.

Mr. A. Snow: Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. I am pleased again to have the opportunity of speaking to this supplementary supply bill. I know exactly why the Minister of Finance was rushing to get back to his seat to listen to that dissertation on the

global economy. I know now that the real brain, the real thrust behind this magnificent economic machine that is put together is called this Liberal Regime, actually comes from down here. This new economic mentor in the Province -

Ms Verge: From LaPoile.

Mr. A. Snow: - from LaPoile. I mean that is -

An Hon. Member: A personal attack.

Mr. A. Snow: No, it is not a personal - actually it is a glowing -

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. A. Snow: They are all out checking on their investments. I would imagine anybody visiting the House today or tonight and listening to that they are out checking their investments and their bonds or stocks or whatever.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. A. Snow: Probably, maybe a couple of hundred, but we will not even have the opportunity of investing in the Newfoundland Enterprise Savings Bonds any more, of course, now that we -

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. A. Snow: It is interesting to see that -

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. A. Snow: Now the Premier today responded to a petition that I had the opportunity of presenting concerning some expenditures or closing the offices in Western Labrador, the Motor Vehicle Registration

Office. Of course, this evening we had the Member for Mount Scio - Bell Island suggesting that they would be willing to open the office, I believe, he suggested, in Western Labrador, if we would agree to pass this bill. I mean what kind of blackmail is this? Can you imagine somebody to have the audacity to suggest that we are going to close down, first of all the office in Western Labrador and supposedly save \$80,000 annually, but if we could get this bill through without invoking closure they would put through Bill 48 which, of course, privatizes the Motor Vehicle Registration Offices - of course, you must remember this just does not privatize the Motor Vehicle Registration Offices in Labrador West and Clarenville. It will privatize the office over in Corner Brook, the one in Grand Falls.

Ms Verge: What about Gander?

Mr. A. Snow: Well the one in Gander is only a temporary office. And I suppose it will possibly privatize the one in Mount Pearl. So to me to have this political blackmail invoked upon the people of Western Labrador is definitely not what one would call fairness and balance, at least not to the people of Western Labrador.

Now the hon. the Member for Gander, the President of Treasury Board is shaking his head suggesting that this bill, Bill 48 does not privatize some of the Motor Vehicle Registration.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Mr. A. Snow: It does, as a matter of fact, the first article I believe. It is clause 1

suggesting that is what it is. Clause 1 and 16 will amend the act to allow a person to pay a fee for the renewal of a drivers licence or motor vehicle registration at a chartered bank. So it does give permission to allow this government, this regime to privatize motor vehicle registration offices throughout this Province. So it's just not the two jobs that are lost in Wabush now we have to be concerned about, Wabush jobs, we may get them back. I assume we will if this bill goes through because the Premier suggested that they would allow, if we would pass this bill, they would open that office. It was interesting earlier listening to the Minister of Health when he talked about his four years in opposition how he felt that they did a tremendous job over here and that that is why they got over where they are. I would suggest that they probably will be back here very soon so he will get the opportunity of putting in to practise what he did four years previous to this. He laid out the role and the responsibility of what a member of the opposition should be doing here and one of the things he suggested was that we are in a process of fear-mongering, we the opposition. We are fear-mongering, talking about the-

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Mr. A. Snow: Pardon? The honourable the Minister of Health suggested that we were fear-mongering because what we were saying is that in some of the public sectors, the public employees are being threatened with their jobs.

Mr. Decker: I did not say that.

An Hon. Member: Yes, you did.

Mr. A. Snow: And all we were doing, as a matter of interest, we were telling the people of this Province, pointing out to the people of this Province that if this regime were to go ahead with its proposed cuts to the hospitals of this Province there would be undoubtedly be layoffs and cutbacks in the hospitals.

An Hon. Member: And the Minister has indicated this.

Mr. A. Snow: Now in the particular case of the district that I represent there will be \$780,000 cut if they went along with the Minister of Health's suggestion that they must draw next year's budget along the guidelines of a 12 per cent cutback.

So what that would mean to the people of Western Labrador would be a drastic cut in the quality of health care. Now, of course, we would be irresponsible in Opposition if we did not point out publicly that if this were implemented there was going to be a drastic cut or decrease in the quality of health care in Western Labrador.

An Hon. Member: No, no.

Mr. A. Snow: It is going to be unlivable. That is what the hospital board says. That it could be dangerous living in Western Labrador if these cuts were implemented. Now there is a suggestion that we are irresponsible for doing this. Now I do not think we are being irresponsible for suggesting this, and I do not think the administrators of these hospitals are irresponsible in stating what

is going to happen to the quality of health care throughout this Province if these cuts are implemented.

Now we know what this has done to the general populace of this Province. They have become very nervous, apprehensive about the quality of health care. But it has also played an important factor on the quality of the employee in the health care sector. And as a matter of fact it has played on all of the public employees of this Province practically are being stressed out now because of the fear of losing their jobs. Whether you are a teacher or a nurse or a nurse's assistant or a highway worker or work in the Motor Vehicle Registration Office in Corner Brook or here in Mount Pearl or in Western Labrador they are nervous about losing their jobs. As a matter of fact, they feel that they have been a target of this particular regime. They feel as targets. I just heard recently back in my district this weekend, I was talking to a couple of health care workers and they were talking about how they feel and some of their friends who are also teachers, they feel as targets and they told me the story about how, usually when you think of a target, you think of the rifle range and the shooting range and that is the way they see it.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. A. Snow: Oh I talked to everybody in my district, New Democrats, Tories. I do not get the opportunity to speak to many Liberals in my district anymore because there are not many left, but anyway, they told me the story about how they feel like targets-

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. A. Snow: I hope--

An Hon. Member: The biggest Conservative over the caucus.

Mr. A. Snow: Anyway, if I may continue, they are telling the story about how they feel as if they are targets and with this particular regime, the only problem is, of course that most of the time you think of a target, you think of somebody operating a range and they say, it is ready, aim, fire! but in this particular regime they have a new credence or a new methodology, it is: fire, aim, ready?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. A. Snow: And that is how the public employees of this Province feel because they have been attacked. Now, the hon. Member over there for Exploits, who used to drive a blazer and who is now driving an Edsel? He was a little nervous there, he is a little apprehensive, he thought I was going to suggest another vehicle but I did not.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please! The hon. the Member's time has elapsed.

Mr. A. Snow: Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. the Member for St. John's South.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Murphy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would have thought the fact that hon. Members are required to come back and spend the evenings here debating this very, obviously important piece of legislation, obviously, that they would have a little more to say

about the bill itself.

Now, if you break the bill down without getting into any great detail of the bill, it is very simple to see that \$17,600,000 is required to pay the maturing bonds which were sold by the previous Administration and like my colleague for La Poile, I would agree with that.

It is nice to see Newfoundlanders investing in Newfoundland, There are also \$10 million there to help industry and/or entrepreneurs in Newfoundland or those who want to get in with a good plan to develop jobs, and I am sure all hon. Members would agree that, that particular aspect or dollar feature in the bill is also extremely important and that is \$27.5 million and of course in order to do all of that you need some money to administer it and that comes out somewhere close to the \$30 million. So to sit here and totally pull this House for three or four days into debate and I might add, Mr. Chairman, meaningless debate on a lot of occasions, because, you have just heard the hon. Member for Menihek get up and talk about cuts and freezes and the whole civil service is in fear of being thrown on the street. I do not know where that information comes from unless it comes from the Member's imagination.

I mean, times are bad; finally we got Mr. Wilson to admit that there was a recession and I saw on the news tonight he said that unemployment rate is high and it always is high during a recession, so, obviously in Newfoundland, it is nothing new for us to pay the price of having to live with a bad economy in Central Canada so, Mr. Chairman, there is nothing heavy

in this bill and it is beyond me and hon. Members Opposite, of course have gotten up and gone into great specific details about other areas. They are trying to make brownie points, I suppose, on the back of this Government who have been left with all kinds of problems, and now more problems. The Member for Humber Valley was talking about snow clearing. I just want to pick up on it now because I did not want to interrupt the hon. member when he was speaking. He talked about the fear of the employees and supervisors who worked with the Department of Transportation.

An Hon. Member: The foremen.

Mr. Murphy: Well, they are supervisors. A foreman is a supervisor. I would suggest to the hon. member, and he knows only too well, that an awful lot of these foremen who know their districts as well as these foremen know their districts, can put the clock on for three o'clock in the morning, have a look out the window, and tell exactly what needs, and does not need to be done. The hon. member might disagree with that but I know a lot of these gentlemen.

An Hon. Member: Will you permit me one minute?

Mr. Woodford: To leave Deer Lake to go to Cormack you are talking about 600 feet in the difference above sea level. Now, that will give you an example of what the difference can be in Deer Lake and Cormack.

Mr. Murphy: I drove between Deer Lake and Cormack, I tell the hon. member, lots of times on my way to St. Anthony, and as the hon. member knows, foreman or no

foreman that piece of road, from this time in the year until probably May can be extremely treacherous; and anybody who know that area of the country, even the hon. member knows, if he looked out his window and wanted to go up the coast a little bit he would say to himself, well, it is not time to leave yet. I know that road so I will let it settle down, whatever the case may be. I think we are making much to do about nothing, and I think the Minister explained it extremely well when he said, initially, in the first of the year there is always that race to get equipment, to get trucks that are normally hauling other materials, to get plows on them, and so on and so forth. Again, it is fearmongering and much to do about nothing, because the minute you mention safety, or the minute you mention the possibility of some loss of life, or cars out in ditches, and all this kind of stuff, people have a sense to react. I only know too well because of the time I spent in Occupational Health and Safety, so I would suggest to the hon. member that he has exaggerated the situation well beyond its reality. Now, the hon. Member for Menihek just talked again about job loss in the civil service. Now, if the media plays up the negativity of the Opposition, or the members opposite enough, they will have the civil servants believing that this is reality. I do not know how many times the Premier and the President of Treasury Board, and hon. Ministers throughout this side of the House, the Government side of the House, have to say that there is nothing firm. They are looking at the options, but hon members want to, without question, put cuts, freezes, and those kind of things in place. Just as a point of

interest, Mr. Chairman, not too long ago, and I will read to you from a Budget Speech in 1987 where, and just to quote from this particular document, that in the civil service - and the previous administration were governing this Province at the time - in the civil service 400 jobs, now vacant because of a hiring freeze will be cut permanently. So, you know, this is only three years ago with our friends opposite with all the meaning and good will that they are trying to take up the cross now for the civil servants, that 400 jobs that were frozen were to be cut permanently and that is only three years ago. So, obviously they can get up and talk about this particular problem because they are so well experienced in it.

I wish the hon. Member for Burin - Placentia West was in his place when he was nattering and ranting and roaring about who over on this side are looking for jobs. Well, I would like to remind the hon. Member for Placentia West that the Minister of Social Services in this Government is having a terrible time trying to straighten out the 30 days that he was in his job. So, it is not for him to worry about who is getting a job over here or what is going on. I think it is time for him to realize that his job was very short, very short tenure, and eighteen months later the Minister is still beguiled with the problems that he cast upon this administration. Well, if the hon. Member for St. John's East wants to run against me in St. John's South he is more than welcome to run against me in St. John's South.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Murphy: Yes, perhaps. And

then I get a charge from my hon. friend for Fogo who was up carrying the flag for the NTA again. Of course why wouldn't he, I suppose, being a teacher and having a vested interest in time and pensions. And obviously he should be saber rattling, but that is all the hon. Member does is saber rattle. He soon forgets who put the \$20 million into the NTA pension fund as soon as they basically took administration. It was this Government. And it was not this Government who flaunted or threw away the dollars belonging to the NTA pension fund. It was not this Government. This Government put it back on its feet, so to speak. I see the hon. Member for Humber East coming in and she got on with a lot of rhetoric tonight, and that is all it was, and continues to get on with rhetoric and makes absolutely no sense. I do not know if the hon. Member - she has been on her feet more than any Member in this House time and time again with a single issue, accomplishes nothing. She does not even have the people who she perceives to be on her side on her side. I have talked to many of the people. Single mothers in my district do not know what the hon. Member is talking about, and I am very suspicious, Mr. Chairman, as to where she gathers all these names. As a matter of fact I was on the elevator one day and she solicited my name, asked me whether I would sign -

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

The hon. Member's time is up.

Mr. Murphy: Oh, by leave.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. the Member for Fogo.

Mr. Winsor: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I get onto some things I have to go back to the President of Treasury Board to respond to some things that he said earlier. I could not help but stand there in amazement. It is too bad that the Minister of Energy left his seat because the Member said a foreman can get up and look out of his window and tell what the road conditions are like. I am sure the Minister of Energy whose parents live in Lumsden will certainly assure the Member for St. John's South that in the neck of the woods that we live in no one can get up at 3:00 in the morning and predict the road conditions thirty-five miles away in Musgrave Harbour or over that type of a country.

Mr. Murphy: Do not be so foolish.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Winsor: The Member for St. John's South has got what my colleague called the Overpass syndrome. He does not know that there are open exposed areas. I am sure the Member of Social Services in the part of the country that he lives in knows what -

Mr. Efford: I live in a Liberal district my roads are ploughed.

Mr. Winsor: Not roads. Drifting comes across the barrens quite often and the Minister of Social Services knows it. The Member for St. John's South, it was so silly what he got on with -

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: Yes, and that was when it was a Tory Administration

when the roads were well taken care of.

An Hon. Member: That is right.

Mr. Winsor: Now what has happened there is a change in administration and the roads are left in deplorable condition. He also made mention to the fact that this administration put in \$20 million into the teachers' pension fund, \$228 million I think owing by the government, interest rate of 10 per cent a year, that is about \$20 million.

An Hon. Member: This government?

Mr. Winsor: No, it is the governments of the past.

An Hon. Member: Oh!

Mr. Winsor: Since 1949 the teacher pension fund the government made no commitment to it and so the \$20 million was only interest on the amount of money that is owing.

But I want to come back to the -

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Winsor: Does the Member for Mount Scio - Bell Island know that since 1980 the former administration was paying into the teacher fund? Is he aware of that?

Mr. Walsh: No.

Mr. Winsor: No, because obviously he does not. Since 1980 -

Mr. Walsh: How much?

Mr. Winsor: Matching dollars -

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: Yes.

Mr. Walsh: How much?

Mr. Winsor: I do not know the amount. Government will not release it. They will not even release it to the NTA as a matter of fact.

Mr. Tobin: Ask the Minister of Education he knows about (inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: The Minister of Education?

An Hon. Member: The former minister.

Mr. Winsor: Oh, the former minister. Oh, we will have access to the information when we need it and how much was put in. But we know it was matching dollars.

I want to come back to the President of Treasury Board who today, this afternoon got up to try to cast some doubt on what my friend for St. John's East Extern was saying about the number of cutbacks in education whether or not they were actually true.

Mr. Parsons: Now the hon. the Government House Leader would he listen to what the hon. member is saying.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Parsons: He is waiting to get his attention.

Mr. Winsor: The minister knows. The President of Treasury Board knows that next year there will be approximately fifty-seven teachers who will lose their jobs in this Province because of declining enrollments.

Mr. Walsh: You do not know that.

Mr. Winsor: Boy, if the Member for Mount Scio - Bell Island knew so much, I do not know why he did not get in the Cabinet. He is telling what we know, we know exactly what is going on, we know exactly how many people are going to be gone. Because the number of people in the school system is based on the enrollment of September. Now we know what the enrollment was in September of this year, so we know how many teachers are going to be in the system next year. Now the member can say what he wants, but he does not know what he is talking about so he should keep quiet.

We know that there are fifty-seven less teachers, at least, fifty-seven who will not be in the system next year and it happens every year. It has nothing to do with cutbacks or anything. That is what is going to happen and that is the reality based on decline in pupil enrollments, there will be fifty-seven teachers less. Added to that though and the reason that the 2 per cent saving clause is not going to disappear is that it is in the collective agreement Section 1901, I think, takes care of the 2 per cent savings clause. Is it 1901, my friend from Exploits?

Mr. Grimes: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: Yes, 190-something, I think it is, the number is. The letter attached and that is subject to negotiations.

What the Minister failed to do though was to tell the number of people at school board levels, program co-ordinators, and so on who are now going to be forced out of the school board office back into the school system because that occurs and these people have



seniority the bumping procedure is going to start, so people at board office will now come back into the classroom, some 100 or so program co-ordinators.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Winsor: The Minister of Finance wonders about the rest of them. You mean you want to take them all out? Is that what the Minister of Education is saying? Yes, I suspect, that after what he got on the report on the efficiency of Memorial's education faculty some number of years ago he has room to talk about the efficiency of certain people. The Minister of Finance suggests that perhaps we will get rid of all of them which will mean an increased number of layoffs, and we are talking about people out there, in the actual teaching profession, who will be laid off as a result. People with five or six years experience will be bumped out of the system. They will be forced to move because there has been very little hiring the last number of years. If you take fifteen out of the major school boards, twelve or fifteen people out of the office, and move them back into the classroom, that is going to result in a number of layoffs. Now, it has nothing to do with 2 per cent saving. What it is going to do is, it is just going to be a policy change at the Education Department that is going to eliminate a certain number of program co-ordinators and the Minister of Education has already indicated that that indeed will be the case, that there is going to be some cuts there. He said there is going to be cuts at the top, he said, as well as cuts at the classroom level. There is no question, the President of Treasury Board just confirmed and

we have reason to believe that the number in the Province is something in the range of 100. The President of Treasury Board confirms that I am pretty close to my assessment of 100 which means we now have 157 teachers who will next year lose their jobs because there is going to be a bumping procedure which is going to take place, program co-ordinators are going to go back in the classroom and classroom teachers are going to go out in the street. That will result in some 157 teachers going and in addition to that -

Mr. Murphy: How about the (inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: I already told the Member for St. John's South, if he cared to listen, that 57 teachers are going to disappear from the system.

Some Hon. Members: How about retirement?

Mr. Winsor: Retirement will not significantly affect it. If the Minister can get his way and eliminate the 2 per cent saving clause -

An Hon. Member: He is not going to get that.

Mr. Winsor: He is not going to touch that because he already has 157. With a few other schemes they have in place we will see such a gutting of school board personnel that the Minister of Education is going to do something similar to what the Minister of Amalgamation is trying.

Dr. Warren: I am going to send a copy of your speech out to the teachers (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor: I am just telling the

Minister what is going to happen. The Minister would not come clean when he was up speaking, he just said we were not telling the truth. He just said what -

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Winsor:

I did not say there - I am just telling you what the reality of it is going to be. That we know of fifty-seven teachers. Layoffs come at the school board level. You know they are not going to happen at the school board level, they are going to happen at the classroom level because these are all members of the Newfoundland Teacher's Association.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please! Order, please!

The hon. Member's time is up.

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

Mr. Parsons: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I am delighted to see that the hon. House Leader is now awake. The last two Members that were speaking on this side tried to get his attention but he was a bit drowsy and I suppose his age and whatever is coming against him now.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Parsons: Yes, I suppose that is the right way to put it. He is getting old. But nevertheless I have a few things to say to the hon. the House Leader.

When I was up a few minutes ago I mentioned about the teachers and the teacher ratio and the layoffs that were going to happen within the system. And the hon. House Leader told me I was a

fearmongerer, he told me I was trying to impart bad feelings, bad thoughts, of what might happen to the public out there. Trying to create something that was not going to happen.

Mr. Chairman, I want to say to the House Leader that the memo has already gone out with the teacher allocations which shows a reduction of 200 teaching positions. Now the House Leader -

An Hon. Member: No memo! No memo! (Inaudible). Verbally.

Mr. Parsons: Verbally, verbally, verbally, verbally, verbally? If it is a memo - a memo can not come out in two ways. If I go over to that hon. gentleman and I make a statement today, that is a memo, I am delivering a verbal memo. The memo has gone out there. Now. The holdback of teacher positions - I have to repeat myself for the hon. the House Leader - there are 350. Which will be let go in subsequent years. So what I told him, that there was going to be approximately 600 positions within the next three years. In addition to that, it is also a foregone conclusion, it has been established by the Department of Education, that a minimum of fifty, and perhaps it could go to 160, of assistant superintendents and other people (Inaudible) superintendents and assistant superintendents, are to go as well.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Parsons: Now, there is.

An Hon. Member: How many?

Mr. Parsons: You tell me! You are the Minister! You should not be asking me, you should be saying, look, there is x number of

them. You do not know! You do not know!

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible) expert?

Mr. Parsons: I am not an expert! All I am doing is getting up here and explaining to the hon. the House Leader what is really happening within our educational system. And the hon. the House Leader gets up and he goes on and on about fearmongering, about spreading bad ideas, bad thoughts among the populace out there, that things are as bad as what they are. Now I hope that the hon. the House Leader understands what I just said.

There are 350. There is anywhere from fifty to 100 top echelon positions to go. There is anywhere from fifty to a hundred top echelon positions to go. There are at least 200 less positions this year, no matter what way they go, there are 200 less teaching positions in this year, this coming year-

An Hon. Member: Where?

Mr. Parsons: - within the three years, there will be approximately 600 less positions. Now, the hon. House Leader can say what he likes, those are facts. Now, let me go to the Minister of Health.

I am speaking now on Bill 66, because Bill 66 has everything to do with teachers, this is where the money comes from, this is what we are doing here tonight, the Government is asking us to okay, to okay - they are asking this House to authorize another - millions, more millions and millions of dollars to be spent, in what way?

That is what we are asking, that is why we decry this closure, we do not want this closure, the people of Newfoundland and Labrador want their representatives to have a say in what is going on, to criticize the Government in the mistakes they are making, to criticize the Government in the ways in which they are spending the money, because we do not know, the people in Newfoundland and Labrador do not know; no one knows where the money is going. Why do they want more money?

When the Minister of Finance, last March said, we are going to have a surplus of \$10 million, now we end up with a \$130 million deficit and by the way, by the way, that is not taking into account what is being saved on a day to day basis. Let me remind the hon. Government House Leader, that the Minister of Health does a great job of skating the Premier. They say there is nothing happening.

When I was listening to an open line show, this lady came on and she said, she was getting seven and a half hours per week, when, ordinarily, she had forty hours per week. She had a family to raise and her weekly salary was cut drastically from forty hours for which she was being paid for to now seven and a half hours. The lady went and rightly so, to the UI offices and said look, I should be eligible for UIC benefit-

An Hon. Member: You should?

Mr. Parsons: - and they told the lady no, she could not; she was not eligible because she had worked consecutive days.

Now, the Premier gets up there,

the hon. the House Leader, the Minister of Health and they will say no, we are looking at everything. That is not looking at everything, Mr. Chairman, that is cutting the legs from underneath the people out there, that is why we are here on this money bill; we want to know where they are going to spend the money. They are not spending it now, they are cutting everything right to the bone, they are cutting everything to the bone.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Parsons: There is the poor Minister of Social Services, the poor Minister of Social Services, I pity the Minister of Social Services, I really do, I feel for the Minister of Social Services because - you know something, I had a lot of respect for him, I still have some respect for that hon. Minister, I do, but when that hon. Minister cuts \$125 from a single parent, who only gets \$500 or \$600 a month and that Minister puts up his only recourse, his only admission is, here we are: Sprung.

I told the Minister here before that I had some misgivings about Sprung; oh, yes-

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Parsons: Yes boy. No, I did, I said it, I said it. The hon. the Member for Humber Valley had misgivings, the hon. Member for Humber East had misgivings, but we were - I had two briefings from civil servants and they told me that it was up and coming, that the thing was prosperous, that the thing would certainly go and well, I mean sometimes you have to look

to the experts for advice from their knowledge, I mean they are suppose to be knowledgeable people. But the point remains that you are losing the point. They tried to create something that would employ people, that would give people jobs. But what have you people done on this side? Only the hon. Minister of Social Services -

Mr. Efford: (Inaudible).

Mr. Parsons: The hon. Minister of Social Services all he ever did since he became a Minister, and I am sorry about it, because I really thought that Minister of Social Services did have a great deal of potential. I never thought that I would see the day that hon. Minister would cut \$125 from a single parent, who only gets a per annum, \$6,000 to \$7,000. Read to me a recipe. Read the recipes that you have for the people that you have cut the \$125 a month from, not to me. I do not need a recipe. You read the recipes to the people who you took the money from. That is why we are here tonight to debate a money bill.

When the hon. House Leader gets up and says, ah, fearmongering. We are not fearmongering. There is \$130 million unanswered for. The Minister of Development is over there. A fine young man, but he is doing nothing to create, but I thought he would be a creative person, the same as the Minister of Social Services, the same as the Minister of Mines and Energy, and I suppose I will have to include the Minister of Environment and Lands, I will have to do it. But nevertheless -

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

Mr. Parsons: - you have not created anything that is why we are here tonight.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

The hon. member's time is up.

Mr. Parsons: Thank you very much,  
Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. the President of Treasury Board.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baker: Thank you, Chairperson.

I have to start off by saying that I intended to go on with my explanation about the closure that I started earlier and I was doing it for the sake of the press, but I was interrupted and I could not finish.

An Hon. Member: Are you not?

Mr. Baker: No, I am not. I have to say first that the claims of layoffs have reached new heights tonight. The claims have reached new heights tonight. There is no doubt about it. We have heard all kinds of claims about thousands of layoffs and tonight they were talking in terms of 600 teachers gone, and one member of the Opposition gets up and says there are fifty-seven, the other one says there are 350 and so on. We have heard all kinds of marvellous claims about layoffs in the education system.

An Hon. Member: Fearmongering.

Mr. Baker: But I have to explain to members of the House who probably do not realize it, who have not been in the educational system, who probably does not realize it, these claims and

perhaps this will simply illustrate the accuracy of what the Opposition is saying. These claims have reached new heights tonight. We have been informed by a member of the Opposition, he is on record in Hansard now, as claiming that there are 150 assistant superintendents going to be laid off.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baker: Now I want to inform members of the House that I do not know exactly how many assistant superintendents there are in the Province, but there are somewhere between seventy and eighty-five in that range, and we are going to lay off 150 of them.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baker: Now, Mr. Chairman, the claim of layoffs have obviously reached new heights in this House tonight and perhaps using that as an illustration we can use that to determine how much credibility we can give these claims.

An Hon. Member: I suppose there are 500 or 600 superintendents out there too, is there not?

Mr. Baker: There must be at least 500 or 600 superintendents going to be laid off. And if you carry the proportion down the line maybe about 10,000 teachers obviously. Mr. Chairman, it has reached new heights of ridiculousness tonight in terms of the claims of layoffs.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baker: Now, Mr. Chairman,

Mr. Parsons: How many programs? I mean, (inaudible). Tell us about it now before you go.

Mr. Baker: Mr. Chairman, I would like to get back to my real purpose that I intended to take two or three minutes on, and that has to do with the reason for the closure. We have not invoked closure yet. We are not in the middle of closure. What we are doing here tonight is giving the Opposition a chance, they want to talk about this bill, and we are giving them a chance to talk about the bill, and if they talked about the bill then, I suppose, not as many of us would get up and take up time. They have the opportunity to talk about this bill before the House just like they had an opportunity to talk about the Loan Bill that we brought closure in on. They had all kinds of opportunity, day and night, to talk about the Loan Bill and refused to take the opportunity. We are simply providing them with an opportunity to discuss this particular bill before the House. Now, Mr. Chairperson, I would like to go back to the Loan Bill, the Loan Bill that we brought closure in on a couple of weeks ago. That Bill was quite an ordinary bill. I't simply a housekeeping bill, a kind of rubber stamping mechanism to allow the Minister of Finance to go ahead and go through the process of doing the loans that have already been approved in the Budget. Everything had already been approved in the budgetary process, discussed and everything else, and it was purely a technicality that he has to come to the House to get permission to go to the market and borrow when he needs to. It was a technicality. Members opposite indicated that they were going to speak forever on this and not allow the Loan Bill to go through. Now, Mr. Chairman, what kind of a position would that put

us in?

An Hon. Member: Who said it?

Mr. Baker: It was said many times by the Leader of the Opposition and the Opposition House Leader, whom I assume speak on behalf of the caucus opposite. They said they would keep it going until Christmas, they would keep it going forever, so, Mr. Chairman, we had to get that technicality, that Loan Bill through the House, because if we postponed it very much longer it would cost the Province millions of dollars and we do not want to spend millions of dollars unnecessarily, so because of the lack of co-operation, lack of understanding, lack of sense of parliamentary democracy from members opposite, we had to bring in closure. Now, we are in this situation again, and we are in the situation again simply because the business of the Province dictates that we must provide the money to carry on the business of Government. That is essential, that is an integral part of the running of Government, to provide the proper funding to allow Government to carry on its business, and at the same time we allow the Opposition, and they should have ample opportunity to discuss the issue, to discuss the bill before the House, which they are consistently refusing to do. In the light of this we have decided to have this sitting tonight and at some point in the future bring in closure on the bill because it is the only way that we are ever going to be able to proceed in this House of Assembly. It is the only way that we are going to be able to govern. It is the only way that this Province is going to be able to function in the light of an

Opposition that has no sense of the parliamentary system and what it is all about. I think the Minister of Health did a marvelous job in describing the obligations that the Members in Opposition have to point out the weaknesses, to tell the people of the Province what the weaknesses are, to come to Government and say, 'look, there is a problem with this'. As a matter of fact, we deliberately set up Committees of this House so that with all normal legislation, and the Lands Act is a classic example, with all normal legislation the Opposition could have ample input into bills. For the first time in the history of this Province a Government recognizes that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baker: The first time in the history of this Province a Government actually put in a procedure designed to help the Opposition, not hinder the Opposition. The first time that a Government took its responsibilities seriously in terms of parliamentary democracy and the true functioning of a parliamentary democracy. For the first time in the history of this Province we have given the Opposition an opportunity to be part of the law making process of this Government. So you get the bills well ahead of time, you discuss them, a report comes back. The Committee on the Lands Act pointed out problems with the Lands Act and we are willing to accept that. We admit that we can make a mistake. We are not perfect. We admit that we make mistakes. As a matter of fact, in this whole process we have committed a crime and I do not mind admitting it to Members here, and I will tell you what the crime

is. It is the crime of being open, and straight forward and honest with the people of this Province. That is our crime.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baker: In this whole process when you talk about the restraints and so on, as soon as we determined there was a problem we told people about it.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baker: We went out to the health care system, we went out to the education system and said, 'what is wrong? Help us with this problem. Assume that your budgets are frozen. Come back and tell us what you can do with frozen budgets'. Now, in actual fact some segments of these systems may have to exist with a frozen budget. In actual fact some sections of the system may have less than the frozen budget. In actual fact some segments of all those systems may have more than is expected. In looking at the process we will be sensitive to the areas of the Province. In looking at the health care system we will be very sensitive to the needs of the Province. We will be sensitive to factors like isolation. We will be sensitive to the people of this Province who do not have a choice. We will be sensitive to all these things. And ultimately when the decisions are made, they will be the right decisions in light of the circumstances that we are living under. So, we have been open as we were with the legislative committees, totally open, free, open. Input - the Opposition has input, the people of the Province have input - totally open for the first time in the history of this Province and that is the way we

are operating. And if there are any crimes that we have committed it is the crime of being too open and allowing too much input, being too honest with the Opposition and the people of the Province, but I say that is a crime. I say that is a crime.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

The hon. Member's time is up.

Some Hon. Members: 'By leave.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. the Member for Grand Bank.

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I had better be careful what I say here. After listening to the President of Treasury Board make no wonder he is leaving the Legislature. Talking about this open Government. Going out and consulting with the people. We all know what happened to the Land's bill.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: All open - yes, it was 53, not under the number of 25. Out and about the Province, met with overwhelming opposition. Everywhere they went the people blocked the halls, filled up the halls -

An Hon. Member: Firsttime ever. People went out. Actually went out with a bill.

Mr. Matthews: You fixed it up.

An Hon. Member: Yes.

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: You fixed it up, all right. You fixed it up. The

people of the Province told this Government that -

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

Mr. Matthews: - they want Clause 72 eliminated from the bill.

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: You have not changed Clause 72.

An Hon. Member: How do you know we have not? You have not read it!

Mr. Matthews: Yes, I have read it.

An Hon. Member: What do you think (Inaudible)?

Mr. Matthews: I tell the Member I have read it.

An Hon. Member: What does it say?

An Hon. Member: It is not even printed.

Mr. Matthews: I have read it.

An Hon. Member: It is not even printed.

Mr. Matthews: I have read it. Has the Committee seen it?

An Hon. Member: The Committee has not seen it, the Committee (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: The Committee has seen it and I have seen what you are proposing to add to the bill.

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: I have seen it, I have read it!

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!



Order, please!

Mr. Parsons: The Committee does know what is in the bill, the Committee does know what is in the bill!

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: Now, Mr. Chairman, let me just tell the Government Members this. That what we have here with this bill is we -

Mr. Walsh: Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

Mr. Matthews: - have a secret agenda by the Premier of this Province. A secret agenda.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!  
Order, please!

Mr. Walsh: The hon. Member -

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

The hon. Member from Mount Scio - Bell Island on a point of order.

Mr. Walsh: The hon. Member must be inadvertently misleading the House. The bill is not printed yet he is telling us time and time again that he has read it, 'I've read it, I've read it'. It has not even gone to the printer, Mr. Chairman.

An Hon. Member: There is a draft, there is a draft!

Mr. Walsh: He is misleading the House and the people of Newfoundland who are listening.

Mr. Parsons: There is a draft, and we all know about it, we all

know what is in it.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

No point of order.

The hon. the Member for Grand Bank.

Mr. Matthews: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You see the Member for Mount Scio - Bell Island again. You know he is in fine form tonight. He knows the Premier is down at Government House somewhere so he is up and about tonight doing his business, you know?

But let me just say to him that what we have here in the legislation we are talking about -

An Hon. Member: Fortune-telling.

Mr. Matthews: - is a secret agenda by the Premier of this Province.

An Hon. Member: We have fortune-telling by you is what we have got.

Mr. Matthews: That is what we have. Obviously resulting from an election promise to some private citizens in this Province. That he was going to bring about this particular piece of legislation, with ponds and rivers and waterways, and allow certain people in this Province to have strict control over that. Now that is what we are seeing with this particular piece of legislation that we are referring to.

An Hon. Member: What does that have to do (Inaudible)?

Mr. Parsons: Everything to do with the money bill.

Mr. Matthews: I was sidetracked

off the money bill.

An Hon. Member: When did you read that Bill?

Mr. Matthews: I read it when we drafted it.

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: Mr. Chairman, listening to the President of Treasury Board talk about health and consultation, the Minister of Health went to Corner Brook and he told the hospital and nursing home associations that their budgets were going to be cut. The Minister of Education this past weekend told school boards in this Province that they are looking at between \$30 million and \$40 million cut in next year's budget. And there is a whole list - and I mean an extensive and substantial list - of things that look like they are going to be cut next year.

Now that is what is happening. And yet the Premier stands in his place on a daily basis here, stands here every day, and says there are no decisions made. The Minister of Health has told the hospital and nursing home association, you are going to be cut some \$60 million; the Minister of Education says between \$30 million and \$40 million. And then the Premier comes back in the House and says, no decisions have been made yet. But why are you going out telling people these things if decisions have not been made?

Now that is the problem, and that is what has got people confused in the Province. You have got the hospital and nursing home association doing impact studies on the negative effects of the

cuts in the health care system, and it looks pretty drastic. And they have informed the Minister just how serious those cuts will be and those measures will be, that is what is happening.

I wanted to ask the Minister of Development a couple of questions if I could, talking about more money for the Economic Recovery Commission. In looking at the Minister's Budget, under General Administration, I see salaries there for five assistant deputy ministers. I would like the Minister of Development to listen for a minute now, if he would, Mr. Chairman.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: There is provision in your Budget for \$372,000 for five Assistant Deputy Ministers. Am I led to believe that in addition to these five assistant deputy ministers, there are five regional vice-presidents or seven regional vice-presidents of the Economic Recovery Commission, these five here, are not vice-presidents of the Economic Recovery Commission, are they?

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: In addition to these, so in essence you have twelve people at assistant deputy ministers status or level?

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: Sorry?

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

An Hon. Member: Ten altogether.

Mr. Matthews: There are ten, there is provision in this Budget here for five. Are you telling me

that there are two not being funded from this?

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: From your General Administration Budget, executive support. There are provisions there for five positions, assistant deputy minister for a total of \$372,572, about \$70,000 each. But what I am trying to determine is-

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: Yes.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Matthews: I guess what I am asking the Minister is this, is there another seven on top of this provision, because if that is the case, there would be twelve?

Mr. Furey: No, there would be -

Mr. Matthews: You are telling me it was ten, so there is another five because five was budgeted for here, about the same salary.

Mr. Furey: There were two corporate vice-presidents already in NLDC, I have added five regional vice-presidents, there are four executive people in my Department as well, so that would be ten or eleven, deputy and three assistant deputies are four and seven, eleven, eleven

Mr. Matthews: We are looking at \$750,000 to \$800,000, is my point for people of assistant deputy minister status, either directly working in the Minister's executive support positions or in the vice-president's positions.

Mr. Furey: Include the president of the Marystown Shipyard, the

president of Hardwoods - these are all executive positions.

Mr. Matthews: Oh no, I am not counting them. I am not counting them.

Mr. Furey: Oh you do not want to count them? Okay.

Mr. Matthews: No. I am counting the Economic Recovery Commission which is my point now. There are seven of them.

Mr. Furey: (Inaudible) as new positions in the Enterprise Newfoundland.

Mr. Matthews: Okay, at \$70,000 each?

Mr. Furey: That could be an average, yes. What ever the assistant deputy minister's pay scale is.

Mr. Matthews: So for assistant deputy ministers, really, we are looking at three-quarters of a million dollars basically, oh yes, all of it.

Mr. Furey: Oh yes, yes.

Mr. Matthews: It is all one, it is not good to try to differentiate, it is all one group.

Mr. Furey: Yes, but what we did was, trimmed back four Ministers to one Minister and all the executives who went along with the four Ministers to one.

Mr. Matthews: Of course, of course you did.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Matthews: Of course, you did, yes, of course you did. Now let us talk about that. Let us talk

about cutting back four Ministers, at about \$250,000 per Minister's office; \$1 million savings, maximum.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Mr. Matthews: That is included in running a Minister's office, \$250,000.

An Hon. Member: No, it is not Bill.

Mr. Matthews: Yes, it is.

Mr. Furey: Deputies, assistant deputies, and all that. No, that is not all.

Mr. Matthews: The Economic Recovery Commission has cost us about \$3 million already in eighteen months. Here we see it again, the Premier has not saved any money by reducing the Cabinet by four Ministers. It is not that he should not have done that. I am not suggesting that.

Mr. Furey: Not the Cabinet, just my Department.

Mr. Matthews: Fifteen from nineteen is four, is it not? There was nineteen and now there is fifteen, that is four.

Mr. Furey: No, there were twenty-three.

Mr. Matthews: At the time the general election was called there were nineteen Ministers.

Mr. Furey: Are you talking about that brief interlude of ten days?

Mr. Matthews: That is what you have to talk about. You can talk about the past but you have to be fair, there were nineteen Ministers. When Clyde Wells

became Premier of Newfoundland in the former administration there were nineteen Ministers.

Mr. Furey: Twenty Ministers.

Mr. Matthews: Nineteen.

Mr. Furey: There were twenty.

Mr. Matthews: There were nineteen and they reduced it to fifteen, so my point is that in essence instead of saving the people of the Province money it cost them another \$2 million in eighteen months. That is the kind of logic we see coming from the Government. Instead of saving money it cost money so is there any wonder the poor Minister of Finance over there cannot sleep nights. He cannot sleep nights and it is a shame that everyone jumps on him. We have seen what has happened to the financial position of the Province. He has to stand in his place and read the Budget Speech. As Minister of Finance he has to do that, but when he sees the other - I do not know if trickery is the right word to use, perhaps it is not parliamentary, I suppose, trickery. That is what is coming out of the Premier and the President of Treasury Board. He is standing in his place over there again tonight telling us the the Member for St. John's East Extern is fabricating all this talk about teacher layoffs.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible) 150 -

Mr. Matthews: No, he did not say that, but if you reflect back to what has been said in this Legislature in the last two weeks the Premier has stood in his place and said there are going to be layoffs, and he says there are going to be across the board,

starting from the top all the way down to the bottom. That is what the Premier said, that people at the top are going to be laid off as well, the top, the upper echelon of the public service all the way down to the bowels of Confederation Building. There are going to be layoffs all the way down the system is what he said, not only at the bottom but at the top as well. Then he comes back two days after and denies there is going to be any layoffs. He said, who says there is going to be any layoffs? I did not say that.

An Hon. Member: That is not true.

Mr. Matthews: You are right it is not true because there are going to be layoffs.

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

The hon. member's time has elapsed.

Mr. Matthews: I can reference Hansard for the President of Treasury Board. I have been distracted so much, Mr. Chairman, I think I should get extra time, or something. This is terrible.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. the Minister of Social Services.

Mr. Efford: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Efford: After an applause like that I should read him a receipt but I will wait until the conclusion. I was hoping that the Member for Humber East would have gotten up because I had to attend the opening of a Christmas tree at Sobey's Mall this evening out in Mount Pearl and I missed a few remarks. I was out representing the Government, Mr. Chairman.

An Hon. Member: You did not miss very much.

Mr. Efford: I did not miss very much. I wanted to hear the remarks she had to make about the maintenance income that we discontinued.

An Hon. Member: She did not mention it.

Mr. Efford: She did not mention it? I wanted to bring to the attention of the House of Assembly the graduation ceremonies that I attended today of The New Beginnings at 50 Parade Street. There were about single parents we put through a thirty week program down on 50 Parade Street. These people who would normally stay home and be dependent on social assistance and receive the income from social assistance, the low, low, income from social assistance, and as they told me dinner time today, losing their self esteem, motivation, how to get out of the household. We took them and we gave them a program, their choice. Anyhow, they went into the program, Mr. Chairman, and I was there today for the graduation ceremonies after the thirty week program. If you ever saw a change in an individual person, their self esteem, their motivation, and their willingness to become involved, and to get out into the private sector. In fact, Mr. Chairman - just listen to the numbers - fourteen out of the thirty as of today have already found full-time positions. Not social services, private sector programs.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Efford: No more dependency on social assistance, no more begging for a drug card or asking for rent

to be paid. Fourteen as of today and the graduation only took place today; fourteen of them with full-time positions. That is what I have been promoting since I became Minister of Social Services. Give people an opportunity that they deserve to have an equal and fair chance at becoming independent. As long as you keep handing out social assistance, government hand outs and having the Government paying the shot, most people for the most part - and like they said, it is not Governments fault and it is not their fault. It is a combination of everything: frustration, not knowing how to deal with it, sitting home in the daytime with nothing to do. They lose. Whatever initiative that they had before they got into this mess they lose. So, they need some help; they need some motivation. And handing out a check month after month is taking away and adding to the low self esteem that they are getting every month. So, we took them and we put them into what we call New Beginnings. New Beginnings is giving people a new chance at life. And we are not saying that they are all going to become judges and lawyers and teachers and doctors, but all they want is a fair chance to gain a reasonable job that they are qualified to do within their own education ability. And on top of the number of people who have found a job there are a number more who have already gone on now and are prepared to go on to upgrade their education. They probably have a grade eight or grade nine education, they are now going into school and they are going to upgrade and do levels I, II, and III. So, that shows that there is good initiative there now. Let me give you an example of some of the

jobs that they got. One lady is now working in microfilming.

Some Hon. Members: (Inaudible).

Mr. Efford: Just listen to what I am saying for a change. One of the ladies is now working in microfilming; another lady is working in upholstering. Like she said, she had some sewing abilities, but never could get it brought out until she went into this program. Another lady is looking after managing the Parsley's deli out on Torbay Road. I mean they are the types of people who were dependent on social assistance. And that is what the Member for Humber East wants me to do as Minister of Social Services, to promote and to allow these people to stay home in this sort of condition, give them social assistance, encourage them and not give them any motivation. Mr. Chairman, I have not heard anything come out of that hon. Member's mouth from the time this question came out. And, in fact, I brought it up before. The 850 people of single parents who are dependent on social assistance, never once has she brought out about the people who are not on social assistance and single parents. In fact, Mr. Chairman, (inaudible) tells me quite clear. Last year in 1989 there were 6,300 single parents. Today there are 6,653, an increase of 353 more single parents than there was here this time last year. - Now, that is all fine. The easy way out is for me as Minister of Social Services to instruct the people in my department to hand out the checks every month and that is all. That is an easy job. It does not take much initiative or ability to do that, and that is the way they will be for the rest of their lives for the most part. Not all

of them, but the greater part of them. But give them an equal fair chance. They are normal human beings with equal opportunity, and they deserve a fair chance. It is not their fault that they are into the situation that they are into. They are the victims of circumstances. And I can tell you, Mr. Chairman, that the single parents who I have talked to over the past two or three months and the people who I talked to today for the most part will have a lot better Christmas than they had last year.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Efford: Now, let me talk about the reason why. Let me just give you a couple of statistics and reasons why I had to stand again because of the former Minister of Social Services. Let me talk about the statistics here in this report that I tabled today. Just listen to this, the former Minister of Social Services analyzing this report said there were 249,826 people on social assistance. Now how silly can you get. He said, there were 56,912 able-bodied, how silly can you get. That is the total number of cases month by month. In otherwords in April month there were 19,000 cases, in May month there were 19,489. Now that is not another 19,489. For the most part that is a roll over of the same number of cases. But the former Minister of Social Services said that was 19,000 in May, another 19,489 in June, another 19,465 in July, how silly can you get. And can you imagine that was the former Minister of Social Services who made that statement, a man who should know this report inside out. How silly can you get.

Now he also said, listen to this

one, he also said -

An Hon. Member: Oh, oh!

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Efford: I will afterwards.

An Hon. Member: He cannot read.

Mr. Efford: He also said that there 56,912 able-bodied cases in 1988-89. In 1989-90 there were 53,000, a difference of 3,000. Now this is how he analyzed this. Because of the difference, he said, there were some 3,000 who were on short term rolled over into long term. Let me inform the member the total number of cases here month by month include short term, long term, able-bodied and disabled people, altogether. And he should know that as being the former Minister of Social Services. My God, make no wonder you are sitting over there, (inaudible). Because this is the type of (inaudible).

Mr. Chairman: Order, please!

The hon. member's time is elapsed.

Mr. Efford: Pardon?

Mr. Chairman: Your time is up.

Mr. Efford: Can I have one second?

An Hon. Member: By leave!

Mr. Efford: Can I have leave just for one second? I have to read this, Mr. Chairman.

Some Hon. Members: No leave!

Mr. Chairman: No leave!

Some Hon. Members: By leave! By leave!

Mr. Chairman: Order, please! No leave!

The hon. Member for Torngat Mountains.

Mr. Efford: The addition of lime water served to keep your pickles crisp. Now I will read -

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Chairman: I have recognized the hon. Member for Torngat Mountains.

Mr. Hewlett: Garfield, tell him that closure is City Hall.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Warren: Listen, I do not use a government car to go golfing. I never did, I never will.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Warren: Mr. Chairman, I listened to my hon. colleague for Carbonear talking about a toilet.

An Hon. Member: Yes, tell us about it.

Mr. Warren: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I have no problem whatsoever to tell about a bathroom installed in the government premises. Mr. Chairman, I understand that the only people who used this facility was the one who needed to use it.

An Hon. Member: What? What?

Mr. Warren: Yes, I understand the only people who used the facility were those who needed to use it. And I leave it at that because I understand there are a number of members opposite who used the facilities and they really needed to use it.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Warren: Mr. Chairman, let me just say to my hon. colleague, it has nothing to do with his seat, he is in someone else's seat, and however at the same time he is the same guy that - I suppose I should advise the hon. Member that-

An Hon. Member: When you sat on the Liberal side of the House (inaudible).

Mr. Warren: No, I am going to tell the hon. Member that in the last election he ran against a particular candidate that he beat by two votes. I should advise the hon. Member tonight that this hon. gentleman-

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Warren: Not by two votes, but many more votes than two votes.

An Hon. Member: He supported it boy, don't be so foolish.

Mr. Warren: Not by two votes but many more votes than two votes and I should say to my hon. colleagues that-

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible) the hon. Member helped him, no wonder he had (inaudible).

Mr. Warren: Mr. Chairman, here I am talking to my hon. colleague from St. John's South, and here is my hon. colleague from Mount Scio - Bell Island, who, has all so much to say about NTA, who had so much to say about his teachers, who told the teachers they should not work or they are not supposed to work no longer, all this kind of thing-

An Hon. Member: I never said they (inaudible) to work (inaudible).



Mr. Warren: Mr. Chairman, I am going to ask you one more time, if I am going to speak for the next fifteen or twenty minutes, I need silence!

An Hon. Member: You will be here by yourself.

Mr. Warren: Well, Mr. Chairman, that is what I am on to, you know!

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible), go home, even the Table will not be here.

Mr. Warren: Mr. Chairman, when I finished my remarks earlier tonight, I was speaking about the Ministry of Development and I want to address a number of concerns.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Warren: Mr. Chairman, in fact I will say to my hon. colleague for Eagle River, I am as happy today as he is.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Warren: I believe, Mr. Chairman, this is the first time that this Government, for eighteen months-

An Hon. Member: Long year.

Mr. Warren: Mr. Chairman, again, I ask for silence, I am trying to say something that is complimentary to my colleague for Eagle River. This is the first initiative by this Government who has done something positive for Labrador and I say this because my colleague, my friend, (inaudible) has stood up and was counted.

I say to my hon. colleague for Harbour Grace, my colleague for Eagle River is my friend-

An Hon. Member: Sure he is (inaudible).

Mr. Warren: Whether he considers me his friend or not that is up to him, but I consider him my friend.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Warren: No. I have always done so for the last - I think I met - in fact I should say this to the Chairperson, as my colleague calls the Member there Chairperson, I say to the Chairperson that I met my friend for Eagle River, I think it was eleven and a half years ago.

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible).

Mr. Warren: Yes. I say to this House that I have known my good friend for Eagle River for the last eleven and a half years and I have to say this much -

An Hon. Member: He is not a bad fellow.

Mr. Warren: -and I think it needs to be recorded that in 1979 or 1980, the first time I met my good friend for Eagle River-

An Hon. Member: There is no need to go over board.

Mr. Warren: When my colleague for Harbour Grace gets up and say your Liberal (inaudible). I guess I may as well get the record straight once and for all. I say to my hon. colleague for Harbour Grace, that when I met my colleague for the first time, we were two individuals who were trying to do the best we could for the people of Labrador. Okay?

Now, and since then, that gentleman over there, the Member for Eagle River has been trying to

do the best he could for his district and I believe-

An Hon. Member: He is doing a darn good job of it.

Mr. Warren: Yes, I agree with you. I agree with you and at the same time -

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible) eighteen months.

Mr. Warren: I do not dispute that, it is okay, but at the same time I have been trying to do the best that I can for the people from Rigolet North. Okay?

An Hon. Member: Hear! Hear!

Mr. Warren: Now I think we may as well say what we had on our minds, because that gentleman there and myself we have, I would think that since 1949, almost 42 years since Newfoundland joined Confederation there has not been, and I will take every other Member who represented Labrador since 1949 and we go back to Horwood, Rowe, Sellars and you can go right back to Woodward, Hill and there are a number, Goudie and everone else. I will say this much and I will say it with no holds barred, that there has never been-

An Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Mr. Warren: Mr. Chairman I am trying to say something that is very serious. That there has never been, and I would think there never will be two more members conscious for the aspirations and the needs for the Labrador people on the coast of Labrador than the Member for Eagle River and myself and Mr. Chairman with that I adjourn debate.

Mr. Chairman: It has been moved

and seconded that the committee now rise. All in favor.

Some Hon. Members: Aye.

Mr. Chairman: Contrary.

The honourable Member for Bellevue.

Order, please.

Mr. Barrett: Mr. Speaker the Committee of the Whole has considered the matters to them referred and has directed me to report progress and ask leave to sit again.

Mr. Chairman: The Chairman of the Committee of the Whole reports that it has considered the matter to it referred and has directed him to report progress and ask leave to sit again. When shall the Committee have leave to sit again. Tomorrow? Tomorrow?

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