

PRELIMINARY
UNEDITED
TRANSCRIPT

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
FOR THE PERIOD:
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1983

The House met at 3:00 P.M.

Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

Yesterday during debate the hon. the member for Port au Port (Mr. Hodder) raised a point of privilege concerning a petition which was presented by the hon. the member for Burin - Placentia West (Mr. Tobin). After reviewing the Hansard and the petition, I have to rule that there is no prima facie case for a point of privilege, yet, in doing so, I must remind hon. members and refer them to Standing Orders 90 to 97 which deal with petitions and make the observation that had the hon. member for Burin - Placentia West signed the brief and presented the brief and the other petition separately, it probably could have been considered more in order to present two separate petitions. The format might have been somewhat not the same as in the order, yet there was no prima facie case for a point of privilege.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

MR. GOUDIE: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the Minister of Rural, Agricultural and Northern Development.

MR. GOUDIE: Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to inform the House that I am, today, releasing the results of a study prepared by my department on the social impacts which the oil industry is having on the people of our province generally and on the

MR. GOUDIE: residents of rural communities in Newfoundland and Labrador most especially.

While there has been a tremendous amount of attention focused upon the jurisdictional authority and economic impacts of the oil and gas industry in the Province, very little research has, in fact, been reported to the public on the social impacts which the industry is presently having on our people.

The report, entitled The Steel Island in reference to the islands of steel which are drilling for oil off our coast, provides an initial snapshot of the effects which the oil industry is having on issues such as migration, the regional distribution of employment, the labour force of existing industries and the career orientations of provincial residents working in the offshore. Sections of the report deal as well with the perceptions of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians about the work environment of the drilling floor as well as the effects of the industry on offshore workers' families.

In general the report shows that the regional distribution of employment is highly concentrated on the Avalon Peninsula, that provincial residents working offshore are young, and that the largest proportion have come from occupations in other marine industries. Newfoundlanders and Labradorians working in the offshore display as high a commitment to offshore oil industry work as do their counterparts from other jurisdictions and are, in general, reasonably satisfied with their offshore jobs.

My release of this report today is consistent with our government's concern about the impacts of the oil industry on the character and structure of our largely rural Province. The provincial offshore workers

MR. GOUDIE: come from more than 150 communities in Newfoundland and Labrador and, should the opportunities continue to become available, the offshore can play a stabilizing role for both urban and rural communities in the Province.

 This is the first piece of social research on the Newfoundland and Labrador offshore published in the Province. As a Province, the more well-informed we all are about the oil industry, the better able we will be to learn how to shape and adopt this new resource prospect to our interests and needs, providing we are given the opportunity to do so.

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. member for Torngat Mountains.

MR. WARREN: Mr. Speaker, the impacts the oil industry in having on Newfoundlanders is demoralizing to say the least. It is demoralizing because this government cannot sign an agreement with Ottawa that will give the people their day in the sun. And I am surprised, Mr. Speaker, that the minister would come out with another study. What should be happening is that the Premier and the Minister of Mines and Energy (Mr. Dawe) should be sitting down with their counterparts in Ottawa and trying to get a deal that would satisfy the people of Newfoundland and just not leaving everything alone. As of today there is no oil deal, there is no oil being produced and people are just demoralized.

ORAL QUESTIONS

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, if hon. members will recall, on Monday I directed a few innocent questions to the gentleman opposite responsible for the offshore, the President of the Council, the Government House Leader (Mr. Marshall) and I was personally abused and scorned, Mr. Speaker, and accused of spreading rumours and so on and so forth. Since then every major media in the Province has researched this matter and have publicly stated that there is definitely something going on behind the scenes involving Mobil Oil. Mr. Speaker, does the hon. gentleman still feel that I am spreading rumours and gossip? Or would the hon. gentleman, upon reflection apologize for making these statements and tell the House now what the facts are concerning the involvement of Mobil in the months and years to come in the offshore development?

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. the President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I would be the last person in the world to say that the hon. gentleman is spreading gossip. I might say the hon. gentleman is a gossip but I would not say that he spreads it because that would be indicating that he is effective and what he does best.

Mr. Speaker, look, I can only reiterate what I said on Monday. The hon. gentleman got up in this House and, acting in the same way as he has consistently over the past number of months, in an effort to

MR. MARSHALL: try to downgrade the resource that we have out there, and in an effort to try to support certain little psychological warfare games that are going on between here and the federal government, and between here and Nova Scotia, being a willing party in using Nova Scotia as a pawn for the purpose of trying to entice Newfoundland into signing an inferior type of agreement, he got up and made the totally unfounded statement that there was going to be less drilling this year. This is the first impression the hon. gentleman gave.

Now, I have to advise the hon. gentleman that people drill and they explore, be it on land or offshore, where there are prospects of finds, where there are prospects of development. In North America, let alone Canada, the place which is most prospective is the Hibernia acreage off of this Province. So if there is any

MR. MARSHALL:

exploration anywhere, exploration is going to be on Hibernia. The hon. gentleman saw a great deal of significance in the fact that he was talking about Mobil possibly farming out and, passing along rumours as he does, he gets up in this House and he does not use it for the Question Period, he uses it, Mr. Speaker, to be the vehicle of conveying rumours. So he got up and he thought this was very significant. And my comment to him on Monday, as it is now, is that I do not care too much, that my prime concern and the government's main concern is not who develops Hibernia from the point of view of which corporation develops it, but whether or not Hibernia is going to be developed for the benefit of the people of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, whether this resource that the people of Newfoundland and Labrador brought into Confederation with them is going to be used and employed for the purpose of bringing the per capita earned income of our young people up to the average of average Canadians, whether the resource is going to be used for the purpose of bringing our taxation rates down to the average of Canada, and the many other factors that we have in our proposal.

So I would suggest to the hon. member when he gets up and he smarts over comments that I make, that I will make them again and again, because the hon. gentleman is more a Liberal than he is a Newfoundlander, and they have grown to be inconsistent over the past few months. I would suggest to the hon. gentleman, before he makes statements and he asks questions of which he does not know the bases, which have no bases or foundation in fact, before he asks questions and starts to spread rumours that he gets possession of his facts as well as his faculties.

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward):

a supplementary question.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition,

MR. NEARY:

Mr. Speaker, I will suggest to the hon. gentleman before he becomes abusive that the hon. gentleman research his facts. It is not the quality of the questioning in this House, Mr. Speaker, where the trouble is, it is the quality of the answers that we are getting. And when I or any of my colleagues get

MR. NEARY:

I or any of my colleagues get up in this House and ask questions about various and sundry matters, Mr. Speaker, we can usually back it up, and the hon. gentleman may be eating his words before this week is over.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the supplementary question that I want to put to the hon. gentleman is this: Would the hon. gentleman tell the House now how many rigs Mobil will have operating on Hibernia on the Grand Banks this year? How many rigs will Mobil have operating? Now, if the hon. gentleman does not have the information, if he cannot give us the information, then he should get up man-fashion and admit that he does not know, that there is no communication, there is no input, there is no dialogue between this administration and Mobil and the drilling companies and the Government of Canada. If the hon. gentleman would do that, Mr. Speaker, then perhaps we might be able to get somewhere. So I am going to ask the hon. gentleman now to tell us the number of rigs that Mobil will have operating on the Grand Banks this Summer.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. the President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, that is rather unusual. I have in my pocket a telephone message dated 19/5/83, I believe that is today, 9:22, a call from Toronto from Mobil Oil from a Mr. Mason. Does the hon. gentleman know who Mr. Mason is? If the hon. gentleman wants to check, he can also find that at about 1435 hours, which, translated for the hon. gentleman is 2:35 p.m., I returned that call. So there is communication between this government and Mobil.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, the rigs that are going to operate in the offshore in the

MR. MARSHALL: area that he is concerned with, there are three presently and there is another one, as I have indicated before, that is going to come, and it is going to come from where? It is going to come from Nova Scotia.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

PREMIER PECKFORD: A point of order, Mr. Speaker,
The minister must be wrong.

MR. MARSHALL: From Nova Scotia is where it
is slated to come. So, you know, that is the situation and I
am sorry to disappoint the hon. gentleman but it happens to
be a fact of life that out there in the Grand Banks is a
great resource which was brought into this Canadian Confederation
by this Province and which this government is committed to see
is developed for the people of the Province of Newfoundland and
for all Canada.

Now I know it grieves the
hon. gentleman greatly when he sees that we are in this position,
because he takes a very, very negative attitude with respect
to the offshore. He would better serve his constituents and
the people of Newfoundland, Mr. Speaker, if he could support
us in our reasonable policy to attempt to get justice and
equity from the offshore, rather than ask questions which are
based on gossip and vain hope of gloom and doom which he would
hope to be able to jump on the back of and ride his way into
some future perspective of power which will allude him for
the rest of his life.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. Leader of the
Opposition, a supplementary.

MR. NEARY: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.
While we agree this is a great resource, we have to recognize
the fact that it was this administration, when they threw it
over to the courts, that gave it away, Mr. Speaker.

Now let me ask the hon.
gentleman who told us there was going to be three rigs -

MR. NEARY: and the smirk may be on the other side of the Premier's face before this day is over, Mr. Speaker; the hon. gentleman might be bored but he will not be bored very long - there are three rigs, so the hon. gentlemen tells us, now out there drilling. Could the hon. gentleman name these rigs, give us the names of these rigs that are out there drilling now?

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, there are a couple of things the hon. gentleman did. He keeps saying we gave it away when we put it in the court. Now I am not going to get into that, the reasons behind the court application, but I want to inform the hon. gentleman in crystal clear fashion that this Province, by putting it into the court, has never given it away and this Province will never give it away no matter what the decision of any court, be it a national court or an international court.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. MARSHALL: And the very statements by the hon. gentlemen there opposite, when he makes them, these statements, just give fodder to the problems that we have in the offshore that we are experiencing. If he would learn a little bit, I would say once again, about Canadian history, the people of Alberta did not give it away in the 1920s when

MR. MARSHALL:

they insisted that they be given the resources even though they were owned by the federal government, and that is the position which any Newfoundlander with any degree of red blood corpuscles going through his veins would insist on, rather than making insinuations like the hon. gentleman would make.

Now, back to the hon. gentleman's question: What was the hon. gentleman's question?

MR. NEARY: What are the names of the rigs?

MR. MARSHALL: You know, the rigs are there and he knows the names of the rigs. The rigs are out there, it is a matter of great concern to us, and it should be of equal concern to the hon. gentleman, that these rigs, by the way, are the very same rigs that have not been able to drill in recent months because of ice conditions, that were perceived by this government on February 16 and 17 last, which issued a 'stop drilling' order, but were forced by the federal government to keep on drilling notwithstanding the fact of the condition of the ice, which condition was verified by mother nature and not by mother Ottawa.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): A supplementary, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I hope that the media who are covering this House will record that answer. I asked the hon. gentleman a very simple question, to give me the names of the three rigs, and the hon. gentleman did not do it. He got up and he heaped abuse, Mr. Speaker, and he figure-skated like Gretzky around the subject and did not answer the question. Well, now I am going to ask the hon. gentleman this question, Mr. Speaker -

MR. STAGG: Bobby Orr was the same way.

MR. NEARY: Yes, I wish he were here in the House so he could see the hon. gentleman, the way he can figure-skate and stickhandled around questions. As I said, Mr. Speaker, it is not the quality of the questions, it is the qualities of the answers that we are concerned about and the people of this Province should be concerned about.

Now, what about SEDCO 706?

Could the hon. gentleman tell the House where SEDCO 706 will be in July? Will it be on the Grand Banks or will it be down off Argentina or Brazil? Could the hon. gentleman tell the House if he has that information, if he has discussed that on the telephone with Mr. Mason, where SEDCO 706 will be in July? Will it be drilling on the Grand Banks, will it finish the hole that it is drilling now and move to Argentina or Brazil, or will it be drilling off the coast of Newfoundland?

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. the President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, look, it is very difficult to be a nice fellow, you know, in this House when the hon. gentleman asks questions the way he asks the questions. What is motivating him and what is behind the hon. gentleman? He asked me a moment ago the names of the rigs. He obviously knows the names of the rigs so why waste the time of the House asking for the names of the rigs? Let me tell you something, Mr. Speaker, - or let me tell the hon. gentlemen something. because Mr. Speaker knows all, the hon. gentlemen does not know. Mr. Speaker, the drilling programme that is scheduled off the coast of this Province as far as the provincial government is concerned will continue and will increase as the time goes on. But one of the major problems,

MR. MARSHALL: I understand, Mr. Speaker, if there are major problems, I am not saying there are any major problems, but the problems, if any, that the companies experience are problems that they experience through their relationship not with this government but, unfortunately, with the government in Ottawa. So that should speak legions. It is not only the provincial government but it is the oil companies themselves that have the problems with Ottawa. So I would suggest to the hon. gentleman, who seems to have as good a relationship with Ottawa as we would like to have with Ottawa, I should suggest that if he has any suspicions about anything, if there is anything that he thinks is going to occur, which I am not aware of, by the way, he should ask the people in Ottawa. Because if anything does occur it will be because of the people in Ottawa and it will probably be directly related to their attempts to bring this Province to its knees in this matter. This Province has steadfastly in the past refused to bow to Ottawa and will do so in the future.

MR. NEARY: Supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Supplementary, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: I think hon. gentlemen should be very concerned about that answer, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member now is beginning to get a bit nervous over there. He is trying to cover his tracks now. He is getting a bit shaky.

MR. TULK: He never answered the question.

MR. NEARY: He did not answer the question but he skirted around it, Mr. Speaker.

Now let me ask about the Ugland that is also drilling off our coast.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. NEARY: Now, Mr. Speaker, I dealt with the SECDO 706; the hon. gentleman cannot tell us if SEDCO 706 will be on the Grank Banks in July. What about the Ugland? Will the Ugland be there, the Zapata Ugland? And will the West Venture be there drilling in July?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, this is shameful.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, hon. members will have to admit that if Mobil reduces its drilling operations, its development operations in this Province, that it is going to significantly set back the production of oil in this Province. So I am asking the hon. gentleman now - the hon. gentleman claims he knows it all, he has contact by telephone with the President of Mobil in Toronto or wherever it is - could the hon. gentleman tell us what is going to happen to these three rigs? Will they be drilling here in July or will they be down off the coast of Argentina or Brazil drilling?

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: There the hon. gentleman goes! See, he uses the Question Period for the purpose of pervaying rumours. Now I want to say, despite the hon. gentlemen and some of their friends, it has been a pretty hard road to hoe for this administration, particularly when it comes to the offshore and particularly when it comes to protecting the jobs of young Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, but this government is determined to do it, Such questions as the hon. gentleman is asking, he is asking because he wants to spread -

MR. NEARY: Information. We want information.

MR. MARSHALL: - No, If it were for information, Mr. Speaker, I would be happy, as I have responded, to respond even more fully if it were possible for me to do so.

The hon. gentleman is just playing his own little political game again. As I say, it has not been an easy road for this administration to try to protect our rights on the offshore and the jobs of young people on the offshore. And when you get people like the hon. gentleman, who can only be styled as a modern day quisling bestriding this Province, asking questions like he is now and drawing into question the integrity of offshore operations and what have you, it is a pretty sad day.

Now I can tell the hon. gentleman directly that he has no basis for the information. My knowledge indicates that he has no basis for the rumours he is trying to pervay. But I can tell him one thing for sure and for certain, that eventually, after exploration is over, whatever time that is - oil rigs will come and oil rigs will go, and there is no indication, I want to add again, that any of these oil rigs are going to go - but I can tell you something

MR. MARSHALL: that I am crystal clear sure of, that the resource is there, it will stay there, and it is a resource that belongs to the people of Newfoundland and it will continue to do so.

So that is the major question that confronts this Province today, ownership of the resources, not playing little political games like the hon. gentleman is doing. The hon. gentleman in this Province is not called to account. He makes the most outlandish statements. He made these statements on Monday and he was shot down by Mobil Oil. There were reports rumbling out of Toronto and here that his statements were incorrect. And, believe it or not, Mr. Speaker, the sky will fall on Goosey-Lucy over there. Mr. Speaker, the sky is going to fall on him because they were even denied by - where? Ottawa. They were even denied by a Mr. Eddie Goldenburg, who, most of his working days, is sitting over there in the corner of the hon. Jean Chretien. So he denied them, Mobil denied them, everybody denies them, but the hon. gentleman continues to persist.

Now what is the hon. gentleman trying to do? I get back to the same point. As I say, it is not an easy job to try to protect the resources of this Province and we are committed to do it. And the hon. gentleman, by asking unfounded questions of this nature, is doing nothing but calling into question the integrity of the offshore operations, and that is a pretty sad exhibition

MR. MARSHALL: by a Newfoundlander, a person representing a large number of Newfoundlanders in this Province, Mr. Speaker, He would be better off, as I said, concentrating on our resource and our rights to it and supporting us in it rather than taking the tack that the hon. gentleman is taking.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. the Leader of the Opposition, a supplementary question.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, you have just heard the 1983 version of Dr. Goebbels, Hitler's propaganda expert, the expert at squirting poison and venom. Now, the hon. gentleman can be as abusive as he wants and as nasty as he wants, the fact of the matter is that this administration are not facing up to their responsibility. And as I have said so often in this House -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question! Question!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: - they are like spectators at a hockey game, all they can do is watch the game being played, they cannot participate.

Now, let me ask the hon. gentleman, Mr. Speaker, if he can tell this House how many of the three rigs that he mentioned -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman told us there were three rigs drilling -

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! Order, please!

The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman should go back to the classroom and get thrown in the shower

MR. NEARY: again. Obviously, the hon. gentleman did not have his lithium today.

Now, Mr. Speaker, out of the three rigs on the Grand Banks, could the hon. gentleman tell us how many of these rigs will be drilling in July? Which two will be leaving? How many Newfoundlanders will be laid off? We hear that between 150 and 175 Newfoundlanders will be laid off. And, have the Mobil suppliers and the suppliers of these rigs be notified that as of the 1st of July their accounts will be closed. Now, could the hon. gentleman -

MR. HODDER: Look, they are whispering back and forth.

MR. NEARY: The hon. the Premier is trying to tell the hon. gentleman what to say. Mr. Speaker, they are caught in an embarrassing situation.

MR. WARREN: A cover-up.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please! Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Yes, a cover-up. It is like the Bowaters situation: They are sitting on the information hoping to get the House closed before all hell breaks loose, Mr. Speaker, that is the game they are playing now.

Now, let me go through the three questions again. How many of the three rigs will be leaving? How many will be staying? How many Newfoundlanders will be laid off if two rigs leave? And have the suppliers been notified that, as of the 1st of July, the accounts with Mobil and the drilling companies that supply these rigs will be closed?

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, I am not going to respond to rumours of the hon. gentleman. I say the way the hon. gentleman is using this House is despicable and I am not going to respond to rumours. All I can say, Mr. Speaker, from the quality of the Question Period today, it would be off now in the few minutes that are left for Snow White to sit down and let one of his seven dwarfs ask a few questions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Leader of the Opposition a supplementary question.

MR. NEARY: Let it be recorded again, Mr. Speaker, there is no answer, no information forthcoming. The questions are valid, legitimate questions of high quality, high calibre questions. The fact of the matter is that the government is caught in an embarrassing situation where they do not have the information. They are embarrassed and they can be accused of dereliction of duty.

MR. PECKFORD: How boring.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: Kind of boring all right, Mr. Speaker, when we are talking about -

MR. HODDER: Two rigs are going to Argentina.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please!

MR. NEARY: - when we are talking about a very significant company involved in the operations of the offshore.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please! I wish to remind the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) that this is Question Period and the member should not be making speeches. I would ask him to direct his question.

MR. NEARY: And the same way with the answers, Mr. Speaker, they should not be making speeches either.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to come back to this again, because this is a very important question. The hon. gentleman can skirt and skate and weasle his way around it all he wants, but the fact of the matter is that the House and the people of this Province are entitled to have the -

PREMIER PECKFORD: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order, the hon. the Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: A point of order, Mr. Speaker. The hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) was asked by yourself a few minutes ago to put his question. He is up in Question Period making speeches. This is the time for Question Period. We are over here dying for some hard questions and we are waiting with bated breath to get some hard questions from the Leader of the Opposition and all he wants to do is rumourmonger. That is all he wants to do, rumourmonger.

MR. SPEAKER: To that point of order, I rule that there is a point of order. I remind hon. members on both sides that we only have thirty minutes for Question Period. The questions should be brief and to the point and the answers also should be brief.

Does the hon. Leader of the Opposition have a question?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I will make it as brief as I can, and the hon. gentleman can get up on the personal attack all he wants. Will the hon. gentleman tell the House if he knows that any of these rigs will be leaving in July when they are finished drilling the holes they are presently on, that some of these rigs will be leaving for Argentina and Brazil? Does he know if the suppliers have been notified that they will not be supplying these rigs after the 1st of July? And does he know that 150 to 175 Newfoundlanders will lose their jobs as a result of these rigs moving out? Does the hon. gentleman know anything about these matters at all? Does he have any information? Can he enlighten the House and the people of this Province at all, or is he just going to sit there and heave abuse and scorn on us and wait for the House to close so he can drop the bomb?

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman asks the most inane questions. I responded to them in the negative, categorically, over and over again for the last twenty-five minutes. Because you say no to him, it is a personal attack. Now I say to the hon. gentleman categorically that the answer to the question is no - no such information, no knowledge. I refer the hon. gentleman to the responses that were made to his question publicly, emanating from Ottawa, Toronto and St. John's on Monday, I would think, Mr. Speaker, and reiterate once again that it is very sad indeed when you get a gentleman like the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary), who gets up in this House and is prepared to use the Question Period for the purpose of spreading rumours - and there is nothing else that these questions can be categorized as. I do not know what his purpose is, As I say, would that

MR. MARSHALL: the hon. gentleman and his colleagues opposite would support us as strongly as 95 per cent of the people in Newfoundland support us in the very basic question with respect to the offshore, which is our getting a fair and equitable return on the resource, rather than entering into areas that the hon. gentleman obviously has neither the competence nor the knowledge to deal with. I said, and I will say it over and over again, I say categorically, no. But the most important factor is the immensity of that resource out there and the fact that we have to get justice and equity from that resource. It is a resource that we brought into Canada with us. The fact of the matter is, and once again I say over and over again, without giving any credence to the rumours that the hon. gentleman raised, because he did not see the significance of a farm-out

MR. MARSHALL: or he did not even know what the parlance means in the industry. To say that while this Province welcomes every corporation that comes to its shores and do everything to foster it, it is not who develops or which company develops it but the real basic issue with which we are concerned is that the resource be developed for the benefit of all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians and particularly the young people of this Province who deserve a chance equal to their counterparts in other parts of Canada.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I hope the media will record that that is merely a ploy on the part of the hon. gentleman.

MR. SIMMS: Ownership does not matter, eh?

MR. NEARY: It has nothing to do with who owns the resource, it has nothing to do with young Newfoundlanders - although it does in the long-term because what they are doing is they are driving away one of the biggest players in the offshore. This administration is driving away one of the biggest players in the offshore. So I could put the same argument to the hon. gentleman, Mr. Speaker, that it is going to postpone and delay the offshore development. Now let me ask the hon. gentleman this: What does Mobil have to do to maintain its rights to Hibernia? Under the agreement, can sit on the oil field there? Can it put one rig on the oil field there? Can it farm out a contract to have one rig on that oil field and just let it sit there for the next twenty, thirty, forty, fifty years?

MR. HODDER: Are you getting bored now, 'Brian'.

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman is getting briefed by the Premier now, Mr. Speaker.

Could the hon. gentleman tell us how long Mobil can sit on Hibernia and, Mr. Speaker, just

MR. NEARY: barely provide the essential work as far as the agreement is concerned? Can they just put one rig there and then sit on Hibernia forever or what is the situation concerning the development of Hibernia?

MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. the President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: First of all I want to say that the man tells Mobil what to do, he tells BP what to do, he tells the governments what to do and now he is trying to tell the media how to report. But, Mr. Speaker, obviously, while he knows all these things in great generalities, Mr. Speaker, he does not, obviously, have the command of any knowledge of what he is talking about. If he knew the regulations of this government with respect to the offshore, he would not need to answer that question. As a matter of fact, he would be very proud of those regulations, because, Mr. Speaker, those regulations have very definite work commitments by the oil companies, by any licensee, and I might say, too, the hon. gentleman should sit down and read those regulations in relation to the federal regulations, because the federal regulations in that regard are not nearly as stringent as the regulations of this provincial government, witness the fact that the large group of permits that they have given from time to time have covered gigantic acreage.

PREMIER PECKFORD: A lot more than ours.

MR. MARSHALL: A lot more than ours. They do not have the same provisions for the necessary surrendering of acreage if it is not explored, they do not have the same regime.

MR. MARSHALL: Our regulations were drawn up after an assessment of all the regulations in the world and they are regarded in many respects as being the best in the world, including much better than those of the federal government.

MR. HODDER: Short, concise answers.

MR. MARSHALL: The hon. gentleman should know.

MR. NEARY: The rules apply to both sides,
Mr. Speaker.

MR. MARSHALL: The hon. gentleman raised the subject, the hon. gentleman asked about the regulations. If he reads the regulations, he will also find a great commitment by the oil companies to research and development and education in this Province. And there has been a tremendous amount of benefit that has been derived already. As a matter of fact, this afternoon, before I called Mr. Mason -

MR. NEARY: You are going to call Mr. Mason now, are you?

MR. HODDER: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER(Aylward): A point of order, the hon. member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, the House Leader (Mr. Marshall) opposite is making a speech. He is not answering the question.

MR. NEARY: The rules applied to both sides.

PREMIER PECKFORD: To the point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER To that point of order, the hon. Premier.

PREMIER PECKFORD: This is very germane to this point of order, Mr. Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) earlier was saying that the hon. minister was not giving information to his questions. Now, when the hon. minister starts to give

PREMIER PECKFORD: information to show the difference between a federal regime developing the offshore and a provincial regime -one which gives us lots of protection, lots of jobs, and sufficient money, versus the federal one - when he starts to give the information that the Leader of the Opposition asked for, up gets the Opposition House Leader (Mr. Hodder) and calls for a point of order. Mr. Speaker, they either want the information or they do not want the information. If they want, it then the minister has to have time to give it.

MR. NEARY: To that point of order, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): To that point of order, the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, obviously the hon. gentleman is beside himself again today. The hon. gentleman is in an embarrassing position. They do not have the information, they cannot supply the House or the people with the information on the hard questioning that we put to hon. gentlemen.

The question that I put to the minister was: How long can Mobil sit on Hibernia and how many rigs must they keep there? The hon. gentleman gets up and starts to make a speech, and my colleague is quite right in raising a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The hon. gentleman is attempting to abuse the rules of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: To that point of order, I will remind members on both sides of the House once again, as has been done quite often, that the Question Period is only thirty minutes and the questions should be brief and concise and the answers should also be as brief as possible.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): I have to inform the House now that the time for Question Period has expired.

PRESENTING REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table, pursuant to the statutes in the Subordinate Legislation Act, subordinate legislation, and the editions of the Newfoundland Gazette published between December 31, 1982 and May 13, 1983.

NOTICES OF MOTION:

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. the Minister of Finance.

DR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill entitled, "An Act To Amend The Liquor Control Act, 1973".

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Education.

MS. VERGE: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill entitled, "An Act To Amend The Education Teacher Training Act".

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Justice.

MR. OTTENHEIMER: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow ask leave to introduce a bill entitled, "An Act To Remove Anomalies And Errors In The Statute Law". There should not be any in there, should there?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Labour and Manpower.

MR. DINN: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will on tomorrow introduce a bill entitled, "An Act To Amend The Public Service Collective Bargaining Act, 1973".

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN:

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister of Forest Resources and Lands.

MR. POWER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give answers to questions 43 and 71.

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MR. MARSHALL: Mr. Speaker, before I call Orders of the Day I notice on the Order Paper, and perhaps we can pick it up at the next printing, that Committee of Supply was not removed from the Order Paper. When the Committee of Supply last met they asked leave to sit again and it was granted by the House. So Committee of Supply should be on the Orders of the Day for tomorrow.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

MR. MARSHALL:

Order 2, Bill No. 1.

Motion, second reading of a bill,

An Act To Establish An Economic Council For The Province."

(Bill No. 1)

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward):

The hon. Minister of Development.

MR. WINDSOR:

Mr. Speaker, it is certainly a great pleasure for me to have this opportunity to introduce this particular piece of legislation which, I think, is probably one of the more important pieces of legislation that we are putting through this hon. House in this particular session. I say that primarily because of the state of our economy today and I guess it is no more obvious than it is at this point in our history that there certainly is a role to play for an economic council in our Province.

Government decided some time ago that we would investigate the possibility of that and we announced in the Budget Speech of a year or so ago that we would be looking into

MR. WINDSOR:

the need and the feasibility of such a council, as well as to studying exactly the mandate of the council; how it should be structured; how it should function; how it should report to government or to the House of Assembly, as the case may be, and exactly what we should ask it to do and how it should be established. In order to do that, Mr. Speaker, in a very rational way, rather than simply saying, 'Here is government's concept of what an economic council should be and how it should function,' we decided that it would be more appropriate to consult those who would be most directly affected and directly interested in it, in other words, the business and industry community. As a result of that I, and my officials, were authorized to hold meetings throughout this province with persons involved in leading the economy of our Province and having great influence on it and we have done that over the past year. We held a series of nine meetings across the Province in some of the major centres. Obviously we could not go to every municipality, but we did try to, at least, visit the major ones both on the Island and in Labrador. We held a series of nine meetings for the purpose of discussing with these people, these business community leaders, exactly what the concept of the economic council meant to them and, in fact, in the first instance, was there indeed a need at all for an economic council. The result of those meetings was overwhelmingly that indeed there is a need for an economic council, there is a real role it can play that can be of great benefit to government and, therefore, we proceeded from that in each meeting to discuss ways

MR. WINDSOR: and means of establishing such a council and what its mandate should be. The result of that year's work, Mr. Speaker, by myself and officials of the department is before us today in Bill No. 1, and just to briefly outline the concept that is suggested here by this is that there be an economic council which would be comprised of a chairman and some fourteen members. It is important that we spend a great deal of time discussing the number of persons that should be represented on the council and, I guess, it was a general consensus that although it would be of some benefit to have a large number of people, that it may be unmanageable and that we should restrict ourselves to something in the order of fifteen persons, and that was a very strong consensus that came from pretty well every one of the meetings that we held across the province. So, what we are suggesting is that there be a council with a chairman and some fourteen members. The mandate of the council would be, and I would just like to read a part of Section 3 - (a) "to provide the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, through the Minister, with an independent and responsible view of the major economic and social issues with which the Province is confronted; (b) to advise the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, through the Minister, of the policies and strategies with which these economic and social issues may be met; and (c) to encourage informed public appreciation and debate of those economic and social issues." So, this, Mr. Speaker, is the mandate of the council and the rationale for which we are establishing it. The members would be appointed from those (a) whose knowledge in a particular field of endeavour would be of benefit to the council; (b) whose qualifications would facilitate the carrying out of the purpose of this Act; and (c) who are representative of the population of the Province.

MR. WINDSOR: Part (c), Mr. Speaker, is probably the most pertinent of those three sections in that it became very strongly obvious again in our meetings with business and industry that if such a council were to be representative of various interest groups, various regions of the Province and so forth, that it probably would simply come down to those persons representing the interests of the groups that they represented. And it came across very strongly to us, the opinion of the people with whom we met, that the people on this board should be there for themselves, for their own individual abilities and the fact that they are able to look at very broad questions of policy rather than individual problems of an area, or a specific interest of theirs or the group that they might represent in one capacity or another. So for that reason, it was felt very strongly that these people should not be appointed to represent a particular group or segment, but they should be appointed as individuals for the individual contribution that they would be able to make. So that is exactly what is being proposed in this particular piece of legislation.

The term of office of the chairman would be a five year term and for the members it would be three years with the exception that for the initial appointment we would stagger those appointments and vary the length of term so that there would be continuity when appointments came up in years hence, so that not all fourteen members would be eligible for reappointment in the one year. They would, under Section 8, be eligible for reappointment.

There is provision, of course, for designation of a vice-chairman and it was felt that the vice-chairman should be chosen by the members of the

MR. WINDSOR: council themselves after the council is constituted.

Members of the council would serve without reimbursement other than for the expenses and out-of-pocket expenses incurred and perhaps any small honorarium that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council might prescribe.

Duties of the council, Mr. Speaker, would be - and I would like to read that section- "report to, advise and make recommendations to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, through the minister, as the circumstances may require; and (b) respond to requests from the Lieutenant-Governor in Council for commentary, evaluation and advice on subjects that may be chosen from time to time by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. (2) The council shall, on its own initiative or if directed to do so by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, conduct such studies, inquiries and other undertakings as may be necessary with respect to any matter coming within Section 3, or with respect to any matter or thing for or relating to the carrying out of its duties under the act." In other words, Mr. Speaker, the council would be addressing issues relating to the economy as directed to them by government or which they, on their own initiative, felt

MR. WINDSOR: needed to be investigated and needed to be reported to government for which they felt that they had a meaningful contribution or some good advice to give to government. So it is a two-way street, it is not simply reacting to government, it is also advocating certain measures that government should consider.

It has a number of powers, as listed, to communicate frequently with the minister, to consult with individuals and organizations in the Province, to discuss and plan its functions, set its goals and objectives, to gather and analyze information and report to the minister on its findings and recommendations, and to publish such studies and reports as they are prepared for the council or by the council.

Expenses would be defrayed out of monies appropriated therefore by the Legislature, and you will find out that an allocation has been made in the budget brought down by my colleague earlier this year for an initial start-up of this council, this session, should it be approved by this House. Its budget would be submitted each year containing estimates of all sums required for the next financial year. It would be submitted to the minister and approved, of course, in accordance with such budgetary procedures.

There is a provision that the Economic Council could establish what would be known as an Economic Council Fund. Since it is perceived that business and industry may well wish to contribute on a voluntary basis to this sort of an organization, and, in fact, there was a strong feeling that as much funding that could be raised by the council themselves should be done and that that would give an added degree of autonomy to the council rather than being totally dependent on government for its financing. so that if

MR. WINDSOR: business and industry were truly concerned about the economy and about the policies and objectives that government were setting that they, indeed, would want to contribute to this council and would make some voluntary contributions to it. For that purpose the council is authorized to set up an Economic Council Fund to which they can deposit such funds and they have the right, as well, to use these funds as they see fit. Or in accordance with any bequeathing, any restrictions that may be part of a gift or bequeath, of course, they would have to be honoured.

The council has a right to meet at such places and at all times as it deems necessary, to make its own by-laws, and to appoint such officers and employees as it sees fit and prescribe the duties and the conditions of their employment. And they, as well, can engage on a contractual or temporary basis services of persons having technical or specialized knowledge, or they may hire consultants to do particular studies or parts of studies for them.

The Chairman should report within three months after the termination of each fiscal year, submit a report to the minister on all proceedings under the act for that fiscal year including, of course, the financial statements of the council and the Auditor General's Report. The minister will table that report in the House of Assembly within thirty days after receipt thereof or within the first thirty days of the next session of the House of Assembly.

Subject to subsection 3 the council may cause to be published any studies and reports prepared for use by the council as it see fit. That obviously,

MR. WINDSOR: Mr. Speaker, is a very important section of the act in that it does give the council the authority to publish those reports subject to approval, of course, after the minister has had time to study them and after a reasonable period of time, the reports would be made public. It also, Mr. Speaker, provides "that the council shall at least once a year meet with the Executive Council of the Province for the purpose of reporting business and progress to date.

Mr. Speaker, I think that it is a very progressive piece of legislation, I think it is a very important one. I think the Economic Council would have a very strong mandate, would have a great degree of autonomy, would have a very serious impact on government policies and programmes since it would be probably one of the most senior advisory if not the most senior advisory council that would be advising government directly, not only on individual issues but on policies and programmes of a very broad-reaching nature.

It is not intended, of course, that this council would be discussing the smaller issues, decisions of government, but it would be having very strong and direct input into the policy-making role of government and undoubtedly, therefore - hopefully the result of that would be that government would be more attuned to the opinions and the desires of business and industry and hopefully would even be in a better way than we are now in reacting to the needs of our Province and the economy generally.

So, Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure indeed to move second reading of Bill No. 1, "An Act To Establish An Economic Council For The Province."

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Dr. McNicholas): The hon. the Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, first of all, I notice that the hon. gentleman did not think this great reform, this great saviour of this administration warranted any longer than twelve or fourteen minutes -

MR. HODDER: About ten, I think.

MR. NEARY: - about ten minutes to introduce this bill. The hon. gentleman had an hour. The hon. gentleman could have taken advantage of his time to tell us about the philosophy behind this move, the ideology, why it was so necessary, why it was so important to set up this Economic Council. All the hon. gentleman did was read from the bill, Mr. Speaker, he gave us really no explanation of his own. The hon. gentleman's heart did not seem to be into it, Mr. Speaker, and we know why. We know why the hon. gentleman could not get psyched up on this bill to establish an Economic Council, because, Mr. Speaker, it is an admission of failure on the part of the administration. It is window dressing. What they are trying to do now - and this has been the trademark of this administration - is to drag in a red herring, to bring in this bill so that it can be heralded across the Province

MR. NEARY: as the thing that is going to save the Newfoundland economy. All it is, Mr. Speaker, is an admission of failure and guilt on the part of the administration for their incompetence and for the way that they have mis-managed the affairs and the resources of this Province.

One would have thought that the minister would have taken the opportunity in introducing the bill to make a major policy speech, to make a dramatic speech, Mr. Speaker. And all the hon. gentleman could do was read from the bill itself and give us no explanation as to why the administration felt it was necessary to bring in such a measure at this time.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that the administration have neglected the economy. For years it could think of nothing else but oil. They had oil on the brain. The Premier had oil on the brain. Up to the time the Newfoundland Appeals Court handed down its ruling on who owned the offshore, all we could hear in this Province was oil; we had it for breakfast, we had it for dinner, we had it for supper. Oil! Oil! Oil! That is all you could hear about. Oil was going to be the saviour of the Newfoundland economy and, Mr. Speaker, they neglected everything else in the Province: They neglected the fishery, they neglected the forest industry, they neglected the construction industry, they neglected mining towns, they neglected everything else. All they could think about was oil. They had oil on the brain.

The Premier used to go to bed and dream about oil. Sometimes, I suppose, cod liver oil, Mr. Speaker. They neglected everything else in the Province, they let the economy go down the tubes, and now, Mr. Speaker, they are trying to make amends. And what do they do, Mr. Speaker? Do they bring in plans and policies to

MR. NEARY: deal with the crisis in the Newfoundland economy? Do they lay on the table of this House their plans to deal with the crisis in the Newfoundland and Labrador fishery?

MR. HISCOCK: No.

MR. NEARY: Do they bring in plans to deal with record unemployment amongst young people in this Province?

MR. HISCOCK: No.

MR. NEARY: Do they bring in plans to diversify the economy

MR. NEARY: of Corner Brook and Western Newfoundland? Do they bring in plans to deal with the horrible economic crisis in Western Labrador?

MR. HISCOCK: No.

MR. NEARY: Do they bring in plans to deal with Happy Valley - Goose Bay, Bell Island, Buchans, the Baie Verte Peninsula?

MR. HISCOCK: No.

MR. NEARY: My hon. colleague says, 'No.' He is right. On all counts my hon. friend is right. One, he should go to the head of the class. The answer now for their neglect and their incompetence and their mismanagement is to set up an economic council.

MR. HISCOCK: Slough it off.

MR. NEARY: Slough it off on somebody else, Mr. Speaker, and that is they are up to. That is the kind of game they are playing now, Mr. Speaker.

On June 6, 1979, there was a statement made by the present Premier.

MR. YOUNG: A good man.

MR. NEARY: A good man, the hon. gentleman says. Well, listen to the statement the hon. member made and then check off a list of those items that have been delivered. This is called Development Strategy. 'The development strategy of the new government will have six principal objectives; (1) to reduce unemployment by creating 40,500 new jobs for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador over the next five years'- that pipe dream is gone. (2) to increase the level of per capita incomes and eliminate the disparity that now exists between ourselves and the rest of Canada.' Just listen to this, I will read it again, Mr. Speaker. It is absolutely incredible, it is unbelievable. A statement made by the present

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MR. NEARY:

Premier back in 1979:

'To increase the level of per capita incomes and eliminate the disparity that now exists between ourselves and the rest of Canada.' Mr. Speaker, has the hon. gentleman delivered on either one of

MR. NEARY:

these two? First the hon. gentleman, number one, says he is going to create 40,500 jobs. Has the hon. gentleman delivered on that? Then he is going to eliminate the disparity between ourselves and the rest of Canada. Has that been delivered, or is the disparity getting wider? Is the gap widening, Mr. Speaker? Number three, just listen to this one, 'to maximize the benefits from the development of our natural resources for the people of this Province'.

MR. TULK: What?

MR. NEARY: To maximize the benefits from the development of our natural resources. Has the hon. gentleman delivered on that? I ask any hon. gentleman who is supporting that administration, to stand up in this House man-fashion, if he has the courage, unless he wants to turn his back on the people of this Province and on his constituents, and tell the House and tell the people if the Premier has delivered on either one of these development strategies.

Now, just listen to this, Mr. Speaker, number four, 'to reduce our dependence on transfer payments while at the same time maintaining the level of public services, 1979, five years ago, this was the pipe dream of the hon. gentleman.

MR. TULK: Was that the time he was taking the lithium?

MR. NEARY: I am not sure if the lithium was on the go then or not, Mr. Speaker. To reduce our dependence on transfer payments. And, number five, a noble ambition this was, number five, 'to achieve a higher level of economic growth while at the same time minimizing social and environmental disruptions'.

MR. MATTHEWS: He is a terrible leader you should get rid of him.

MR. TULK: Do you know something? You are getting to the red rooster over there.

MR. NEARY: The old Rhode Island red is over there crowing again, is he? The old red rooster is crowing again, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I want hon. gentlemen to listen. I want hon. gentlemen, especially on our side, to listen to number six. 'To maintain and to improve the credit of the Province while holding the line on provincial taxation'.

That was five years ago. Hon. gentlemen I suppose, hope - the hon. Premier seems to have adopted his own philosophy on things.

MR. NEARY: Everything, he thinks, is going to blow over, everything is going to be forgotten, and he keeps telling his caucus this. Time is on our side, he keeps telling the old red rooster from Grand Bank, the Rhode Island red. Time is on our side he says, you have nothing to worry about. Do not worry about a thing. Let the Opposition rant and rave, let the people march on Confederation Building, let the mothers get upset now, because of the increase in the text books, make all the hard decisions now, make all the unpopular decisions now because time is on our side. And I really think that he believes that.

MR. TULK: Do you know something? The most glaring example is the last one that you read.

MR. NEARY: The most glaring example my colleague reminds me, is the last item. I will repeat it again in case the old red rooster did not get it the first time - 'to maintain and to improve the credit of the Province while holding the line on provincial taxation'. What has happened to that? The Minister of Finance (Dr. Collins) might have a few comments to make on that.

DR. COLLINS: I am sorry, I just came in?

MR. TULK: They are holding the line on provincial taxation.

MR. NEARY: They are going to hold the line - this was five years ago. They are going to create 40,500 jobs; they are going to hold the line on taxation; they are going to reduce our dependence on transfer payments, and they are going to achieve a higher level of economic growth while at the same time minimizing social and environmental

MR. NEARY: disruption.

MR. TULK: What a dream world that would be.

MR. NEARY: And listen to what he says.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this was when the hon. gentleman set up the new department of Development, when he made all these pledges.

MR. TULK: When he put the minister in place.

MR. NEARY: When he put the minister in place who now, as we understand it, is leading the dissident group on the other side.

MR. TULK: The St. John's Tories.

MR. NEARY: The St. John's Tories. 'In pursuing this kind of development strategy I believe that we will be able to create a climate for growth in our economy that will encourage new investments and will ensure the creation of 40,500 new jobs to which a new Progressive Conservative government is committed'.

MR. TULK: A new Progressive Conservative.

MR. NEARY: A new Progressive Conservative - not the old one, not the one that Mr. Moores headed up when he set up his Economic Council, but this new, this born-again administration.

MR. TULK: You know something about that economic council of Mr. Moores.

MR. NEARY: Oh yes, indeed I do. We all know about Mr. Moores Economic Council.

MR. TULK: Is this going to be the same thing over again?

MR. NEARY: In order he says - a new economic council - Listen to this now - this is five years ago.

MR. TULK: When in pops the new one.

MR. NEARY: Yes. 'In order to provide government with a range of independent advice, an input into the formulation of pursuit of its developmental strategy, we will create', so the Premier says, 'a new high level

MR. NEARY: Economic Council with a mandate to provide independent economic advice to government. The council will be composed of ten members and will be chosen so as to ensure broad representation of economic and geographic interests. We will have representation from small business as well as big business, labour as well as management and from the other special interest groups that form an important part of the economic fabric of this Province. Members of the Economic Council will serve on a voluntary basis. I believe that this kind of strong, independent and broadly representative economic advice will be of enormous assistance to the government, in formulating and in implementing the elements of its developmental strategy.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is too bad that we have such efficient research assistants that can dig this stuff out for us. Five years ago they talked about the new Economic Council which was going to be the Saviour of Newfoundland. Now, listen to this, 'In addition' the hon. gentleman says, the Premier back in 1979, 'a new government under my leadership will replace the old Department of Industrial Development with a new Department of Development whose mandate will be to implement the broad development strategy for the Province. The new department will work closely with the Department of Rural Development.' Pious words they were, Mr. Speaker. Five years ago that statement was made.

Mr. TULK: How they have failed.

MR. NEARY: How they have failed, my hon. colleague says. It is sad, Mr. Speaker, it is tragic. Five years later they produce a piece of legislation, in the dying days of this session of the House, to establish an Economic Council for the Province. And the minister cannot even justify it, cannot even tell us why.

MR. TULK:
regulations.

He stands up and reads the

MR. NEARY:
not the regulations.

Stood up and read the legislation

Now, Mr. Speaker, the main reason they are introducing this measure at this time is to divert attention from their own incompetence and their mismanagement. And that is the kind of game they have been playing for the last five years. They always use the diversionary tactic, we see it everyday here during the Question Period. They go on the personal attack, Mr. Speaker, they abuse the rules of the House. Mr. Speaker, we see it everyday, the diversionary tactics that they use.

MR. NEARY: But, Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that their strategy now is wearing very thin, that the people of this Province are wise to the game that they have been playing and this measure will not fool anybody in this Province, especially those who are unemployed, especially people who are on welfare and unemployment insurance and young people who cannot find jobs. You are not going to fool them with this economic council. When they are asked a question now by the media, the Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor) will say, 'Yes, in the last session of the House took steps to deal with the crisis in the Newfoundland economy.' And the reporter will say, 'Well, what steps did you take?' 'Oh, we set up an economic council.' Mr. Speaker, they can slough off their responsibility all they want, they can try to pass on the blame and the responsibility to somebody else but it is not going to work.

MR. CALLAN: Do you know what the next big announcement is likely to be? The Premier is likely to call a big press conference sometime in June.

MR. NEARY: No. I think the next move will be that the administration will call an economic conference over at the Arts and Culture Centre and they will trot the ministers out on the stage with their policy statements.

DR. COLLINS: This is not a rumour by any chance?

MR. NEARY: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TULK: These are their paper projects.

MR. NEARY: That is right. These are their paper projects, Mr. Speaker.

MR. TULK: Now each one has to write a term paper for the principal.

MR. NEARY: This effort is so pityful that I can hardly find words, Mr. Speaker, to describe it. I will tell you what it will turn out to be, it will turn out to be another place, sort of like the senate, to take care of their Tory friends. The Premier will be able to stow a few more of his buddies away.

MR. MATTHEWS: You do not have to be elected now for the senate.

MR. NEARY: Pardon?

MR. MATTHEWS: You do not have to be elected now for the senate.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. the Premier is looking for a place now to stow away a few more of his buddies and this is where you will see a few of the big Tories in this Province cropping up, on this economic council.

Now, Mr. Speaker, if the hon. gentleman was sincere, if the hon. gentleman really wanted this to work and he really wanted it to mean something to the Province, what the hon. gentleman would have done is

MR. NEARY: he would have recommended a select committee of the House, Mr. Speaker, he would have recommended a select committee of the House to set the terms of reference for this Economic Council, and to make the selection of the members of the Council. Instead of that, the decision of who will serve on this Council will be made down on the eighth floor. They will be political decisions, Mr. Speaker. Nobody will have any faith in it. Would my hon. colleagues have any faith in this Economic Council -

MR. TULK: In anything that that crowd appointed?

MR. NEARY: - when you know that the appointments are being made on the recommendations of the Premier and the ministers?

MR. TULK: No, no. I never could. I have no faith in them.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, if they wanted the people of this Province to have faith in this Economic Council they would have recommended that a select committee of the House be established to work on the guidelines, the terms of reference for the Council, and to make the selection of those who would serve on the Council. That is what they would have done.

MR. TULK: Yes, that is right.

MR. NEARY: As a matter of fact, that would have been more in line with what the Board of Trade recommended. The Board of Trade in its presentation to the administration last year, back in July of last year, they made recommendations to the government concerning a Newfoundland and Labrador Economic Council. And, Mr. Speaker, the Board's paper, the Board of Trade, their paper also made recommendations

MR. NEARY: on the makeup of the Board of Directors for the proposed Council. The paper noted, and this is very important, Mr. Speaker, a very significant point, the paper noted, that is the Board of Trade's paper, 'That independence from government and achieving a high degree of public and professional credibility would be essential ingredients in the Council's success'.

MR. TULK: They are absolutely right.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I think the Board of Trade were right. And I will just repeat it again for the benefit of hon. gentlemen. The Board of Trade's paper noted 'That independence from government would be essential in the Council's success. Independence of government'. Will this Council be independent of government?

MR. WINDSOR: Yes, yes!

MR. NEARY: Oh, it will?

MR. WINDSOR: Oh, yes.

MR. NEARY: The minister will make the appointments, and control the -

MR. TULK: They will report to the minister.

MR. NEARY: They will report to the minister.

MR. WINDSOR: Who would you suggest the report to?

MR. NEARY: I would suggest a select committee of the House.

MR. TULK: He already told you that, but you were out.

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman was not here when I said that if the administration were sincere and they wanted people to have faith in this council and they wanted it to work, they would turn it over to a Select Committee of the House -

MR. TULK: And give it credibility.

MR. NEARY: - and give it credibility. They would let the Select Committee work on the guidelines, the terms of reference of the council and let them make the recommendations as to who should serve on the council.

Mr. Speaker, this is a diversionary tactic. It is almost cruel, it is criminal to try to make up for their incompetence and their mismanagement of the economy and the resources of this Province. They set up this new Department of Development five years ago -

MR. WINDSOR: It is not five years.

MR. NEARY: Well, according to the promise that was made by the Premier. On 6 June 1979 the Premier made the first announcement when he said, 'In addition, a new government under my leadership will replace the old Department of Industrial Development with a new Department of Development,' give or take a few months.

MR. TULK: So what has happened since?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, now what development have they undertaken since that department was set up?

MR. DINN: We have not given anything away either.

MR. NEARY: They have not given anything away. The trouble is that they have not done anything, Mr. Speaker. They have not done a thing. They have not had one original idea, they have not created one new industry, they have not

MR. NEARY: attracted any new business to this Province.

MR. TULK: The Department of Development should be called the Department of Flopville.

MR. NEARY: The Department of Development has turned out to be a flop.

MR. TULK: It should be called the Department of Flopville.

MR. NEARY: The minister, no doubt, is the best travelled minister in Canada. No doubt about that. But, Mr. Speaker, what does the hon. gentleman do when he travels abroad? He goes off with his briefcase, he swaggers into the meetings where you have competition from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and the other provinces, They come in and they roll out

MR. NEARY:

the red carpet for investors to come into their provinces. They say, "If you come in we will create a good political climate, a good economic climate for you to come to Nova Scotia. We will provide you with land, we will give you tax concessions and we will do everything in our power to assist you to set up your business or your industry or to expand your old business or industry in our Province." Every province of Canada does that, Mr. Speaker, except Newfoundland. The minister swaggers in and says, "Listen you guys, listen you industrialists, listen you people with the money, listen you investors, I have news for you, I want to tell you this, that if you are coming to our Province then you are going to abide by our rules and regulations. We are not going to put up with any nonsense from you." That is the attitude of the hon. gentlemen at these meetings. I have been talking to people who have been there, who attended these meetings, they can hardly believe what they hear.

MR. WINDSOR: That is not true now.

MR. NEARY: It is true.

MR. WINDSOR: That is total fabrication.

MR. NEARY: It is not a fabrication.

MR. WINDSOR: Do not stand there and say things that you know are not true. It is disgraceful. You are an insult to the people who were foolish enough to elect you.

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman will have an opportunity, when he closes the debate, to deal with the matter.

Mr. Speaker, the minister swaggers in, slaps down the briefcase, opens it up, "and when you come to my Province we are going to tell you what to do."

Now, Mr. Speaker, is that the right attitude to have when you are trying to attract business and industry to Newfoundland? They have created a hostile atmosphere

MR. NEARY: in this Province. We are about as close now to a Banana Republic in this Province as you can get. Mr. Speaker, we are as close to a Banana Republic as you can come in this Province at the present time.

Industry and business have been driven away in the last four or five years with the attitude of this administration. And, Mr. Speaker, they cannot point their finger at one accomplishment. The minister cannot point his finger at one major accomplishment since that department was established.

Mr. Speaker, if the hon. gentleman - I challenge him when he is closing the debate to point his finger at one major accomplishment, one new mine that has been opened, one new industry that has been created, one new business that has been opened as a result of the policies of this administration.

I could tell hon. gentlemen about all the industries that have been closed under this administration, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NEARY: You know, Mr. Speaker, when you look back over the last five years you cannot help but be sad, you can understand why people are so disillusioned and discouraged and depressed with the performance of this administration. Mr. Speaker, the performance of the Department of Development has been shameful and now they hope to be able to make up for their incompetence and their mismanagement by bringing in this silly Economic Council, which will not be independent of government. I predict now that there will be political appointments on that council.

AN HON. MEMBER: No way.

MR. NEARY: No? The hon. gentleman says, 'No way'. We have already seen about the worst record that we have ever seen in the history of this Province of political appointments. And you know, Mr. Speaker, I will tell you any editorial writer if he wanted to just do a little research and look at the political appointments that have been made by this administration in the last five or six years - we are told by NAPE that there are 2,000 positions that have not gone through the Public Service - 2,000 outside the Public Service, temporary appointments, people who have been on the payroll for the last several years, never put in an established position, Mr. Speaker, 2,000 of those. I am also told, by the way, that there is a reign of terror as a result of the high-handed tactics of the Premier and the ministers, there is a reign of terror in the Public Service at the present time. You know, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to political appointments and how to do it - how you can stand up in the House and go on television and tell the people you are honest and clean while at the same time appointing your buddies to boards and commissions -

MR. CARTER: Name names.

MR. NEARY: Yes, I could name names if I wanted to, I could name names.

MR. DINN: Name one.

MR. NEARY: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, they wrote the book, this administration wrote the book when it comes to making political appointments. And how shrewdly they do it, how cunning they are. They can look at you with a straight face, they can be interviewed on television and say, 'my administration is clean, we are honest and decent and our integrity is unquestioned,'

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, and at the same time they are making political appointments right, left and center.

MR. CARTER: Who?

MR. NEARY: The Premier and the ministers.

MR. SIMMS: That was never done in your day.

MR. NEARY: Pardon?

MR. SIMMS: That was never done in your day.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman says, 'Never done in your day.' Mr. Speaker, what I am saying is when it comes to making political appointments the Liberal administration could learn from the present Premier. And on top of that, Mr. Speaker, we are told that the civil service today are frightened to death, they are living under a rein of terror, they are terrorized by this administration, by the Premier and by the ministers. They are frightened to death, Mr. Speaker. And so I hope hon. gentlemen will not talk about political appointments when it comes to this economic council, because that is what it is going to be. It is going to be another little nest, a kind of senate, where they can put their pals and their buddies and their party supporters, as they have been doing for the last four or five years.

MR. SIMMS: We will have to change our tactics and appoint all Liberals, I suppose.

MR. NEARY: Oh, my. Change their tactics and put on all Liberals. All I am asking the hon. gentlemen to do is to support my suggestion that this matter of appointments and the guidelines for this council be turned over to a select committee of the House, make it independent of government.

MR. WINDSOR: It will be independent of government,

MR. NEARY: It will not be independent of government. The only way it will work, Mr. Speaker -

MR. SIMMS: Is there anything at all that you are in favour of?

MR. NEARY: What?

MR. SIMMS: Anything at all that you are in favour of?

MR. NEARY: I cannot think of anything this session, Mr. Speaker. I am not in favour of the increase in textbooks, by the way. Textbooks are going up by 120 per cent this year, I am not in favour of that. Is the hon. gentleman in favour of that?

MR. TULK: Yes, he said.

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman will not acknowledge that.

MR. TULK: Yes. He said yes.

MR. NEARY: Oh, he nodded, yes. The hon. gentleman is not in favour of it?

MR. SIMMS: I did not say anything.

MR. NEARY: I see, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, this is a ploy, a diversionary tactic on the part of the administration to distract attention from their inactivity, from their ineptness, from their incompetence and their mismanagement. And, Mr. Speaker, it is not going to work. The people will see through it.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what we were hoping, before this session ended, was that instead of the administration bringing in this little bit of window dressing that they would come in with some concrete plans and ideas to deal with the terrible state, the horrible state of the Newfoundland economy and to deal with the crisis in the fishery. Mr. Speaker, this is no alternative to direct government action. This economic council is no

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MR. NEARY: alternative and is only an
excuse because they have not been able to produce plans
and ideas of their own

MR. NEARY: to deal with the terrible state of the Newfoundland economy.

Mr. Speaker, I would have hoped that one of the priorities of this administration, instead of bringing in this little bit of window dressing, would have been to take steps immediately to deal with the offshore, that they would have taken steps immediately to deal with what I consider to be another priority, the immediate development of our energy resources in Labrador, that they would bring in measures to show their interest in Buchans by putting into effect a plan to deal with the Southwest Brook road, linking Central Newfoundland to the West Coast.

DR. COLLINS: Which road is that?

MR. NEARY: The Southwest Brook road to Buchans.

And that they would bring in a plan, Mr. Speaker, to create a federal/provincial Crown agency whose sole function would be to develop mega projects in this Province, that it would employ enormous man hours and create jobs not only in the short-term, but would attract new industry and business and would create some badly needed jobs.

Mr. Speaker, we are told by the experts that unemployment is going to be here when we bottom out, when the economy recovers. We are going to have high unemployment. If we ever have prosperity again we will have in the middle of it high unemployment, which means that governments at both levels will have to create badly needed jobs. And these jobs, Mr. Speaker, should not be of a temporary nature. And they should not be work for welfare or work for unemployment insurance. These jobs should be of such a nature that people who work on these jobs will be paid a living wage, they will be paid the going rate

MR. NEARY: of pay, whatever that would be, Mr. Speaker. And in that way we might be able to overcome the high unemployment that we are going to have with us for an indefinite period.

Mr. Speaker, one of the projects that I think could be developed through this federal Crown corporation would be the Lower Churchill, and the development of the other rivers in Labrador. Quebec, apparently, is anxious to develop these resources with us, if this administration would only sit down and talk with the Province of Quebec. Mr. Speaker, this administration will not even discuss the matter with Quebec let alone negotiate with them. And that is a great tragedy, because I feel and we feel in this party that we need that power to attract new industry.

MR. NEARY: Another priority is the construction of a transmission line across Labrador to the Strait of Belle Isle and the other way to Quebec. Again, Mr. Speaker, this would employ thousands and can be done now without the risk, because we will eventually have to bring the power through the Province of Quebec anyway. This is a project that we can begin now and we need those jobs, Mr. Speaker, and those dollars now. These projects would have other benefits, Mr. Speaker, inasmuch as that they would create permanent jobs, they would attract new industry and new business. Now, Mr. Speaker, that is what we need in this Province to attract new investment dollars and new businesses. Money attracts money, Mr. Speaker, and these projects, if they were carried out, the completion of the Trans-Labrador Highway, the development of the Lower Churchill, the development of the five rivers in Labrador, the transmission line and so forth, would all attract new business and industry. That is the kind of thinking, that is the kind of philosophy that we should be getting from the other side. These are the kinds of announcements we should be getting, Mr. Speaker, and not just setting up silly economic councils.

Mr. Speaker, just to show you how useless these commissions are: We had a commission set up back in 1981, I think it was; we had a Commission of Inquiry set up on the Connaigre Peninsula, headed by Mr. Graham Mercer. Mr. Mercer was appointed in February, 1981 by the Fisheries Minister (Mr. Morgan) to investigate the economic circumstances surrounding the fishing industry on the Connaigre Peninsula on the South Coast. His specific reference was to enquire into all matters related to the social and economic conditions pertaining among the people and the economic conditions on the Connaigre Peninsula with particular reference to fish catching and processing industry

MR. NEARY:

in that area.

At the time of Mr. Mercer's appointment, we were told by the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Morgan) there had been major disruptions in the fishery on the Connaigre Peninsula. 'For the past four years,' he said, 'there have been adverse economic and social impact on the whole area.' And in March and April of 1981, Mr. Mercer held meetings on the Peninsula. In 1982, further disruptions took place. Later on, Mr. Mercer looked at other fish plants in Hermitage, Belloram, Harbour Breton and Gaultois. The Minister of Fisheries said that Mr. Mercer's inquiry was essentially a fact-finding mission to determine the views of the fishermen, the plant workers, fishermen's committees and other organizations.

In September, 1981, Mr. Mercer submitted the first phase of his report to the Fisheries Minister and later that month, we are told by the Fisheries Minister, that he presented Mr. Mercer's report to Cabinet.

Sometime in 1972, we are told, the final report was passed in to the Minister of Fisheries - a full report - and was passed over to Cabinet for consideration. Now, Mr. Speaker, what has happened to that report? just to show you the track record of this administration. What has happened to that report? Can any hon. ladies or gentlemen there opposite tell me what happened to that report?

MR. NEARY: The member for Stephenville (Mr. Stagg), who always has all the answers to everything, his only claim to fame in this House is he found a new word one time, 'clone', he found the word clone and he spent half an hour abusing the word.

MR. HODDER: He is also the author of the J.R. Peckford phrase.

MR. NEARY: He is also the author of the J.R. Peckford phrase, that is right. Could the hon. gentleman tell us what happened to Mr. Mercer's report that was done on the Connaigre Peninsula? What happened to it?

MR. STAGG: I have no idea.

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman has no idea. He will have no idea what will happen to this Economic Council either. What happened to Mr. Mercer's report, well, I will tell the House.

MR. STAGG: I thought you would.

MR. NEARY: It was buried! We cannot even get it tabled in this House. It has never been made public. The taxpayers paid for that report and they are entitled to have it. This House is entitled to have it. Are they too ashamed to table it, Mr. Speaker? Are they ashamed of it? The taxpayers paid for that report and they are entitled to have it. Well, why can we not have it? Would somebody there opposite tell us why we cannot have Mr. Mercer's reports that were done on the Connaigre Peninsula? He was sent down at taxpayers' expense to examine the state of the fishing industry on the Connaigre Peninsula, made a preliminary report, then made a final report, passed it over the Cabinet, two years ago, and it has not seen the light of day. We cannot even get it tabled in this House.

MR. MARSHALL: What has that got to do with this bill?

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, what it has to do with this bill, I am showing members the track record of this administration.

MR. MARSHALL: But what has that got to do with the Economic Council?

MR. NEARY: It has all to do with it, Mr. Speaker. If you have no credibility and no reputation, and if you are experts on political appointments and you are not prepared to make this Economic Council independent of government, if you are not prepared to listen to the recommendations, Mr. Speaker, it will just be a pure waste of taxpayer money. I just brought in that report as an example of the track record of this administration when it comes to dealing with reports.

Mr. Speaker, I suppose the hon. gentleman has made his phone call by now. He told us he was going to call Mr. Mason at 3:35.

MR. MARSHALL: I have got the thing here.

MR. NEARY: He has got the thing there. He has not made his call yet.

MR. MARSHALL: 9:22 this morning. Mobil is after me on bended knee.

MR. NEARY: Yes, Mobil is just the kind now to come after the hon. gentleman on bended knees.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, we have no faith in this Economic Council. We think it is a farce, it is a big bluff on the part of the administration. They are trying to prop themselves up now, they are trying to make themselves look good. Mr. Speaker, it is just a gigantic bluff. And they are good at that over there, they are good at bluffing and trying to con the Newfoundland people, trying to pull the wool over their eyes.

MR. TOBIN: You should know all about that.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, they are good at that, they are experts at that, pulling the wool over the eyes of the people, and this is just another con job. Mr. Speaker, the House is about ready to wind down, the administration has been trying to get her closed now for the last few weeks. Let it be recorded that in this session of the House we have seen no plans to deal with the horrible mess, the horrible state of the Newfoundland economy, no plans to deal with record unemployment, no plans to deal with the crisis in the fishery, no plans to deal with Corner Brook or Buchans or Happy Valley - Goose Bay or Bell Island or all the other communities on the misery list, no plans. And practically on the eve of the closing of the House they have to insult the intelligence of Newfoundlanders by bringing in a bill to establish an Economic Council.

MR. CARTER: Very important.

MR. NEARY: The hon. gentleman says, 'Very important.' Yes, very important to get the hon. gentleman off the hook, to get the heat off the Cabinet. They are a government on the run, they have been on the run now for the last several months, and the Premier is on the run, Mr. Speaker. And they are trying to get the heat off themselves, they are trying to slough off their own responsibilities on a group of people that they call an

MR. NEARY: Economic Council, Political appointments, political appointees, that is what I will forecast it will be, political appointees. That is all they will be, Mr. Speaker. Anybody in his right senses would not have anything to do with this administration anyway. What these people should do when they are approached by the administration - they have forty-four, we have eight: no doubt the bill is going to pass, they will force it through - if I were one of the people approached by this administration I would say, 'Look, Mr. Premier and members of the administration, have you produced any plans in the last five years to create new industry, to create new business in this Province? Have you created a good political climate, a good economic climate in this Province to attract business and industry, or have you created the kind of political climate that can only drive business and industry away from this Province, Mr. Speaker?' That is what people have to ask themselves.

So, Mr. Speaker, I say that if the government wants to get our support, and they certainly are not going to get our support on the bill in its present state, if they want our support, what

MR. NEARY:

they should do to prove to us that they intend to make this independent of government is set up a select committee of the Legislature and have this select committee examine the terms of reference, work out the terms of reference and make recommendations as to who should be appointed to this Economic Council. Otherwise, Mr. Speaker, it would just be a farce and a waste of taxpayers' money. That is all it will be and hon. gentlemen know that. Hon. gentlemen are trying to get themselves off the hook. The political heat is on, they cannot stand the heat, so what do they do? They use the old device, Mr. Speaker, one as old as Methuselah.

MR. SIMMS: It goes right back to the Smallwood days.

MR. NEARY: You can go back beyond the Smallwood days. The device they are using, the strategy they are using, Mr. Speaker, is a ploy to get the heat off themselves. I hope nobody is under any illusions that that is not what they are up to.

Mr. Speaker, if they were sincere they would put their plans on the table. They have no plans, they are bankrupt of ideas, they have no plans to develop this Province and now they are sending out an S O S to a group of their buddies and pals and friends, and, I tell you this, when it comes to making political appointments the hon. gentlemen, I will tell you, can be the experts. He can be the expert, I can guarantee you that. When it comes to political patronage, the hon. gentleman was not behind the door.

MR. WINDSOR: Thank you very much. That is the nicest thing you ever said about me.

MR. NEARY: That is right. The hon. gentleman certainly was not behind the door.

MR. STAGG: That is very wise.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, there is the expert. So we, Mr. Speaker, would like to see something done for the economy. We have been talking about it for the last eight or nine weeks in this House. We would like for the hon. gentleman to come in and tell us there is going to be an aluminum smelter and where it is going to be located. People are getting fed up with the kind of Ministerial Statement we heard today, another report on the impact of oil on rural Newfoundland. At the rate we are going now we may never get the oil.

MR. HODDER: Why did they call it The Steel Island?

MR. NEARY: The Steel Island? I do not know.

MR. NEARY: But anyway, Mr. Speaker, we will support any plans and ideas that this administration have to deal with the terrible state of the Newfoundland and Labrador economy. We will support any plans they have to deal with the crisis in the fishery, record unemployment amongst young people, the situation in Corner Brook, Buchans, Happy Valley, Western Labrador. We would support any of these measures, Mr. Speaker, but this is nothing and we on this side of the House are not going to lower ourselves to support nothing.

If the hon. gentleman wants to put it into the hands of a Select Committee, have them work on the guidelines and the ground rules for an economic council and let an independent, impartial committee of this House make recommendations, Mr. Speaker, then he might get our support, but we are not going to support nothing.

MR. CARTER: Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. the member for St. John's North.

MR. CARTER: There are a couple of points that I would like to make in supporting this bill to create an Economic Council.

I was going to get up on a point of order several times, because the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) was being repetitive and, I thought, unnecessarily filling out his time. In fact, when he began to speak, he blamed the minister for only occupying twelve minutes to introduce the bill. Well, I think the bill speaks for itself, it does not need too much comment, not direct comment on the bill. It is very clear. The only thing I would say is that I would like to use my few minutes to mention some concerns that this Economic Council could address.

Now, for instance, I, myself,

MR. CARTER: believe that the high cost of living here in Newfoundland, especially the high cost of perishable food, is directly related to the long truck journey that most of our goods take when they come across the Island. I cannot prove it and I doubt if the Select Committee on Food Prices is going to be able to do more than just look into it superficially. However, if there were an Economic Council created, this would be a permanent, ongoing council. I understand that members are appointed for at least five years and I presume that they would be eligible for reappointment. So I can see over the next few years a very prestigious body of economists, businessmen and people who are interested

MR. CARTER:

and concerned in Newfoundland's welfare being appointed to this body and perhaps even its numbers being expanded. I think fourteen is the present number, but there is no earthly reason why if it works out the number cannot be expanded. And I do not think there is a danger of it turning into a bureaucratic monster. I think it will be an institution of not necessarily experts, but certainly concerned, knowledgeable people who will have the time and the authority and the resources to look into some of the vexing questions that torment us. I think it would not take too much study to find out that the high cost of our perishable goods are directly related to the long truck journeys that they take, say, from Port aux Basques right across to St. John's.

It is interesting to note, for instance, that the Argentia ferry gives precedence to cars and not to trucks, trucks have to give way for private vehicles on the Argentia ferry. And some of these truckmen are coming all of the way from Florida, certainly many of them are coming from Boston, and they do not get much of a chance to sleep. They are on the go day and night, and they arrive here after just a very short ferry ride when they might have snatched four or five hours sleep and they are on the road again, I maintain that, quite apart from the added cost, the wear and tear on the trucks and the wear and tear on the road, it is a potentially dangerous situation. You have drivers who have not had sufficient rest, they are pushing themselves beyond wise limits and our roads are certainly not built to accommodate these huge transports going at the allowable speed, which is approximately 55 miles per hour.

MR. CARTER: I also hope that the Economic Council will take a good look at our Crown land situation, which is one of my pet peeves. I feel that it is very unfortunate the way Crown land cannot be gotten by private individuals - you cannot get a lease, you cannot get a grant. I understand there are small grants for country homes, country shacks, but there are not grants for large blocks of land, and unless people own land I do not think they can take the same interest in their Province.

MR. HODDER: That is your own government you are talking about.

MR. CARTER: I am criticizing our own government. I am quite frank, Mr. Speaker. I do not mind criticizing our own government where I feel criticism is warranted. They have a reasonable defense, but I think it is an ongoing debate that should take place, and I am prepared to debate it anywhere, anytime.

MR. CARTER: I note that in the bill there is provision for the Council to make public their report; that is to say, presumably, they make their report to the minister but at the same time their reports may be made public. There is nothing secret about their deliberations. In fact, I would imagine many of their hearings would be held in public and I would think the press, who are always on the lookout for news, would find that any of the members of this committee would be very newsworthy. It is not the same as if you were looking for a big headline, but newspapers not only look for headlines, they also look for topical news that could be used today or could be used tomorrow, but is relevant for several weeks at a time. I am sure that if the people who are appointed to this Council are wise in their relations with the press, that they will be a very newsworthy institution.

Also, I would hope that this Economic Council would do as much as it can to encourage farm trade, and here I include distant points in Canada. We do not have enough trade in this Province, that is one of the weaknesses of our economy, and I do not have any solutions at the moment, I am not an expert in it, but I do know that it is a problem that we face and the more we can encourage foreign trade the better off we will be. I could point to some countries in the world that have very few natural resources and seem to make all their money on trade, and I do not see why we could not do the same.

So I would like to just say that not only will I vote for this bill, but I will support it enthusiastically and speak of it with approval whenever it is mentioned.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words on this bill. Mr. Speaker, the section of the act which sets up the Economic Council for the Province, for Newfoundland and Labrador - I suppose it will be known as the Newfoundland and Labrador Economic Council - under the duties and powers that are listed in the bill, and this is a point which was stressed by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) which would allow the board to be independent.

Now we have an example in this country of an independent body which reports to government and reports as it sees fit. The Economic Council

MR. HODDER:

Canada not only has a role in increasing public understanding of economic issues, but it is a very independent body. It is independent, a national advisory agency which focuses on the medium-and long term. The workers are a very, very independent group with the power to criticize government if they so desire, and very often they are very critical of the national government's policies. What bothers me about this particular council most of all is the fact that nowhere can I see from reading the Act is there anything to let this body develop and become a truly independent council which shows direction and can be openly critical of government. One of their duties in the act is they must communicate frequently with the minister in order to mutually identify the important matters, and report through the minister on its findings and recommendations. Everything there is through the minister or through the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

Mr. Speaker, while this could be a good thing, I think what we have here is a body which is window dressing.

Mr. Speaker, I can see, if our economy were good and we needed a group of people who could sort of at that particular point might give recommendations to help with the fine tuning of the economy, then perhaps a body such as this might be worthwhile. I feel that the terms under which the Economic Council of Newfoundland and Labrador is set up that it will become nothing more than another body which reports through the minister, which the minister consults with, and another bureaucracy will be formed. The people on that Council will be appointed by government and report to government. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that

MR. HODDER: this particular group should report to the House of Assembly, or report through the House of Assembly to the people of the province. I think there should be a provision for an annual report to the House of Assembly, much the same as the Ombudsman has an annual report to the House of Assembly, and numerous bodies throughout the province reports to the House of Assembly, perhaps even twice yearly on the state of the economy and the way they feel the economy is going. It should not be directed and channelled through the minister. I cannot stress that enough, that it should be a truly independent body. If that were so, and we had a group of qualified, skilled Newfoundlanders sitting on that body, I think it could possibly be a good thing. I like the idea of the Economic Council of Canada and how it works. The Government of Canada had the courage to create a body which had the power to then criticize the policies of the government which created it. This government has not the courage to form a council of that type. I would say, Mr. Speaker, that that is what marks a government, whether they have the courage to do things that may come back sometime to haunt them, whether they have the courage to do things in the interest of Newfoundland and Labrador. Mr. Speaker, obviously from perusing this Bill this afternoon, I see nothing

MR. HODDER:

in the bill that would show me that this government had the courage to create a group which would report against them as well as for them. It is a little group that advises the minister, it is a group that advises the government, it is a group that the government goes to on its own issues. Reading through the bill, I see the group becoming an arm of government, following government policy, which is not the idea why we need an Economic Council of Newfoundland and Labrador. We need an Economic Council of Newfoundland and Labrador in order to let the people of Newfoundland and Labrador know where the economy is going, what is happening with the economy and to let the government know, not to be a two-way communication vehicle between government and the council. Mr. Speaker, that disturbs me greatly, because I predict, Mr. Speaker, that this council will fail.

MR. STAGG: How long will this continue?

MR. HODDER: Mr. Speaker, in a few minutes I will sit down. Now, if the member for Stephenville (Mr. Stagg) wants to get up and tell us about this bill and what he thinks of the bill, he has the right to do so. Any member on the other side of this House has a right to talk about this bill.

This is an important bill. It is important for what it is not doing, it is not important for what it is doing. It is a bill that could mean something to this Province. It is a bill which could possibly set up a body which would show us the way as far as the economy of the Province is concerned.

I was trying to tell the minister that if the government had the courage to create an independent body, one which could report independently rather than its being a two-way vehicle between the government and the

MR. HODDER: Economic Council, if they had the courage to create that kind of Economic Council it might do some good. That is what I am trying to tell the minister. But, instead, what we have is a bill here where we are setting up another bureaucracy, where we are setting up a group of people that the minister confers with, that the government confers with, where the government can ask them to set certain priorities, which reports back to government. And what I am saying to hon. gentlemen opposite is that they did not have the courage to set up a body which perhaps could be critical of them. They did the politically smart thing again, as they have done with every issue that the government has had anything to do with since it became a government. Nothing has happened in this Province in the past three or four years and, Mr. Speaker, any moves that the government have made have been for political objectives and political aims. And here we have another example today in the Economic Council, which I think we need in the Province. I believe we need an independent group who have the authority and the prestige to speak out. But what we see here, Mr. Speaker, sadly, is another organization, another bureaucracy, another arm of government. Mr. Speaker, obviously the economy is in shambles, the government are window dressing, they are trying to show the people of Newfoundland that they really care, but if they really cared what happens to this Province, this would be an independent commission. Instead, the Premier has the one bill this year, Mr. Speaker,

MR.HODDER:

the one concrete move that this government has made this year, the one thing. The Premier will probably brag about it. He has set up an Economic Council which is not an Economic Council. It is another arm of government. He might have set it up down in the Department of Finance, just another group of people, hired a few economists down there. It would have been just as well because these people are not independent. Mr. Speaker, it saddens me. I speak with sorrow that this government should bring in a bill which could be so important to the Province, especially a province that is plagued and tormented by an economy in which the government has taken the hands-off approach. The idea of this government was, 'We will let the economy die, we will look forward to the oil because when the oil comes we will be able to do the things' -I have heard the Premier say that so often; he does not say it so often anymore - 'We will be able to do the things that we were not able to do before.' And I often say, 'What would have happened if we did not have the oil. What would the government be doing then?' The fact of the matter is for the past four years this government has taken a hands-off approach, 'Let it go because we have pie in the sky and that will look after everything.' Now, when the Province is in shambles after four years of neglect and mismanagement, they bring in an Economic Council. I know what an independent Economic Council would say, Mr. Speaker. They would be critical of this government, they would have to be. An Economic Council that was independent would have to be critical of the way this government has managed the economy of this Province. But, Mr. Speaker, instead of that they appoint a little group, 'Make sure, be very careful when you are drafting this act, draftsmen, that there is nothing

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MR. HODDER: there to make this council
independent. Goodness gracious they might say something
about us. We have to do the politically right thing
for us.' That is what this government has done.

MR. SPEAKER (McNicholas): I have to interrupt the hon. member for a moment to announce that there are no questions for the Late Show.

The hon. member for Port au Port.

MR. HODDER: So, Mr. Speaker, with that I will take my seat. When the minister told us, when he stood to speak on the bill he merely read through the notes. I would like him to tell us how this Economic Council is going to change the strategy of government, how it is going to change the direction which the economy has taken in this Province. That is what I would like for him to tell me, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. minister speaks now he will close the debate.

The hon. Minister of Development.

MR. WINDSOR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure for me to have this opportunity to speak again in this debate to this particular piece of legislation.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) in his remarks opened by questioning why I did not take an hour to speak. Well, the hon. Leader of the Opposition took I think about forty minutes to respond and in that forty minutes he said absolutely nothing. If I did not have more to say than the hon. Leader of the Opposition, I would not get on my feet at all. He obviously had no constructive criticism to make of this piece of legislation, perhaps because he does not understand it. He certainly does not understand the economy of the Province, he certainly does not understand what government is trying to do to develop the resources of this Province. The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that all that he understands is how to give away the resources of this Province as the government that he was a part of did so

MR. WINDSOR: many years ago and we have been suffering for it ever since. That was painfully obvious in his remarks, and particularly as it related to the things that he claimed the Department of Development does or does not do. It was obvious from his remarks that he does not understand the Department of Development, Mr. Speaker. He made no mention of any of the things that the department has done over the last year. He made no mention of the work that we did when Baie Verte was faced with an economic crisis and the fact that we were able to turn that around, in conjunction with the Department of Mines and Energy, so that we now have almost 300 people working down there, fully employed again, the operation going very well and the economy of the Baie Verte Peninsula starting to come back to life. He did not make any mention of that, Mr. Speaker.

He made no mention of any efforts that are underway, and have been underway for some time, to develop the forestry resources in Labrador. He made no mention of the fact that we have put together an exhaustive marketing effort, together with the Department of Forest Resources and Lands, and that we are actively promoting that resource now world wide.

He made no mention about the fact - as did his colleague, the member for Torngat Mountains (Mr. Warren), who should be most interested and most supportive of our efforts - that transportation by a sea corridor through Lake Melville is feasible. He made no mention of the millions of dollars that have been spent over the last number of years to show quite conclusively, Mr. Speaker, that that indeed is extremely feasible and that we can develop industry in the Lake Melville region. I was most shocked to hear that the Member for Torngat Mountains, the people of whose district would be most directly

MR. WINDSOR:

benefit from that kind of a development, was so negative towards the efforts that this government has made. He made no mention about government's effort to promote energy-intensive industry in the Province, and the amount of work that is being done together with the Department of Mines and Energy and Newfoundland Hydro, nor the fact that we have been actively promoting an aluminum smelter in this Province which would be a major

MR. BUTT: They are not interested in that.

MR. WINDSOR: They are not interested in that, no. But that would be a major industry in this Province and it would be a major employer and would have great economic benefit to our Province. He made no mention about that, Mr. Speaker.

He made no mention of the efforts that the Department of Development has made over the past year in the fishing industry, and the numerous fishing companies that we have helped through these troubled economic times and the downturn in the fishery, working together with the Department of Fisheries and the Department of Finance in helping these people with government guaranteed loans and other assistance.

MR. BUTT: They do not want to hear tell of that.

MR. WINDSOR: He made no mention of the oil and gas, Mr. Speaker, and the work that this department has been doing on the goods and services causes on the offshore regulations that goods purchased by the oil companies are purchased from local suppliers; or our local preference policy, Mr. Speaker, which has a very significant impact in assisting business and

MR. WINDSOR: industry in our Province in relation to the supply of goods and service and local employment. He made no mention of the work that has been done by the department on offshore development sites, to identify and to promote sites for supply bases, major construction onshore and such matters. He made no mention about studies done, for instance, the module fabrication study or the study on sub-sea completion systems. He completely ignored some of these things that the department is doing.

He made no mention of the Marystown Shipyard, Mr. Speaker, which has to be one of the success stories in Canada this year, when a shipyard which in troubled economic times was taken over from private enterprise and, in fact for the first time since it was built, now is showing a profit, Mr. Speaker.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. WINDSOR: He made no mention of Labrador Linerboard, which was another private enterprise which had serious problems which had to be taken over by government, and has now been turned around and converted into one of the most modern and efficient pulp and paper mills in the world, Mr. Speaker, operating at full capacity and providing very significant employment and economic benefit to the Stephenville area.

MR. SIMMS: Right on.

MR. WINDSOR: He made no mention of other Crown corporations such as NORDCO and C-CORE and other efforts that the Department of Development is involved in, particularly in the

MR. WINDSOR: field of research and development and science technology. He made no mention of the promotional efforts that the Department of Development is undertaking to try to promote the resources of our Province and oil and gas industries, attending oil and gas shows, attending fishery's exhibitions. He made no mention of Marine '82 which was undoubtedly a great success and showed conclusively that not only has Newfoundland a great deal to offer in marine industry and technology but that there is indeed a great deal of interest in that field in our Province. And he made no mention of promotion on our great 400th anniversary, promotion of Sir Humphrey Gilbert in conjunction with my colleague, the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Youth (Mr. Simms) or of any of the efforts that we are doing in Tourism generally. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I am able to predict confidently that this is going to be the greatest tourism year that Newfoundland and Labrador has ever seen. He made no mention of any of that or of the housing programmes, the initiatives that we have undertaken to make housing available, to make building lots available, to develop industrial parks and industrial land, to provide industrial infrastructures that we can work into our economy. He made no mention of that, Mr. Speaker, because he does not understand it. Because the hon. gentlemen opposite not only have they - Well, they asked me one question the other day which put me into a state of shock, they finally came around to asking me a question during Question Period. But they did not even bother to show up when our Estimates were being debated. When \$26 million was being put through this hon. House for expenditure on resource development in this Province, they did not even have the courage to come and ask some questions of us on that. So there is where the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) stands on resource

MR. WINDSOR: development, Mr. Speaker. If it is not handing over resources, raw resources, to outside interests, giving them away, then he does not understand it and he is not interested in it.

So, Mr. Speaker, there were some good comments made but, unfortunately, they were all made by the member for St. John's North (Mr. Carter). He made a very fine speech, I thought, and he made some very good comments and very constructive comments and I think it was a very worthwhile effort.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

MR. WINDSOR: The hon. member for Port au Port (Mr. Hodder), Mr. Speaker, talked about the Canadian Economic Council and a national independent council. Some of his comments, Mr. Speaker, were not too bad, I must admit.

PREMIER PECKFORD: (Inaudible) savory and all the rest of it put together (inaudible).

MR. WINDSOR: That is right.

The Economic Council, Mr. Speaker, in response to the hon. Opposition House Leader (Mr. Hodder), will be extremely independent. Now, either he did not read the bill or he does not understand it, but he should have another look at it and he will see that the council has a great deal of autonomy, a number of sections relate to that, Let me refer to Section 12 (f) where it relates to the duties of the council: It says, 'cause to be published such studies and reports as are prepared by or for the Council and engage in other activities to enforce and encourage further debate and response'. Now, Mr. Speaker, what could be clearer than that? What could further indicate that this council has every authority not only to participate in public debate but to encourage public debate, to do studies independently of government. They have the right, as shown by this legislation, to chose

MR. WINDSOR: the subject that they will be considering, the subject that they will be reporting on to government. They have complete autonomy in how they deal with that, how they structure the day to day operations of their council, how they employ their staff, who they hire and how many people they hire, which consultants

MR. WINDSOR: they might hire to do what studies. So they have total autonomy in the operation of the council, Mr. Speaker, and they have total autonomy in reporting to government. The hon. gentleman made mention of reporting through the minister. Well, how else would they report, Mr. Speaker? They must have somebody on a day-to-day basis to talk to in government because they will need access to government information, and this government has every intention of making any data or information that is available within government or expertise that is available within government, available to the council. And they must have a mechanism for getting and assessing that information, the tremendous amount of information that is available from within government at present. So that, obviously, is the reason for having a minister to talk to, to deal with, who is responsible for them. And they report through the minister to government and subsequently to the House of Assembly, since the act states quite clearly under Section 24 that 'The Chairman shall, within three months after the termination of each fiscal year, submit to the Minister an annual report.' The hon. gentleman asked for an annual report. It is in the legislation. There must be an annual report which must be submitted within thirty days by the minister to the House of Assembly, here in this hon. House, within thirty days of its receipt or within thirty days of the next session of the House of Assembly opening.

So every year, as it is with the Housing Corporation, as it is with the Harmon Corporation, as it is with the Gander Development Corporation, the Minister of Development will table the annual report here in the House -

SOME HON. MEMBERS:

Hear, hear:

MR. WINDSOR:

- that report being written by

MR. WINDSOR: the council with complete autonomy. And there is no choice, the minister must table it, as well as the studies, Mr. Speaker. It is very clear in this legislation, under Section 25, that the council may cause to be published any studies and reports prepared for use of the council as it sees fit. Those reports can be and must be published, made public. Obviously, they would be presented to the minister first and the minister would have the opportunity to consider and to advise his colleagues on what is in those reports and to put forward a government position. But those reports can and will be made public. So they have total autonomy, Mr. Speaker. There is no secret here, no cover up. The information and the opinions of the council will be made public. There is no attempt, indeed no mechanism whatsoever whereby government could influence the reports that are being prepared by the council or for them, nor the opinions of the council or any suggestions that they might make to government as a result of that. So there is complete autonomy.

There is a further effort to provide autonomy to the council, Mr. Speaker, in fact, there are a couple. One is the hiring of the staff, where the council has the autonomy to hire their own staff. They are not staff that government will be appointing for them, they will hire their own staff. The act provides that they will use the salary scale applicable to the public service but other than that they will indeed have complete autonomy to hire the persons that they need or any consultants that they might wish to hire to do sections of a report or a study for them. In addition to that, Mr. Speaker, the funding of the council is very, very important, and this was a point that was made very well

MR. WINDSOR: by the people we consulted with all across this Province, 'Whoever pays the piper calls the tune,' as is well known. Undoubtedly in the first instance government must put forward the funding to start off the economic council, but we would certainly hope that business and industry in this Province are as committed to this kind of a council as we are and that they will be prepared to put forward voluntarily funds to help this council operate and to expand the amount of work that it is able to do. The more funding, Mr. Speaker, that comes from private enterprise the greater the degree of autonomy that they will indeed have, and we would be only too happy if government did not have to take any funding from the public purse, take any taxpayers' money to pay for the economic council. We would be delighted, indeed, if it could be totally financed by contributions from the private sector, and I think industry should take a really good look at that. If they want to say that we have an economic council that is autonomous and has independence then, indeed, they must be prepared to pay for it. Obviously, the more input that government has by way of funding, then the less degree at least perceived, of autonomy that the council will have. There is every intent indeed that this council will be free, independent and autonomous, that they will have the right to report to the House of Assembly, we are even putting a stipulation there that they have the right to meet once a year with the whole Cabinet, with government, so that there is no doubt at all that they will have access to government, not just to me as minister or whoever happens to be the Minister of Development at the time, but directly to the Premier and his full Cabinet. At least once a year they will have the opportunity to sit and discuss the major economic issues of the Province with them and to ensure that government is fully aware of the

MR. WINDSOR: opinions of the economic council and hopefully that will be representative of the opinions of business and industry as expressed to and through the members of that economic council.

Mr. Speaker, the power to criticize government is very clear. Obviously it is there, they have the right to write these reports, to publish these reports, to make these documents public. And there is no doubt, indeed, that that opportunity is there for the economic council to criticize government if they see fit, but hopefully the whole objective, Mr. Speaker, will be to provide some constructive suggestions.

MR. MARSHALL: And not rely on rumours at all.

MR. WINDSOR: Not rely on rumours at all, based on fact, based on scientific studies, Funding is being made available to hire the best of advice, the best of consultants, the best of data and information that is available for them on which to base their whole thing.

I will move second reading after I make one or two more brief comments, Mr. Speaker, in relation to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) who mentioned that the Board of Trade have the idea that they are independent and they can criticize the government. Well, Mr. Speaker, if the speech that the President of the Board of Trade made yesterday is indictive of the kind of constructive criticism that the Board of Trade is going to have of government, then we are in trouble.

I was most shocked, Mr. Speaker, to hear and see the President of the Board of Trade last night on television citing that she did not really care who won the offshore dispute, whether it was the Government of Canada or the Government of Newfoundland. I was shocked to know that the president of an organization representing business and industry in this Province could take that approach. Because business and industry in this Province, Mr. Speaker, is basically the group of people that this government is fighting for, to ensure that they have the opportunity to participate in that great development offshore. Without this government they may well find that business and industry from other parts of Canada and other parts of the world will be here benefitting from that resource and that they will be passed by. And I was shocked to hear that the President of the Board of Trade had no concern for who controlled that resource, no concern that Newfoundlanders would have the

MR. WINDSOR: opportunity of participating, no concern that business and industry, the people that she is supposed to be representing, would have the opportunity to take part in that great resource development.

So, Mr. Speaker, if that is the kind of autonomy that the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) wants, then I am quite happy with the autonomy that is proposed in this particular piece of legislation. But I am hopeful that the advice and the opinions that we get from this Council will be far superior to those that I heard yesterday from the Board of Trade.

I move second reading.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

On motion, a bill, "An Act To Establish An Economic Council For The Province", read a second time, ordered referred to a Committee of the Whole House on tomorrow. (Bill No. 1).

Motion, second reading of a bill, "An Act To Amend The Pharmaceutical Association Act". (Bill No. 9).

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. Minister of Health.

MR. HOUSE: Mr. Speaker, there are a couple of amendments to this which are fairly important. There are a couple of name changes, of course, to begin with. One is indicative of, I guess, the significance that the association puts on their organization. Now, they have a secretary/manger who is pretty well full-time so we have to change the name for that. But the two important amendments, the two very important amendments; there is one that is going

MR. HOUSE: to enable the association to make by-laws on a broader range of subjects. And I just mention some of these as they are outlined in the act. For instance, they want to make by-laws with respect to the courses of instruction in pharmaceutical and allied subjects. That is, again, a part of their becoming responsible for dealing with their own affairs. The other important one is to maintain minimum standards in drugstores and the minimum levels of services to the public. Another one, of course, is the inspection of any drugstore by representatives. These are three fairly crucial parts to be added to the by-law. And perhaps the most important one is to be able to draft by-laws regarding conflict of interest. And one of the things we have to bear in mind, Mr. Speaker, in all the health professionals they are becoming very responsible and they want to put by-laws in place whereby they can, I guess, give the public sufficient protection. And the conflict of interest is a very crucial one because, you know, we have a kind of situation now where somebody dispenses, somebody prescribes and, of course, there is the case where there may be a possibility of collusion with these two groups. That is what they themselves say anyway.

So they are able now to put into place with this particular piece of legislation, conflict of interest guidelines.

And the other thing they want to control, the other important thing, is the control of their advertising and the limitation and control of such advertising.

So mainly the by-law aspect is to give that kind of protection to themselves and to the public.

The other important part here is a mechanism for handling disciplinary matters. Right now

MR. HOUSE: the act only provides for dealing with major issues. The only thing that we can do now under the current act is if they find a person guilty, I guess, of an offence, is to suspend the licence. That is the only measure they are able to take. Now they are able to, of course, deal with minor as well as major infractions. In other words, there are degrees within which they will be able to work. For instance, they will not have to lift a licence, they may be able, I think, to charge a penalty, impose upon the pharmaceutical chemist a monetary penalty not to exceed a sum fixed by the by-laws. In other words, it is not all or nothing, there is no such thing. If you are guilty, you

MR. HOUSE: lose your licence or you are not guilty and you carry on. Now they can put on a monetary penalty as well as taking away the licence.

So these were the two main points I just wanted to stress. It is not a major bill by any stretch of the imagination, it is just three amendments, one to change the name, it is a name change, the other to enable the organization to put in place by-laws to protect the public and themselves, the Pharmaceutical Association, and the other is the disciplinary clause which allows them to deal with disciplinary matters. They will set up a council under this particular thing and the council will deal with it and the procedures are laid out there.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: Mr. Speaker, I am glad that the hon. gentleman who introduced this bill did not take a swipe at the Board of Trade and other people outside of this House who cannot defend themselves, like the Minister of Development (Mr. Windsor) just did in the vicious onslaught he made on Mrs. Fagan for her speech. Is it any wonder, Mr. Speaker, that the Board of Trade think that freedom of speech is gone out the window in this Province.

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

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order, the hon. President of the Council.

MR. MARSHALL: The bill before this House is the Pharmaceutical Society Act, it has nothing to do with the Board of Trade, absolutely nothing. The principle of the bill is the -

MR. SPEAKER: To that point of order, I would remind the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Neary) that we are doing an Act to Amend the Pharmaceutical Association Act, Bill No. 9.

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): The hon. Leader of the Opposition.

MR. NEARY: That is correct, Mr. Speaker,
and I said I was glad that the hon. gentleman did not attack
the President of the Board of Trade, did not attack the
Pharmaceutical Association, did not attack the churches.
Mr. Speaker, I am glad the hon. gentleman stuck to the bill
and did not unleash a vicious attack on anybody because of
this.

MR. TULK: He made one important point.

MR. NEARY: Yes, he did make one important
point, Mr. Speaker, he said that this was not a major
piece of legislation and on that I agree. I concur with
the hon. gentleman. Because if it was a major reform,
or a major piece of legislation this administration,
Mr. Speaker, would not be bringing it in.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I presume -
the first point I want to make that the hon. gentleman can
comment on -

MR. NEARY: I presume that these amendments are being made after prior consultation with the Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmaceutical Association. I am assuming that, Mr. Speaker. The hon. gentleman did not say so in his introductory remarks and I can only assume that there had been prior consultation, that the Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmaceutical Association had a copy of the act in advance so they could study it and make recommendations on it.

Mr. Speaker, the first point that was made by the minister was that there was a change of name. Well, that is not very important, I do not think, and then there was an organizing of the by-laws. There is provision now that they can make by-laws that they could not make before. Now, Mr. Speaker, there is always a danger when you put so much authority in the hands of a small group there is always a danger that -

MR. TULK: People (inaudible) will suffer.

MR. NEARY: Yes, that is right.

-there is always a danger that the powers may be abused. Now, perhaps the hon. gentleman can tell us when he is winding up the debate what provisions there are in this bill to bar any abuse by a minority group within the organization. We are told that one of the organizations where you have the greatest example of internal politics, for instance, is in the Newfoundland Medical Association. I think you have it in every association. I am always a bit leery myself about giving small groups of people so much authority. There are examples, of course, where the authority has not been abused. But, Mr. Speaker, with the way that lobbies can be conducted and pressure can be brought to bear and minority groups can be vocal, there is always that chance, that by-laws could be made by this association that could further the interests of certain individuals and

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MR. NEARY:

certain groups of individuals
and I think that has to be watched

MR. NEARY:

very, very carefully, Mr. Speaker. There is always that danger. We just saw it happen a few moments ago in the passing of another bill on the Economic Council.

Now, Mr. Speaker, that is one point that I would like to make that we are concerned about. Perhaps the minister can straighten out our concerns and can tell us that there is no possibility of any by-laws being made that would restrict the freedom, that would restrict the civil rights, the rights of individuals functioning within that organization. I understand that under the Disciplinary clause that any individual or group of individuals who feel aggrieved have recourse to the courts. I am glad to see that in there, Mr. Speaker. I am not quite sure how far they can carry their case. It says that 'any pharmaceutical chemist aggrieved by a decision of the council under section 24, may appeal to a judge of the Trial Division within thirty days after the decision of the council by filing in the office of the Registrar of the Supreme Court a notice of appeal and serving a copy of the notice for the council. 'Notwithstanding any rule or practice to the contrary, the notice of appeal shall set out in detail the allegations of the appellant and the grounds upon which the suspension or cancellation or other disciplinary action is appealed against: and be signed by the appellant or the appellant's solicitor. The appellant shall within fourteen days after service of the notice of appeal under this section, apply to the judge for the appointment of a day for the hearing of the appeal and shall, not less than fourteen days before the hearing, serve upon the council a written notice of the day appointed for the hearing. The judge shall hear the appeal and the evidence adduced by the appellant and the council, and shall decide the matter of the appeal by upholding or revoking the action of the council: or making such other decision.

MR. NEARY:

An appeal may be taken from the decision of the judge of the Court of Appeal upon the point of law raised at the hearing of the appeal. The council shall cause the Registrar to implement the decision of the judge of the Trial Division or the Court of Appeal and shall comply with the terms of any order made by the court.

The act is amended by striking out, whenever it occurs, the word 'registrar' and by substituting the words 'secretary registrar'.' Now, Mr. Speaker, I am not quite certain about that procedure. Perhaps

MR. NEARY: the hon. gentleman can straighten me out. Does this mean that an aggrieved member of the Newfoundland Pharmaceutical Association can take all the legal steps necessary, that he can go through the various legal process through the courts -

MR. SPEAKER (Aylward): Order, please!

MR. NEARY: - that he could take it to the Supreme Court of Canada?

MR. SPEAKER: It being five thirty on Thursday and there are no questions for debate, it is deemed that a motion to adjourn is before the House.

On motion, the House at its rising adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, at 10:00 a.m.

I N D E X

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

TABLED

MAY 19, 1983

Answer to Question #43 asked by Member Mr. Tulk (Fogo) and directed to the Honourable Minister Forest Resources and Lands.

QUESTION:

The cost of renovations to the Minister's offices in the fiscal year 1979, 1980, 1981 and 1982.

ANSWER:

As the Honourable Minister of Public Works and Services is responsible for all office renovations, the question should be directed to that Minister.

Answer to Question #71 asked by Member Mr. Tulk (Fogo) and directed to the Honourable Minister Forest Resources and Lands.

QUESTION:

List of names and salaries of Executive Assistants, Parliamentary Assistants and Public Relations Specialists, appointed to the Minister's staff for the fiscal years 1979, 1980, 1981 and 1982.

ANSWER:

There is only one (1) Executive Assistant appointed to my office.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Salary and Year.</u>
Terry P. Hynes	\$28,000 - 1982
	25,490 - 1981
	22,478 - 1980
	22,478 - 1979