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**VERBATIM REPORT**

**THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1970**

**SPEAKER: THE HONOURABLE GEORGE W. CLARKE**

The House met at 3:00 P.M., Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

HON. J.R. SMALLWOOD(PREMIER):

Mr. Speaker, we wish to report to the House that in Churchill Falls, Labrador, in recent days an unfortunate labour incident has occurred involving the employment, the terms of employment of some twenty-two Newfoundlanders. I wish to inform the House that these twenty-two men lost their employment in circumstances that certainly require investigation, that the Minister of Labour and his staff have been conducting the investigation, that a preliminary report has already been made on that matter and that I also have been ask to make an investigation. The matter has been brought to my attention by some of the men, some of the twenty-two men. I wish to inform the House that the matter is receiving the most careful and painstaking attention of the Government.

While I am on my feet I should like to present to the House a copy and subsequently copies to all hon. members of the House of the new book by Colonel Nicholson on the story of the Newfoundland forces in the Second World War under the title, "More Fighting Newfoundlanders." Hon. members will remember the first book by Colonel Nicholson, the story of Newfoundland's part in the First World War and I think the title of it was "Fighting Newfoundlanders" The title of this book which deals with our part in the Second World War is "More Fighting Newfoundlanders," a magnificent book! I have great pleasure in tabling it. It is published by the Government of the Province, in behalf of all the people of the Province. I am happy to say that every living veteran or the widows of veterans will receive a copy as will every hon. member of the House.

While I am on my feet I should like to extend a cordial welcome to the new hon. member of the House, who takes his seat here for the first time today, the hon. member for St. John's East. I personally welcome him most cordially for very personal reasons. I express at the same time a most cordial welcome to an old friend, not necessarily an old political friend but an old friend, in the person of a distinguished Newfoundlander, a distinguished hero of the First World War, a distinguished public servant of this Province for many

MR. SMALLWOOD:

years, as a Magistrate and a Chief Magistrate, a member of the national convention, a former member of this House and a former Leader of the Opposition and the present Senator, Malcolm Hollett. We are happy, all of us, to see him here. I know that, if the House allowed him to speak what he would tell us, I am only guessing this, as he has not told me, but it is my guess that he would much rather be here in this House. If he could have the same amenities and the same other satisfactions that he now has in the Senate he would much rather be a member of this House and be back here on the old sod. We all join in welcoming Senator Hollett.

Again while I am on my feet I wish to address to all hon. members of the House, on both sides of the House, a suggestion and a request from the Government with regard to the sitting of today. It is at the request of the Government that Your Honour has called the House back into session from adjournment. The Government have requested the reopening of the House so that the Government may present to the House, for the consideration of the House, an amendment to the refinery legislation, the legislation passed two or three years ago to provide for the setting up of an oil refinery at Come By Chance.

We have ask Your Honour to call the House together to enable the House to consider amending that Act and there is an amending Bill before the House. It had been the Government's ardent desire and intention to have this Legislation printed and distributed to all hon. members, especially on the other side of the House, all hon. members on the other side, a day or two before today, so that they would have an opportunity to study it and be better able, therefore, to debate it. Unfortunately, due not to any fault of the Government, (I have to say that sincerely) it was not until last night and possibly even perhaps in some cases this morning (but I believe in most cases last night) that the legislation could be distributed and was distributed to hon. members opposite. This means obviously that they have not had as much opportunity as they would like to have and as they need, as they need to have to study it, This is obvious. This is quite apparent. For that reason it would be most unreasonable to expect them to enter into the debate here today, They need more time to study this legislation and I think it will be universally agreed that they ought to have

MR. SMALLWOOD:

more time and if they have no wish or intention to engage in the debate today, so be it, that is understandable and quite acceptable. They would have the remainder of today and tonight and we could meet again tomorrow morning and they could perhaps then enter the debate.

In the meantime, to save some time, the appeal, I make to all hon. members of the House but more particularly those across the way, is that they permit the first reading to be given now, which is a pure formality as the House knows and that they permit me to move the Second Reading, which I would do in a speech outlining the changes proposed. Then either I, not with an intention of continuing the debate personally but with the purpose of adjourning the debate, either I could move the adjournment of the debate or any hon. member opposite, the Leader of the Opposition, could move it, not necessarily with the intention that he intended to follow as the next speaker but just as Leader of the Opposition he might then move the adjournment of the debate.

I make this appeal, in the interest of not meeting here this afternoon and not doing any business. If we do not agree to this procedure the House will be out of here in the next ten, fifteen or twenty minutes and it would be a day and a night lost. But there need not be a day lost if the House will allow me to move the Second Reading and make my speech introducing it. Then the adjournment of the debate can take place and the debate can be resumed tomorrow morning. I make this appeal to all hon. members.

MR. MURPHY: Mr. Speaker, the Premier has already mentioned the presence of my hon. colleague from St. John's East, who, as a formality, I was going to introduce here. I have the honour to present to you, Mr. William (Bill) Marshall, member for the electoral district of St. John's East, who has taken the oath and signed the role and now claims the right to take his seat. I do this here with very great pride. As the Premier has ask all members to welcome Mr. Marshall I am sure that they have shown their appreciation of this gentleman and wish him the best of luck in his seat, representing the people of the great district of St. John's East.

I would also, Sir, like to join with the hon. Premier in his welcome to our great friend, Senator Malcolm Hollett, who as the Premier has outlined

MR. MURPHY:

again as being a wonderful Newfoundlander, an outstanding public servant and one who occupied the chair, that I now occupy, for some years and devoted the greater part of his life to politics generally here in the Province of Newfoundland. I am also proud to see so many people in the Chamber this afternoon, I presume many are from outside our Province, many from outside St. John's. We are very happy indeed to see them here, to hear what is to take place.

I would like again, if I may at this time, to refer to the Premier's statement with regard to the introduction of this Bill No. 94. We have had previous discussions with the Leader of the House, the hon. Attorney General, who is not in the House today. It was more or less intimated that we would get forty-eight hours notice. The Premier has explained that this has been impossible due to many factors arising. The acting Leader of the House, the hon. Minister of Health, phoned me earlier in the day asking me what position we were going to take. I told him at the time that I did not know. I received a copy of the amendments last night in Topsail Pond, at 11:30 P.M. It was a bit late to call a meeting at that hour with the caucus to discuss it.

We had one at 11:00 A.M. today. We went right through during lunch hour and continued afterwards.

We have agreed, Sir, basically that we would co-operate as far as we can with Government in this matter. It is a very urgent matter, perhaps one of the most important matters ever to come before this House, with \$160. million involved. We do not wish in any way to shirk our duties of giving it full discussion. I think the consensus of opinion has been arrived at that we would accept a days notice and first reading, providing that the House leader outline to us just what proposed schedule he is planning to use, whether tomorrow morning, tomorrow afternoon, tomorrow night, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday. I think there is going to be an agreement, there must be an agreement made suitable to both sides. The hon. Minister more or less inferred earlier that he was endeavouring to deal with gentlemen, more or less. I told him that we had a sample of that already before, where you make agreements at some time and when the matter arises on the floor of this hon. House no one seems to think that anybody has the right to make agreements.

MR. MURPHY:

So, Mr. Speaker, before the motion is put, and I am sure that the hon. chief on my right will have something to say also on this, but basically I speak for the official opposition. We would like to know if there are agreements to be made, let it be a two-way agreement not a one-way street as has been the custom here in this hon. House for so many years. Then and only then will our caucus decide just what we will agree to. Whether we agree or not, we cannot control the affairs of the House. We know this is the business of Government and we realized that on very many occasions, up to this point, but if it is the purpose at this time, Sir, I do not know if we are all out of order discussing this at the time but the Premier raised the point and it is just as well at this time as any other to get our facts straight, to set our agenda and our formula for discussion of this very, very serious Bill.

I say that we have only had, 11 o'clock this morning that I had a chance to distribute it to the rest of my colleagues because I received it 11:30 last night. That was incidently delivered by two uniformed policemen, who just about frightened me to death. I did not know if my son had committed maihem or murder or broken in some place. I must say, after the discussion we had on this very important document, I realized just how important it was to get -

MR. SMALLWOOD: The hon. gentleman should be very pleased that the policeman delivered to him only a copy of this Bill and did not deliver a subpoena, as a policeman did to me this morning, to appear in court as a witness in the Somerton case.

MR. MURPHY: The hon. Leader of the Opposition is very happy to say, when his subpoena was delivered he was not at home and consequently could not be served that way.

MR. HICKEY: He does not drink that is why.

MR. MURPHY: But, Mr. Speaker, I do not want to drag this thing out. I would like to ask the acting leader of the House if he would set out the case now, with what plans are to be undertaken on this Bill. After that then I think we can decide just what -

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, if I might, before my hon. friend from St. John's

MR. ROBERTS:

West speaks. I quite agree with the Leader of the Opposition that agreements should be on the floor of the House and no other place. He has not ask me about the time table. Our proposal, Mr. Speaker, subject to the concurrence of my friends here, would be that when the House adjourns today that it adjourn until 10:30 tomorrow morning and that it meet tomorrow morning, tomorrow afternoon and tomorrow evening, -that it not meet on Saturday, that it not meet on Sunday and that it meet again on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and as long as the House wishes to continue the debate. If consent is given to go to second reading stage today, we will undertake to adjourn the debate following introduction by the Premier, as the Minister who will sponsor the Bill for the Administration.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, I would first like to welcome the newly elected member for St. John's East to the House. I do not know how long he is going to have a chance to be a member of the House before the next election, but we certainly wish him well in the debates of the House and know that he will put forward a very good performance, we feel sure.

I would also say a word of welcome to Senator Hollett, the former Leader of the Opposition, Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition, and now a distinguished Senator and a Canadian as well as a Newfoundland public man. It is a great pleasure to see him visiting the House. I hope that if he is back for the debate on Second Reading that he will find it as interesting as some of the debates that he participated in himself in what seems to be the long ago years of Bron Wogan and various other famed characters of those days.

With respect to this Bill, No. 94, Mr. Speaker, I received myself about 10:30 last night a copy of the proposed Bill. I got several phone calls from Hogan's Pond warning me that the police were out there waiting for me, from well intentioned persons who thought there might be a trap there set for me.

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible).

MR. CROSBIE: Under the Wildlife Act perhaps. I got the Legislation about 10:30 last night but two of my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, only got the Legislation when they came in the Chamber this afternoon and one got it around 2 or 2:30 this afternoon. So our feeling is that we should not consent to second reading,

MR. CROSBIE:

of the Bill today. We have no objection to second reading tomorrow but we require this afternoon and this evening for reading what is quite a complicated piece of Legislation and for deciding on what our position should be in general towards it. If there is any debate this afternoon, we are not going to be able to study the Legislation because naturally we will have to listen to the hon. Premier's explanation of what lies behind the amendments. We cannot prepare and listen at the same time, so our feeling is that the second reading of the debate should start tomorrow.

With respect to the hours, it is my feeling, Mr. Speaker, that it is a mistake for us to sit morning, afternoon and night on such an important matter as this. I am quite willing to meet morning and afternoon or even afternoon and evening but I think that on an important matter to the Province like this, where it is important that everybody's contribution to the debate be understood and that the complicated Legislation be gone into in detail, that we should not tax ourselves and the press and the public by meeting morning, afternoon and night. I would ask the Acting Leader of the House to consider that. With that reservation, we have no objection to first reading this afternoon so that the debate could start tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, on one other point, before I sit down, in connection with the Premier's statement about Churchill Falls, I have a question or two. Could the Premier tell the House, when he has the chance, as to whether or not the Government is considering any public inquiry into the -

AN HON. MEMBER: (Inaudible)

MR. CROSBIE: I can do that, Mr. Speaker, but the Premier has made a statement and we are entitled to ask suitable questions in connection with it. The hon. the Premier has said that



Mr. Crosbie.

The Minister of Labour has had an investigation. The hon. the Premier has been asked to have one himself. We would like to know whether the Government would consider having a public commission of inquiry into the labour situation at Churchill Falls, not just a ministerial investigation, not just this one incident, for the whole situation there. We are, also, wondering whether the Premier has any statistics that were going to have about four weeks ago, as to how many grievances have been processed by the unions of Churchill Falls and what the statistics are in that connection. We feel, the situation seems to be very unsatisfactory, as was debated in this House a few weeks ago. We would like to know whether a public enquiry might be considered by the Government.

PRESENTING PETITIONS

MR. U. STRICKLAND: Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition from the residents of Dildo in the district of Trinity South. The petition has been signed by 297 voters of that settlement.

The prayer of the petition is for an upgrading, widening and upgrading, of the road going from the Trinity South Highway eastward, through the settlement of Dildo, to rejoin the Trinity South Highway at the eastern exit from that settlement. I would point out, Sir, that there are only two settlements in the district of Trinity South, from Whitbourne eastward to Lead Cove, that the Trinity South Highway bypasses. One is Dildo - three, I am sorry; Old Shop and Hants Harbour.

In Dildo we have a community stage, public wharf, a lot of good fishermen, a lot of independent people. We have one section of that road, I would point out, which is extremely dangerous. It is only fifteen feet wide, right on the top of a little hill. The school buses must use this road and the one going east and the one coming west, there is a possibility that <sup>at</sup> this dangerous point that you could have a tragic

accident there. We pray that this will not happen. But certainly, sir, I support the prayer of this petition and ask that it be laid on the table of the House and referred to the department to which it relates, (Undoubtedly and unmistakably in this instance, it is the Department of Highways) and ask that it be given consideration at the earliest possible moment.

MR. SPEAKER: It is moved and seconded that this petition be received and referred to the department to which it relates. Carried.

NOTICE OF MOTION

MR. SMALLWOOD: Mr. Speaker, if the House is agreeable, I move first reading now of a Bill, "An Act To Amend The Government Newfoundland Refining Company Limited (Agreement) Act, 1968, And To Ratify, Confirm And Adopt An Agreement Made Between The Government, Newfoundland Refining Company Limited And Other Companies And To Make Provision Respecting Other Matters Connected Therewith." If the House is pleased to give first reading to this Bill, I would then move that second reading be given tomorrow.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, I have a question on the procedure here. We are on Notice of Motion and Questions now. This is a Notice of Motion, That is all right. I think that any moving of first reading should wait until Orders of the Day are called, because the question period is still to come. I assume that this is just Notice of Motion at the moment.

MR. SPEAKER: It possibly can be just a notice that the hon. minister will ask leave at a later date at this sitting to introduce the Bill. This could be the formal notice now that the hon. minister will ask leave to introduce the Bill presently, and then I will put the motion.

MR. EARLE: Mr. Speaker, before Orders of the Day, may I ask a question of the hon. the Premier? On may 20th, during a debate on the Bonne Bay National Park, the Premier made a very definite statement to the effect that within thirty days there would be a statement made to the people

Mr. Earle.

of this country about the progress being made with Ottawa on the implementation of the Bonne Bay National Park scheme. So far there has been nothing in the press or no announcement made, and we are now approaching sixty days from that date. The Premier said, most definitely, that within thirty days the statement would be made. I would like to ask the Premier if there is any news from Ottawa on that particular proposal.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Mr. Speaker, may I say that I did not at any time say that "most definitely within thirty days." Hansard will show, I did not at any time say; "most definitely within thirty days." I said within six months, within three months, probably, within one month. That is what I said. Hansard will bear me out.

I do hope that within a matter of a few days from now, from today, from this afternoon, a statement will be made.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, on Orders of the Day, I would like to ask first the Acting House leader whether the Government plan to answer or table the answer to any of these 121 questions on the Order Paper that were not answered when we adjourned in June? Do the Government propose, now that they have had an extra three or four weeks to prepare these answers - do they propose to table any of them.

MR. ROBERTS: The answer, Mr. Speaker, is that, yes, we intend to answer as many of these questions as we can. The work and preparation has been going on. There had been other considerations of other things on the minds of ministers, other than just preparing answers to questions as important as they are. But, we will be answering as many as we can. I am not in a position to say how many will be answered because I do not even know how many are outstanding.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, on Orders of the Day, I would like to ask the Minister of Health whether the Minister of Health has advised the St. John's Metropolitan Area Board that the proposed housing development at Oliver's Pond can proceed, that the Health department does not recommend rejection of that application? This is a matter that the minister had under consideration for some time. Has the minister given his advice to the St. John's Metropolitan Area Board?

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure whether that should be on the Order Paper, but I will gladly answer it. I have given no permission. In respect of the health hazards, I am still studying it. I am now in the midst of seeing whether, perhaps, a further study should be ordered. I received a very well-thought-out brief from several members of the University faculty, indicating what I believe to be grounds for the belief that because of the type of ground at Oliver's Pond and because of the dispersal rates from septic tank installations, it might be most inadvisable to allow any installations to go ahead. In light even of the suspicion of this, my colleagues and I feel that we should <sup>have</sup> another look at it. My officials are now preparing for me a proposal on the retention of consultants to investigate this. Mr. Speaker, we are not prepared to allow any development to go ahead at Oliver's Pond, if there is any possibility at all that we, at any future time, damage the Windsor Lake watershed, which is after all the major source of supply of water for the City of St. John's.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, on Orders of the Day, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance whether or not, since the House adjourned in June, the Government have deposited or any agency of the Government has

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deposited any funds in the Franklin National Bank of New York or any Government funds outside the jurisdiction of Canada?

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, surely that question should be on the Order Paper.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, this is only a short session of the House. We have 121 questions on the Order Paper now unanswered. What is the point of putting a question like this on the Order Paper? It is a simple question. The minister can answer yes or not. Have monies been deposited in the Franklin National Bank since June?

MR. SPEAKER: Does the hon. minister intend to answer or take it as notice.

MR. JONES: I will take the question as notice.

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. I am wondering if it is his intention now to appoint a Select Committee to study the report of the Auditor General, in keeping with his statement of a couple of months ago?

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, before we get into Orders of the Day, I have a question for the Minister of Highways. I see he is not in his seat right now. I will direct the question to the the hon. the Premier. It is having to do with the tremendous dust problem at Brown's Arm. I would like for the Premier to indicate whether the Government has made a commitment to the residents of Brown's Arm to reconstruct and pave the road from Laurenceton to Lewisporte in 1971-1972?

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

MR. COLLINS: That was a dusty answer, Mr. Speaker.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs, I should like to direct a question to the hon. the Premier. Are Government in receipt of an indication from the Grand Bank Town Council that it will resign if Government does not meet its commitment to build a fresh water reservoir and supply at Grand Bank and, if so, what steps have Government taken to meet the justifiable requests of the Grand Bank Town Council?

Mr. Smallwood,

Mr. Speaker, the question is: "are the Government in receipt of intimation from the Town Council of Grand Bank that they will resign if this or that is not done?" The answer is, no. We are not in receipt of any such intimation. I am in receipt of a telegram from them to the effect that they would consider resigning.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, supplementary to my previous question, I understand that the 175 women who have been manning the picket lines in Brown's Arm have directed a..

MR. SMALLWOOD: Information or question, Mr. Speaker?

MR. COLLINS: They have directed...

MR. SMALLWOOD: Which is this? Information or a question.

MR. COLLINS: Could the Premier indicate to the House if he has replied to that communication?

MR. SMALLWOOD: Yes, I have.

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, I would..

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the hon. the Premier whether the Government has now concluded any agreement with Mr. Ben Ginter of British Columbia with respect to his taking over the assets of the Atlantic Brewing Company at Stephenville, or if no agreement has been reached with him, are negotiations now broken off?

MR. SMALLWOOD: Mr. Speaker, the Government are not negotiating and <sup>his</sup> have not been negotiating with Mr. Ginter with regard to taking over the assets of a private company. The negotiations, as I understand it, have been between Mr. Ginter on the one hand and several banks and finance companies on the other. The negotiations with the Government have not been with regard to his taking over the property but with regard to his paying the arrears of taxes. So far as I know the negotiations between Mr. Ginter and the companies in question and the banks in question have not been broken off.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, in connection with the..

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, I see that the Minister of Highways is back in the

Mr. Collins.

House now. I would direct the following question to him. The work is called for by the first tender on the Botwood access road - that is the road from Botwood to the Trans Canada Highway, it has now been completed and barriers have been erected on both ends of it. Rumor has it that these are permanent barriers. Can the minister indicate when tenders are about to be called for class (a) material and the hardtop on this?

MR. SMALLWOOD: Mr. Speaker, is this in order?

MR. SPEAKER: The question conveys more information moreso than it asks a question.

MR. COLLINS: Mr. Speaker, if I could rephrase my question, if that would be better for the Premier? Can the minister indicate when tenders will be called for the completion of the Botwood access road?

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Provincial Affairs. Is it the policy of the Government to decide what productions can or cannot be put on in the Arts and Culture Centre in St. John's or Corner Brook or elsewhere within the Province? Specifically, is it Government policy that the production here cannot be...?

MR. SPEAKER: The question should go on the Order Paper.

MR. CROSBIE: I am very interested in "Hair" Mr. Speaker.

MR. HICKMAN: Mr. Speaker, on Orders of the Day, I would like..

MR. CROSBIE: The members opposite could use a transplant.

MR. HICKMAN: I should like to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Education. Has a decision - a firm decision been made to build a vocational school in the Argentia-Placentia area to avail of the offer of the Government of Canada to provide the necessary funds?

MR. MURPHY: The Minister of Education has...

MR. HICKEY: Mr. Speaker, on Orders of the Day, the question I raised earlier was in connection with a motion which was on the Order Paper. I believe this is why I am told that I am out of order. Will somebody in the

Mr. Hickey.

the Government tell me whether or not they intend to appoint a select committee to study the report of the Auditor General? It has been on the Order Paper for two months. Now will somebody say something about it?

MR. SPEAKER:    Order please!

MR. WELLS:    Mr. Speaker, before we go to Orders of the Day, I would like to ask the Minister of Highways, if he would confirm for the House and for the people of the Province or deny as the case may be, the statement, contained in today's "Telegram" and accredited to him, that the House of Assembly passed a Budget some weeks ago and the Budget cut out the exact amount of money for every road job this year. Now that is..

MR. SPEAKER:    It is not in order to ask a question by reference to an item in the newspaper.

MR. WELLS:    Very well. My question is, Mr. Speaker, would the minister confirm that or deny that he said that. If he did say it, he must have said it under misapprehension, because at least let the people know it is not true. It is not a true statement. Either he said it and it was wrong or the paper quoted him wrong.

MR. MARSHALL:    Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct this question to the hon. the Premier. I wonder when voters' lists will be prepared for all of the electoral districts in Newfoundland to take care of the election which is coming in the very near future?

MR. SMALLWOOD:    If there is an election in the very near future, there will have to be a new voters' list in the very near future.

MR. CROSBIE:    Mr. Speaker, the Government have given us a very great deal of information today. I have a question to the hon. the Premier, in the absence of the Minister of Justice. Is it correct or has the Province of Newfoundland informed Justice Minister John Turner that the Government of Newfoundland opposes changes in the current Drug Laws as recommended by the Le Dain Commission? Specifically, are the Government opposing bringing



Mr. Crosbie.

the so-called soft drugs out from the Narcotics Act and changing it to the Food and Drug Act? Have our Government made any representations along those lines?

MR. HICKMAN: You are not going to get the answer.

MR. CROSBIE: Oh!

MR. HICKMAN: I would like to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Labour. Would he advise the House as to the name of the company or companies who employ the twenty-two men at Churchill Falls who have lost their jobs and are these twenty-two men still at Churchill Falls or have they returned to their homes?

MR. KEOUGH: Mr. Speaker, that would require a reply in some detail. I would require notice of that.

MR. SMALLWOOD: Mr. Speaker, with the concurrence of the House, I move that first reading be given to a Bill, "An Act To Amend The Government Newfoundland Refining Company Limited (Agreement) Act, 1968, And To Ratify, Confirm And Adopt An Agreement Made Between The Government Newfoundland Refining Company Limited And Other Companies And To Make Provisions Respecting Others Matters Connected Therewith.

MR. SPEAKER: Do we have the unanimous consent of the House to introduce this Bill at this particular time?

MR. MURPHY: As far as we are concerned, I think, we stated our position that we are agreeable to notice being given, which has been given, first reading. But we do not agree to meet three times a day, if that is the provision we will vote against the first reading of the Bill today. We are against having second reading today. We will agree to have second reading tomorrow with two sessions, tomorrow morning and afternoon, no session on Saturday and two sessions on Monday. Otherwise we will oppose the first reading. We will vote against the first reading.

MR. SPEAKER: It is moved and seconded that this Bill be now read a first time.

MR. WELLS: Mr. Speaker, we might expect to hear from the Government as to whether they agree with what the Leader of the Opposition has proposed. From my own personal point of view, I would like to meet morning, afternoon and night and Saturday as well. So that I could go back. I do not want to sit here all summer; particularly, if it is not necessary, but we have to have time to consider it. The Leader of the Opposition has put forward the position, Before we ask for first reading, perhaps the Government might intimate whether they are prepared to agree with it or not. If they are not prepared to agree, well they have heard the position of the Leader of the Opposition. But please let us know, so we can..

The Government wants to sit morning, afternoon and night. Personally, it is okay by me.

PREMIER SMALLWOOD: Tomorrow. Then again Monday. Possibly Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Not tomorrow - not Sunday - not tonight - not tonight - not this afternoon.

MR. SPEAKER: I must say that all this is out of order in this respect. If there is going to be any arrangement of accommodation, one side with the other - with the party - This should be done, in my opinion, outside the House. There is not a motion before the Chair that we meet on Saturday or Sunday or anytime whatsoever. The motion before the House is, and we have to have unanimous consent, that this Bill be now introduced; then, when the motion is put, we will know all members' attitude toward it. If there is any arrangement or accommodation going to be made, one party with the other, it should be done by agreement outside the House and not on the floor of the House.

MR. MURPHY: I agree with the hon. Speaker's ruling. But some three weeks ago, there was an agreement entered into, my office with the House Leader, and when he comes before the House and it is brought to him, every member says, "you are not speaking in our behalf." Who do we negotiate with? It has to be in good faith. You have to talk man-to-man and make an agreement man-to-man. Not we agree and then come out here and be clobbered by the other side of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: This is still out of order, but as far as the Chair is concerned, the agreement should be made outside this Chamber altogether and if there is going to be co-operation or an arrangement with regard to the hours of sitting, we can only know what the House is going to decide after I put the motion that the Bill be now read or that the Bill be now introduced. That is the only thing. Then if the members do not want to have it, they vote against it. We have to have the unanimous consent of the House even to introduce the Bill now, much, much less to have it read a first time. Do I have the concurrence of the House that this Bill be introduced?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: "Nay." "Nay."

MR. ROBERTS: Mr. Speaker, I move that the remaining Orders of the Day do stand deferred and that the House at its rising do adjourn until tomorrow Friday at 10:30 a.m.

MR. SPEAKER: It is moved and seconded that this House at its rising do adjourn until tomorrow Friday at 10:30 a.m. and that this House do now adjourn.

MR. CROSBIE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to move an amendment - the amendment being that the House now move to Motion (1) on Orders of the Day. Mr. Speaker, to appoint a select committee to consider the report of the Auditor General on a statement of the Minister of Finance thereon and report to the House that the said select committee had permission to sit during the sitting hours of the House. I move that amendment, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: I declare the motion lost.

It is moved and seconded that this House adjourn until tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. Friday. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow Friday at 10:30 a.m.